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Romano-British Altar at Siddington

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The County Organiser for Gloucestershire is Mr. St. Clair Baddeley, Castle Hale, Painswick, Stroud, who published his *Place Names of Gloucestershire* in 1913.

RECORDS OF YORK.

The importance of the municipal and ecclesiastical records of the City of York is drawn attention to in a note issued by the University of Leeds. Evidence as to the local value of the ecclesiastical records is shown by the most interesting paper in our *Transactions* (xliii, 85-180) by Dr. Hamilton Thompson on "The Jurisdiction of the Archbishops of York in Gloucestershire," the matter for which was abstracted from the diocesan records at York. Dr. Thompson, who is now Reader in Medieval History at Leeds University, is one of the signatories to the note, which is issued primarily to draw attention to the fact that the municipal archives of York are now available for all *bona fide* students in the fourteenth century Merchant's Hall, in the Fossgate. Dr. Maud Sellers has been appointed City Archivist and is ready to give assistance to those who may wish to take advantage of the facilities so generously offered by the City Council of York and their Town Clerk.

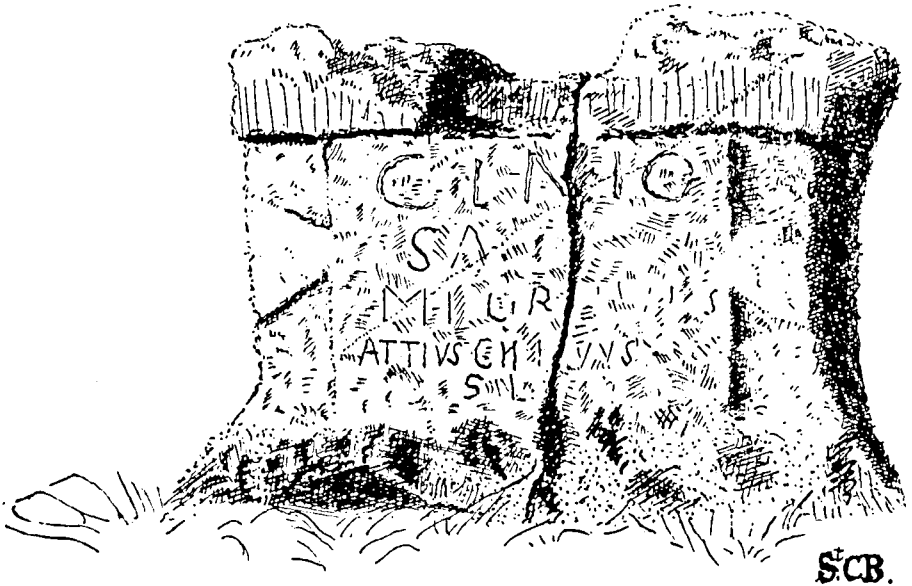
A ROMANO-BRITISH ALTAR AT SIDDINGTON.

At Siddington House, between the kitchen garden and the former bowling-green, still stand the remains of a once very solid stone Altar. The formidable crack dividing it through the middle suggests that at some period a bough of a tree has fallen upon it rather than the lightning of the Gods. The measurements approximately are 2ft. 10ins. (length) by 2ft. 7ins. (height). In 1901 owing to the kindness of the late Mr. Christopher Bowly and Mrs. Bowly, I made a careful sketch of it for the purpose of puzzling out the far-decay'd inscription. The tradition about it is that it has been about the place always, and that it was originally found there in the days of Bathurst ownership (c.) 1825. If that is the case local probabilities may be said to be suggestive of origin. For, the fine grove of beeches and limes at Siddington crown a very marked long knoll or upland, and it may well represent a sacred grove of other times near the Irmin Street and but a mile from *Corinium*.

The front of the altar has been so cut as to form what is technically known as a *tabella ansata*, upon which the *Dedicatio* was carven. The weather (and frost with it) has now, twenty-three years later, obliterated the lettering. Both Professor Haverfield

and myself tried our eyes and hands upon it; tho' the present writer had perhaps the advantage of repeated visits, and a better light.

The obscure inscription consisted of five lines: the first two of which, however, sufficiently declared that the Altar was raised to a local *Genius* (*Genio sacrum*). Of the third line only the first letter M and the R could be relied upon. But it may be added that the lost words doubtless related to the rank or name of the donor whose family name *ATTIVS* (with an imperfect personal name) follows. Of the usual final formula *votum solvit libens merito* (abbreviated) only the *s. l.* survives.



The name of an *ATTIVS* has also occurred (Vol. VII. C.I.L., No. 48) in a dedication to a local *MARS* at Rooky Wood, Barkway, co. Herts.

The lettering distinctly betrayed two 'hands' as may be frequently noticed in provincial inscriptions.

ST. CLAIR BADDELEY.

THE PAEN AT CIRENCESTER.

This curious local Cirencester name deserves special note partly because the actual spot to which alone it pertained has, since 1890, undergone a change which has deleted the *Paen*, and, partly,