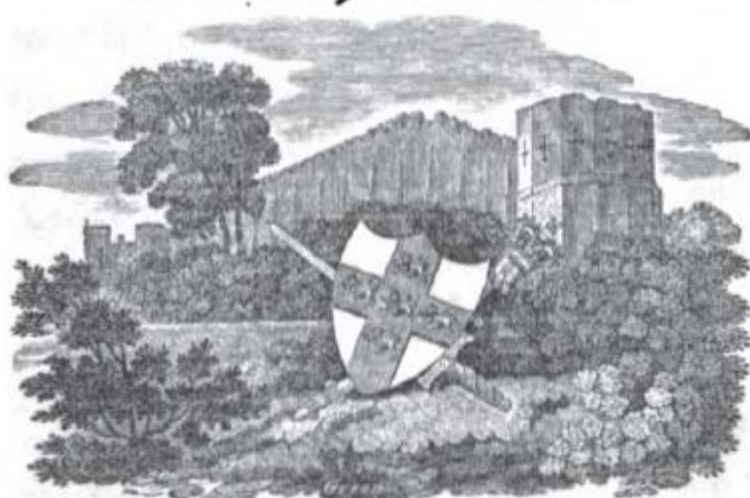


HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION
OF THE
Ancient City of York;
COMPRISING ALL THE
MOST INTERESTING INFORMATION,
Already Published in Drake's Eboracum;
ENRICHED
WITH MUCH ENTIRELY NEW MATTER,
FROM OTHER AUTHENTIC SOURCES,
AND
Illustrated with a Neat Plan of the City, and many Elegant Engravings.

BY WM. HARGROVE.



IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

YORK:

PUBLISHED AND SOLD BY WM. ALEXANDER, CASTLEGATE;
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1818.

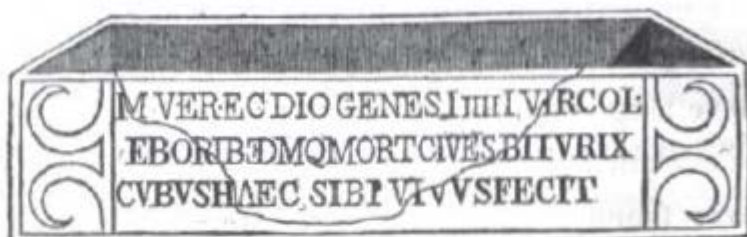
TK .

We have frequently had to introduce stone coffins and other Roman sepulchral antiquities; but no mention has hitherto been made of *tesse-lated pavements*. Though reliques of this nature have long been exhibited at Aldbrough, the scite of ancient Isurium, yet nothing of the kind was ever found at York, till the month of March, 1814. A most beautiful specimen was then discovered, adjoining the rampart within Micklegate-Bar; which having been cleared, inclosed, and preserved for inspection, will be found more fully noticed in a subsequent part of this work.

We are now drawing near a conclusion of the general history of our city. The vestiges of past ages, at different times discovered, have been enumerated, according to their regular succession, and it only remains for the writer here to introduce such reliques of antiquity, as have been noticed by other historians, without any positive account of the precise period when they were found.

Camden is the first antiquary whose writings treat on the antiquities of York; and that author says, he observed in the house of one of the aldermen of this city, a curious sepul-

chral vessel, with an inscription, as here represented :



Camden seems not to have known in what situation it was found, nor does he attempt any explanation of the inscription.

Dr. Gale says, he saw it afterwards in the yard of an inn at Hull, where it had been placed to serve as a trough, for watering horses. He calls it *theca*, which signifies a chest, or hollow vessel, for depositing articles in.

Mr. Burton, in his commentary, attempted to explain the inscription; but Mr. Horsley, who saw the monument at Hull later than that antiquary, and from whose draught the preceding representation is given, differs with him in the reading. He says it had been removed from the place, where Dr. Gale saw it, and that it was miserably broken and defaced.

Drake, who considered it as a sepulchre made by a Roman magistrate, for the urns of himself

and family, saw it at Hull even after Mr. Horsley, but says it is now not worth removing. He also adds: "There have been some of these *thecæ* found in the Roman burial-place, without Bootham-Bar, but no inscriptions on them: I have seen there likewise," says he, "graves for urns, square spots in the earth, the bottom covered with white sand, on which the urns were placed, inverted, three, four, or more, together."

The inscription may be read as follows:

MARCUS VERECUNDUS DIOGENES

SEXTUS VIR COLONIÆ EBORACI

IBIDEMQUE MORTUUS EST

CIVIS BITURIX CUBUM HUNC SIBI VIVUS FECIT

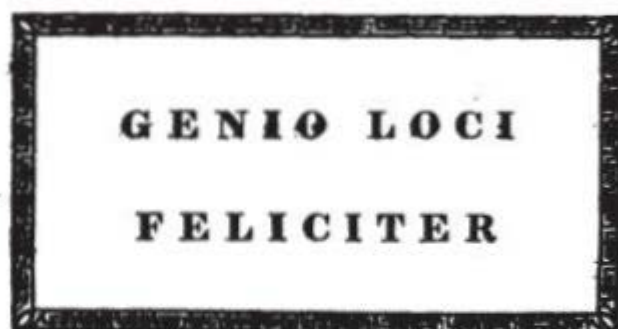
It may be translated to the following purport:

"Marcus Verecundus Diogenes, sixth time head of, or one of the six judges, in the colony at York, died at that place. He was a citizen of Bourdeaux, and made this *square* or sepulchre, for himself, in his life-time."

The size of this sepulchral vessel was considerable, being six feet long, and near three feet in depth. It was of mill-stone grit; and the inscription upon it, being the only Roman

one yet found, in which the name of *Ebor* is particularly noticed, renders it's memory doubly interesting.

The next relique which deserves our attention, is of Roman superstition—a rough grit stone, with an inscription upon it, as represented beneath :



Mr. Thoresby, the Leeds antiquary, was living when this stone was found, and he sent the following account of it to the Royal Society :

“ The Roman monument lately discovered at York, was found not far from the Roman wall and multangular tower, which Dr. Lister has given so curious a description of. This monument, dedicated to the *genius*, or tutelar deity of the place, is not of the coarse rag, that the generality of the Roman altars are, but of a finer grit, like that at my lord Fairfax's house in York. It is twenty-one inches long, and eleven broad ; and is inscribed GENIO LOCI FELICITER.

There was a larger stone found with it, but without any inscription; nor is there upon either of them the representation of a serpent, or a young visage; by both which, the ancients sometimes described these *DA TORICI*. If the name had been added, it would have gratified the curiosity of some of our *æclectic* antiquaries. But they must yet acquiesce, for ought I know, in their old *DVR*, who is said to be the tutelary deity of the city of the *Brigantes*.

“The author of this votive monument, seems to have had the same superstitious veneration for the *genius of York*, as those at *Rome* had for theirs, whose name they were prohibited to mention or inquire after. Hence it is, that upon their coins, the name of this deity is never expressed, but in a more popular manner by *GENIVS P. R.*, or *POP. ROM.*”

Drake also mentions this stone, and says it was discovered in digging a cellar in “*Conyng-street*,” in the line of the Roman wall. He adds, that it was immediately “put up in a back-yard wall of *Mrs. Crumpton’s* house, below the Black Swan inn, in that street.” In speaking further on the subject, that celebrated antiquary makes the following observations :