VI. *Observations on a Greek Inscription at London.* By
Mr. Gough. In a Letter to the Rev. T. W. Wrighte,
Secretary.

Read Feb. 23, 1792

DEAR SIR,

THE drawing [*a*] that accompanies this was purchased by me at the late Dr. Lort's sale, and represents a bas relief on white marble, found by Mr. Milles, a builder, among the ruins of a house at Islington. The date of this discovery is not mentioned, nor when it was fixed up in the front of a warehouse in High Timber-street, near Labour-in-vain-hill. But it must have been at least twenty years ago, as I recollect to have heard of it from our late treasurer Mr. Colebrook, who died 1775. I sought for it without success, so long ago, and having repeated my inquiries after it since I became possessed of the drawing, I had the mortification to find that the house wherein it was fixed had been re-built, and no intelligence was to be obtained of the figure.

In this uncertainty where this figure came from originally, or may at present be concealed, I shall content myself with observing, that it represents the antient *Retiarius*, a sort of gladiator, armed with a *net*, to cast over his adversary, and a *trident* to dispatch him thus entangled. The bas relief dug up at Chester, and engraved in the *Vetusta Monumenta*, Vol. I. p. 65, is a happy illustration of this monument. The

[*a*] See Plate II.

Retiarius

ΝΙΑ ΜΑΡΤΙΑ
ΛΗΤΩ ΑΝΔΡΙ

Bas relief at London.

Retiarius there, holds the trident in his right, and the net pendant at his side in his left hand ; and has on his right shoulder a kind of shield or covering, like that which, on some of our brass sepulchral plates, is called the *gonfanon*, and appears above each shoulder. Professor Ward's explanation of the former is applicable to the present instance : " Quod dextro gestat humero a vetere icholiaste in Juvenalem, Sat. VIII. 208. *galerus* dicitur, quem ita describit. Galerius est humero impositum gladiatoris hujusmodi aliquid, quo citius sparsum funem vel jactatum retium colligat." Its use was to assist him in recovering the net if he missed his cast. In a mosaic given by Bartoli, engraved in the same plate, this *galerus* appears on the *left* shoulder, which the professor apprehends to be an error of the artist : for, that the net was cast with the right hand, we have the authority of Juvenal ;

————— movet ecce tridentem
Postquam librata pendentia retia dextra.
Nequicquam effudit —————

implying, that, as soon as he had missed his throw, he had recourse to his trident. Another conformity between the present and the Chester *Retiarius* is the belt or girdle tight round his waist. That figure is naked ; but this has a kind of apron or drapery below the belt, but apparently unconnected with it. This figure holds a dagger in his left hand instead of a net.

The monument is sepulchral ; and the inscription in Greek capitals sets forth, that it was put up by ——— *Ania Martia* to her husband.

I am, &c.

Feb. 7, 1792.

R. GOUGH.

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