VIII. *Extract of a Letter from Col. Sydenham to Lord Macartney, dated St. Thomas' Mount, near Madras, Oct. 14, 1786. Communicated by Dr. Lort, V. P.*

Read May 3, 1787.

YOUR Lordship has probably heard that a number of Roman coins have been lately found in Nellour Country. The story is this. A labourer in ploughing some ground found himself obstructed by something which he perceived to be a square building of brick or stone. Having the curiosity to penetrate further he came to a small pot containing several pieces of gold. By some means it reached the ears of the renter, who reported it to the Durbar, and the money was ordered to be sent to Madras. To the great astonishment of the Eastern world, they proved to be Roman coins of different Emperors, the impression of many as perfect and fresh as new. Some had holes bored in them, as if designed as an ornament to be worn round the neck, while on others the impression was nearly effaced. There were about 40. The Ameer gave one to each of his particular friends. I had no chance of obtaining the

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same favour; but I saw them all, and proposed to have them drawn with a view to send a copy to your Lordship. The Ameer caught at the offer, and sent me two and three coins at a time, but suddenly stopt, and all my applications could not procure me another. Mr. Gourard superintended the drawings, and they were faithfully copied.

How to account for the coins being found in these parts is not very easy. Some have endeavoured by them to ascertain the precise limits of the marches of the Roman Conquerors into the East, while others suppose these coins brought by travelling Armenians, whom a spirit of commerce spread through all countries, and attracted hither at so early period."

* * * The Coins of which drawings were presented to the Society are eleven in number, of Adrian, Trajan, Faustina, &c. all gold, with the following types and legends:

1. DIVA AVG. FAVSTINA
PIETAS AVG. A female figure at an altar.
2. HADRIANVS AVGVSTVS
COS III, The wolf and twins.
3. Same legend,
COS III. P. P. A soldier holding a lance between three standards.
4. Same legend,
COS III. under a horseman with a spear galloping.
5. IMP. CAESAR. TRAIANO OPTIMO AVG. GER. DAC.
P. M. TR. P. COS. VI. P. P. S. P. Q. R. FORT. RED.
Fortune sitting and holding a cornucopiæ and rudder.
6. . . . TRAIANO AVG. GER. DAC. P. M. T. R. P. COS.
P. P. S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO PRINCIPI. Three standards.
7. HA-

7. HADRIANVS AVGVSTVS, P. P.
COS. III. A horseman extending his right hand.
8. Almost effaced seems *Gordian*
MAXIMO A figure sitting holding a spear.
9. IMP. TRAIANO AVG. GER. DAC. P. M. TR. P. COS.
V. P. P.
S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO PRINCIPI. in a civic crown.
10. Quite indistinct.
11. The same as 9 on both sides, but the Consulship VI.