XXVII. *Extract of two Letters from Dr. John Burton, of York, to Dr. Ducarel, concerning Roman Antiquities discovered in Yorkshire, 1770.*

Read at the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES, November 15, 1770.

SINCE the confular coin of Marius was found, there have been other Roman coins dug up near the same place. Lately also several urns and Roman coins, about three miles east by north of Horden. Also in digging lately about a mile south of York for gravel, many pieces of urns were found, some of a beautiful red clay; some were impressed with letters. Mr. Smithe, of New Buildings, near Thirsk, is very assiduous in searching after Roman antiquities, and takes great pleasure in collecting them. Last summer, in digging for gravel near Huddersfield, in the West Riding, several urns were found with coins in them.

IN the third week in March last, some workmen digging to make a drain from the north end of Dowgate, in this city, towards the corner of Lendal-street, about seven feet below the surface of the present street, came to the foundation of three walls or buttresses, lying from N. E. to S. W. by S. The breadth of the foundation next to Lendal was 9 feet 6 inches, and the other two were 11 feet 6 inches each. They were composed of cobbles, so strongly cemented that no iron tool could separate them, till large fires were made upon them to burn the cement; and even then it was with great difficulty that they cut off about
2 feet

2 feet depth of them with iron wedges; but how much lower these foundations went, we are not likely to know.

THE space between each wall was 3 feet and a half, which was filled with clay, and seems to have been tempered and close rammed. These walls are supposed to have been built by the Romans, to prevent the river Ouse from overflowing that part of the city adjoining to it; and what strengthens this opinion is, that between them and the river the ground has been raised greatly; a regular pavement having been found from 5 to 7 feet deep below the present surface. From this drain, the walls seem to cross in a line, where the river now runs obliquely through Coney-street, S. W. by W.

HAVING heard that a Roman pottery was discovered about a mile and a half south of York, near Middlethorp, I went with a friend to examine the premises, and found as follows. The soil at and near the surface was a rich brown corn mould soil; under that lay many fragments of Roman urns, and other earthen ware of a large size; under this stratum, a bed of fine gravel for the turnpike road, above a foot thick. Some of the fragments of these urns are of a beautiful red clay, but no whole urn has yet been found.

S E C O N D L E T T E R.

HAVING made application to the Lord of the manor of Middlethorpe for leave to dig in search of Roman urns, &c. my friend, Mr. Smith, employed four men for two days last week in digging for that purpose, he attending all the time. No coins were found; one urn was whole, and almost full of earth, which we took out, but found neither coins nor bones in it. In digging the earth we observed visible tokens of fire, there being no less than three strata of burnt earth, and 2 feet of earth and gravel betwixt

betwixt each stratum, with various pieces of urns of different kinds of clay, and of many sorts of vessels, some of them of the most beautiful red colour. Out of these fragments joined, we formed two bowls, that seemed capable of containing two quarts each, the outsides ornamented with raised work, representing various sorts of animals, as lions, foxes, cranes, and even men and women. At the bottom of the inside of some of the urns, or paterae, were stamped the names of persons. On one side is C. A V L. the remainder is lost. The letters were cut on the stamp as they should be read on the vessel, by which means they are reversed. There are two pieces which have an entire name upon them.

York, April 24, 1770.