

## *Notes and Documents*

### THE ANCIENT NAME OF MANCHESTER.

ACCORDING to the readings adopted by the editors of the 'Antonine Itinerary,' the name of a station in Iter II between Cambodunum and Condate was (in the ablative) *Mamucio*, and that of a station in Iter X between Coccium and Condate was *Mancunio*. The almost universal opinion of scholars is that the place meant in both cases is the site of the Roman fort at Manchester. Although the distances given in the manuscripts of the Itinerary do not tally with the actual distances between Manchester and the sites assigned to Cambodunum and Condate respectively, there seems to be no good reason for rejecting the current identification. But if it be correct, the obvious conclusion is that one or both of the forms *Mamucio* and *Mancunio* must be corrupt. The variants found in the manuscripts are, in Iter II, *Manutio* and *Mamutio*, and, in Iter X, *Coaccunio* (or *Coacocunio*), *Mamcunio*, *Mamcuno*, *Macocunio*, *Mamcomo*. It has hitherto been usual to assume that *Mancunio* is the correct form, probably because it most nearly resembles the modern name of Manchester. This reason, however, is an evident fallacy, for the earliest form of the English name is *Mameceaster*, and it was still written *Mamchestre* in the fourteenth century. Moreover, there is some reason for doubting whether *Mancunium* is a possible British name. A Celtic consonant-stem *man-* is not only unknown, but unlikely to have existed; and unless the place-name be derived (in accordance with the etymological principle somewhat unduly favoured by M. d'Arbois de Jubainville) from a personal name ending in *-cunos*, the only meaning assignable to *-cunio* is 'height,' which would not be topographically suitable. But although the form *Mamucio* agrees better than *Mancunio* with the old English name, it cannot be safely assumed that it is not itself corrupt. The fact that it has no known etymology is, indeed, in the present state of Celtic philology, no very serious objection to its genuineness. But the probability would seem to be that both forms are more or less altered from a common archetype. It is not possible to restore this with certainty, but I would suggest that as the *nc* of *Mancunio* must represent an original *m*, analogy would point to the *uc* of *Mamucio* being a corruption of

the same letter. This would give us *Mammium*, or, in Celtic form, *Mammion*, as the original name; a derivative, perhaps, of *mamma*, 'mother.' An argument in favour of this suggestion is that, at the late date of the Anglian conquest of the tract between Ribble and Mersey, a Celtic single *m* between vowels would probably have been represented by *v*, not by *m*, in the English adoption of the name. The evidence is too dubious to justify the introduction of 'Mammium' into our maps of Roman Britain; but that the customary 'Mancunium' ought to be discarded there seems to be no reasonable doubt.

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THE LAWS OF BRETEUIL.

PART II. THE ENGLISH EVIDENCE (*continued*).

*Custumal of Preston, with Explanatory Notes.*

XVII. PRESTON. The text is printed below from a photograph of the Custumal now at Preston. A few of the clauses have been given in Whitaker's 'Richmondshire,' ii. 422; many English translations have appeared, but none are satisfactory. The best rendering appears to be that in E. Baines's 'Lancashire,' ed. Croston, vol. v. (1893).

Iste sunt libertates de Prestona in Aumundrenesse.

1. Ita quod habeant Gildam mercatoriam cum hansa et aliis consuetudinibus et libertatibus ad Gildam illam pertinentibus.

2. Ita quod nullus qui non sit de Gilda illa mercandisam aliquam faciat in predicta villa nisi de voluntate Burgensium.

3. Si aliquis nativus alicuius in prefata villa manserit et terram in ea tenuerit et fuerit in prefata Gilda et hansa et loth et scoth cum eisdem Burgensibus per vnum annum et vnum diem, deinceps non possit repeti a domino suo set in eadem villa liber permaneat.

4. Burgenses de Prestona in Aumundrenesse habeant soc et sac, tol et them, Infangthef, et quod quieti sint per totam terram nostram de tolneo, lastagio, passagio, pontagio et stallagio et de Lenegald et Denegald et Gathewite et omnibus aliis consuetudinibus et actionibus per totam terram nostram et potestatem tam in Anglia quam in aliis terris nostris et quod nullus vicecomes intromittat se super Burgum de Prestona in Aumundrenesse de aliquo placito vel querela vel occasione vel aliqua alia re ad predictam villam pertinenti salva corona domini Regis.

5. Si quis Burgensis voluerit fieri, veniat in Curia et reddet prefecto xii denarios et capiet Burgagium suum de pretoribus; postea dabit famulo pretoris vnum denarium ut ipse testificet eum burgensem in Curia fieri.

6. Item cum autem Burgensis Burgagium suum receperit et vacuum fuerit, pretor precipiet <sup>1</sup> eum quod Burgagium suum infra xl dies edificiet super forisfacturam, si autem non edificauerit in misericordia erit de xii denariis.

<sup>1</sup> MS. 'recipiet.'