

**A COMMENT UPON PART OF THE FIFTH  
JOURNEY OF ANTONINUS THROUGH BRITAIN;  
IN WHICH THE SITUATION OF DUROBRIVAE,  
THE SEVENTH STATION THERE MENTIONED, IS  
DISCUSSED; AND CASTOR, IN  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, IS SHEWN, FROM  
VARIOUS REMAINS OF ROMAN ANTIQUITY**

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A Comment upon Part of the Fifth Journey of Antoninus Through Britain; In Which the Situation of Durobrivae, the Seventh Station There Mentioned, Is Discussed; And Castor, in Northamptonshire, Is Shewn, from Various Remains of Roman Antiquity by Kennet Gibson

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**KENNET GIBSON**

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A COMMENT

UPON PART OF THE

FIFTH JOURNEY OF ANTONINUS THROUGH BRITAIN;

IN WHICH THE SITUATION OF

*DUROBRIVÆ,*

THE SEVENTH STATION THERE MENTIONED, IS DISCUSSED;

AND

CASTOR, IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,

IS SHEWN, FROM VARIOUS REMAINS OF ROMAN ANTIQUITY,

TO HAVE AN UNDOUBTED CLAIM TO THAT SITUATION.

ALSO,

A DISSERTATION ON AN IMAGE OF JUPITER FOUND THERE.

Printed from the *Original Manuscript*

By THE REV. KENNETT GIBSON, LATE CURATE OF CASTOR.

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED,

*The Parochial History of Castor,*

AND ITS DEPENDENCIES, TO THE PRESENT TIME;

WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF MARHAM,

AND SEVERAL OTHER PLACES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF CASTOR.

By RICHARD GOUGH, Esq.

THE SECOND EDITION, CORRECTED AND ENLARGED.

LONDON:

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AND 25, PARLIAMENT STREET, WESTMINSTER.

1819.

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## P R E F A C E.

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WHEN the former Edition of this Work was published, in 1800, the Gentleman who supplied the Parochial History of Castor, &c. thought proper to withhold his name. It is now, however, well known to have been my invaluable Friend, RICHARD GOUGH, Esq. But owing to the Volume having been published without that respectable sanction, and from not having been much advertised, very few Copies of it had been disposed of, previous to the fatal accident in 1808 which destroyed all the unsold Copies. This circumstance has caused the Work to be enquired for; and has induced me to reprint a very small Impression of it, to gratify the collectors of Topography.

The Work here presented to the publick is the whole which could be found among the papers of the Rev. KENNETT GIBSON, B. A. formerly of Christ's College, Cambridge, who offered proposals for printing it\*; but the Author's death, which happened in 1772, interrupted the design; and the MS. remained several years in obscurity, till, in the year 1795, it was offered to me by its then Proprietor, the Rev. Daniel Bayley †, fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

“The Rev. Kennett Gibson was Curate of Castor many years; and, it may be presumed, his residence on such a spot gave him opportunities which he did not fail to

\* Mr. Gibson proposed to print by subscription, for one guinea, “A Comment upon part of the Fifth Journey of Antoinette through Britain; in which a particular inquiry is made after the true situation of *Durobrivæ*, the seventh station there mentioned. In this work it will be attempted to prove, against the objections of some late writers upon British antiquities, that *Castor* in Northamptonshire has an indubitable claim to the station in question. The remains of Roman camps, military ways, tessellated pavements, sepulchral and other urns, local deities, aqueducts, the ancient navigable Roman cut called *Cor-dike*, coins, and several other Roman antiquities, are considered in an historical view; the whole tending to illustrate the parochial antiquities of Castor, and the adjacent parts in the liberty of Peterborough, and some other places in the county of Northampton.”

† The Proposals for the above work were dated Castor, July 3, 1769.

‡ Several articles from Ep. Kennett's library, rendered valuable by his MS notes, fell into Mr. Bayley's hands by consequence, his mother having been grand-daughter to the Bishop.

improve. The result of his inquiries seems, therefore, an incontrovertible establishment of the Roman station DUROBRIVÆ at *Castor*, in a neighbourhood so fertile in Roman remains. If roads and camps, coins and pavements, on every side of *Castor*, do not prove its Romanity and its eminence in the time of that great people, what farther evidence is required?

“These evidences, however, do not seem sufficient to entitle it to a place in any antient Itinerary. In a very learned illustration of that part of Antoninus’s *Iter* which relates to Britain, which after long expectation has just made its appearance\*, the name of DUROBRIVIS is transferred to *West or Old Lynn*, in a very different direction from that which has hitherto been given to the fifth *Iter* of Antoninus, and in a course less direct than is commonly assigned to the great Roman ways. If, however, the claims of towns to Roman stations are to be determined on such slight evidence as a few coins or a few inconsiderable banks, the claims of *Castor*, *Chesterton*, and *Alwalton*, must be incontrovertible. To put it out of doubt, we might produce a MILLIARY, other Roman coins, &c. now, if we are not misinformed, at *Trinity College*, *Cambridge*, found in this very tract; and though it does not, like that at *Leicester*, exhibit a name, like that it perhaps determines a distance, *M. P. L.* In p. 76, Mr. Reynolds admits, that the *Ermine-street* is very visible before *Stilton*; and that *Castor* is an old Roman station upon the river *Nen*, where this road again divides. So that, ‘if the new situations assigned in this present work, to *Duroloponde*, *Durobrivis*, and *Causemnis*, are admitted, a branch from this road must have left it at *Huntingdon*, and, passing through *Ramsey* and the *Fens* to *West Lynn*, returned into the Eastern line of it by the *Washes* and *Boston*,’ at *Sleaford*†.’

As it is plain, from what Mr. GIBSON says ‡, that he intended to pursue the history of *Castor* during the *Saxon* times at least, and perhaps as much later as he had opportunities of doing; Mr. GOUGH visited the spot, and endeavoured to supply the deficiencies, not only for *CASTOR*, but its dependencies; and MILTON§ being one of them, he could not pass it over without due attention to the Noble Family whose resi-

\* *Iter Britanniarum*, &c. by the Rev. Thomas Reynolds, M. A.

† Mr. Gough, in a Review of this Work, in *Gent. Mag.* vol. LXXII. p. 58.

‡ P. 19, note †.

§ Of this house we have heard of a drawing or etching by a right honourable Artist; but have not succeeded in our application to obtain it, or to discover what memorials or correspondence there might be of or respecting the Queen of Scots in the archives of the noble owner; whose ancestor, by virtue of his office as governor of *Fotheringay castle*, was summoned to attend upon her during the five last weeks of her life.



P R E F A C E.

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dence it has been for three complete centuries, and whom he followed to their silent mansions in the adjoining church of MARHAM, of which Mr. Gibson was rector.

With a view to illustrate the manners of the age, extracts were given from a Household Book of the FITZWILLIAM Family from 1605 to 1612.

Since the first Edition of this Work was published, the curious Portrait of a Painter then unknown, has been ascertained to be that of THOMAS GOWER\*.

From the old Mansion-house of the DOVE Family at UPTON was produced a Stone Dial, which, if it does not compare with that erected at Whitehall by Edmund Gunter, is at least a curious monument of science for the age.

As connected with the same County were added, an account of the goods, &c. of the Priory of St. ANDREW, in the town of NORTHAMPTON; and of a Roman Tesselated Pavement discovered at COTTERSTOCK in 1798, where others had been found 60 years before.

In this new Edition, I have been favoured by my friend Mr. BRITTON with a more correct description of Castor Church.

I have also inserted four subjects of interest in the neighbourhood, as originally communicated to the Gentleman's Magazine, by my late worthy Correspondents, ROBERT HENSON, Esq. and Mr. JOHN CARTER, F. S. A.

These several additions to Mr. GIBSON'S Work will, it is hoped, not be found unworthy of public notice.

Dec. 1, 1818.

J. NICHOLS.

\* See p. 125.

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A COMMENT  
ON PART OF THE  
FIFTH JOURNEY OF ANTONINUS  
THROUGH BRITAIN.

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CHAP. I.

IT has been no small help towards understanding the history and geography of our own country, that some of our best Antiquaries have given us new editions of the Itinerary of Britain, a work generally ascribed to Antoninus.

But to which of the Antonine family we are to ascribe this account, is a secret we have not yet been able to discover. Antoninus Pius, and Caracalla, are the two principal candidates.

In Mr. Horsley's opinion, the claim is due to the latter; as Caracalla was some years in Britain himself, and seems to have had the best opportunity, of any of the Roman Emperors, of gaining a thorough knowledge of this Island.

The limits that are settled in the Itinerary suit better the reign of Caracalla, and the peace made by him with the Britons immediately after the death of his father Severus, than that of Antoninus Pius. For, this latter built the Roman wall in Scotland; and yet we have no stations mentioned in the Itinerary which are within forty miles of that wall. The wall that was built by Severus is in the North of England; and there are not above two or three stations in the Itinerary advanced beyond this wall; and these too at no great distance from it. These things Mr. Horsley has more fully considered in the fourth chapter of the first book of his "Britannia Romana." He says there is good reason indeed to suspect, with Dr. Gale \*, that the Itinerary has not all been composed by one person, at least not by any one of the Antonines, because Constantinople and some other places are mentioned in this work, which were not founded till long after the last of the Antonines. It might be begun by some one, and carried on by others. And if any of the Antonines composed a part which relates to Britain, he (as above) inclines to Caracalla. It

\* *Antic. Lit.* p. 1.