

word in any other inscription. If L, which is undoubtedly the present reading, be an error for E, the difficulty is removed. EMI in the third line presents the next difficulty; it might, though unusual, be a contraction for EMERITI; but that would be very strangely introduced, after the mention of the age, and without any notice of the legion to which Theodorianus had belonged. OMEN was most probably NOMEN, and that the abridged form of NOMENTANI.

Dr. Thurnham (*Crania Britannica, Decade 1.*) observes :

"The principal difficulty is confined to two words; the first of the inscription, and the EMI in the third line. It seems most probable that both these are *prænomina*, the first that of Theodorianus, the other of Theodora; though what these names have been it is perhaps not possible to say." * * * The inscription is probably to be thus read: Diis Manibus [conjectured to have been on the *operculum* or lid, which has not been preserved] Mei...al. Theodoriani Nomentani vivit annis xxxiv, mensibus vi. Emi. Theodora mater efficiendum curavit." * * * "Altogether the external evidence is in favour of the remains found in this coffin being those of a Roman citizen and soldier, a native of Italy, and of the ancient Latin territory in the immediate neighbourhood of Rome itself."

There is no doubt that the only difficulties in the inscription are from M to L in the first line, and EMI in the third. Mr. Wellbeloved's conjecture of NOMENT is confirmed, as far as the last letter is concerned, by "an accurate rubbing," procured by Dr. Thurnham, "which shows distinctly the ligulate letter T in the word OMENT." It also seems to me evident that Mr. Wellbeloved's readings, MEMORIAL and EMERITI, must be at once rejected, and for the reasons which he himself states. Nor can I concur with Dr. Thurnham in the view which he has taken of the external evidence being in favour of the remains being those of a Roman citizen and soldier. The absence of the usual notice of the legion or cohort seems to suggest the presumption, that Theodorianus had not been a soldier.

I am inclined to read from M to L thus: MEM· C· VAL; *i. e.* Memoria Caii Valerii. MEM may stand for either MEMORIA or MEMORIÆ; if for the former, I regard it as meaning "The monument;" if for the latter, "To the memory." I prefer the first interpretation, which is confirmed by the words MEMORIAM· POSSVIT (*sic*) on another stone coffin also found at York. The abbreviation MEM· may be justified by the inscription given by Gruter, 894, 2, and the construction in the nominative by that given by Marcellini, cc.

As to EMI, I regard it as the perfect tense of the verb *emo*, *i. e.* as meaning, "I Theodora his mother bought." It is scarcely necessary to