

about Richard of Westminster," his Copenhagen correspondent had to choose between confessing, and persisting in the forgery;—and how many subsequent pages of antiquarian literature depended on his choice! Dr. Stukeley's importunities could not be evaded; and once committed to his dishonest course, Bertram carried it out consistently to the end. His success may have delighted or alarmed him, according to the aspect in which he regarded it; but, tried by the standard of that eighteenth century, his delight is more probable than his alarm. He had achieved for himself a name among European scholars, and established confidential relations with foreign literati; and he thenceforth cultivated them without dread of exposure. He appears to have attained to the highest academic honours, and to have maintained a friendly correspondence with his learned English dupe to the last. So late as Oct. 30, 1768, Stukeley records in his Diary: "I received from my friend, Dr. Bertram, 3 copies of the designs of the Danish Military, colored: one for the King."

In the age of Psalmanazar, Macpherson, and Chatterton; a century which gave birth to the "Hardyknute," the Ossian Epics, and the Rowley Poems; to "the Double Falsehood" of Theobald, the "Vortigern and Rowena" of Ireland, and so much else of a like kind: it cannot be denied that the fabricator of the "*Commentarioli geographici de Situ Britanniae, et Stationum quas Romani ipsi in ea Insula ædificaverunt*," ascribed to Richard of Cirencester, had his abundant reward. Not only Dr. Stukeley and his credulous brother antiquaries, among whom the ingenious but fanciful Whitaker may be classed; but the incredulous Ritson, the laborious and accurate Roy, with some of the very foremost of historians, Gibbon, Suhm, Lappenberg, and Lingard: have bowed to his authority; and a whole century of European scholars has yielded unquestioning faith to his bold imposture.

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