

nection in which they appear, are, if the words be intended to mean on the occasion of his election or appointment, the money for the repairing and repainting, should, according to usage, have been provided from his own funds; and if the words be intended merely as an honorary designation, there is no authority, so far as I am aware, for their use in this sense under such circumstances. The words *seria* and *pecunia* suggested the invention of the story about the money having been found in a vessel. The objections to this application of *longa seria defossa* are—the word *longa* seems inappropriate when applied to *seria*, even though its shape is said to have been *oblonga*; and *defossa* does not signify *dug up*, which seems to have been the meaning intended, but *buried*, so that the translation of the words, as they stand, which would first present itself, would be, *a long earthen vessel having been buried, not having been dug up*. If *seria* be the correct reading the most probable *prima facie* reference would be to the *seria* which was kept in temples. Thus:

Lamprid. *Heliogab. c. 6.* “Penetrare sacrum [Vestæ] est auferre conatus: cumque *seriam*, quasi veram, rapuisset, atque in ea nihil reperisset, applosam fregit.”

But it seems not unlikely that either the true reading of the word on the stone is *serie*, or that the final *a* is a mistake in orthography for *e*. We have thus *longa serie*, and if we supply *annorum*, this phrase and *nimia vetustate* will agree well with *refici et repingi*. Thus in Orelli, n. 3300, we have PERMVLTO TEMPORE VETVSTATE CONLAPSVS. As to the age of the inscription, a surmise may perhaps be formed with some reason from the use of the word *repingi*, a verb, which I do not recollect having seen in any Latin writer earlier than the 6th century, A. D. On the restoration, as a whole, it is unnecessary to say more than that I am persuaded that no one familiar with Latin Epigraphy would mistake it for a genuine inscription; indeed it is not as plausible as many of the Ligorian forgeries.

50. Another example, of the danger of attempting a restoration with insufficient data, is to be found in Mr. C. Roach Smith's remarks on an inscription on a stone found, I believe, at Netherhall, Cumberland.

It is figured in the *Collectanea Antiqua*, ii. pl. 48, fig. 7, and the following (p. 202) are Mr. Smith's observations on it:—