

Dr. Bruce offers no explanation, but remarks :—

“It was found together with three others of Mithraic character, The third line is somewhat obscure, and the subsequent lines are nearly obliterated by the action of the weather. Mr. Thos. Hodgson has described this and the other altars found on the same occasion in the *Arch. Æliana*, vol. iv. p. 6.”

On reference to Mr. Hodgson's description, I find that the only letters of the doubtful word, which he attempts to explain, are the first four ANIO. These he regards as “the dative case of ANIVS, who was the son of Apollo and Rhea,” and he cites in illustration (apparently with approval!) one of Mr. Faber's wild speculations, that “Rheo” [thus Mr. F. calls the mother of Anius] “is the same as Rhea, a mere personification of the Ark; Apollo is the solar Noah; and Anius is also the great patriarch, under the title of *Aniun*, the naval deity.”

It appears, from a comparison of the representations of the altar, as figured by Dr. Bruce and Mr. Hodgson, that it is doubtful whether the fourth letter is C or O; and that the last two, read by Dr. Bruce as RO, are not distinct.

I am of opinion that the true reading is ANICETO, and that the word is nothing more than the Greek ANIKHTO[I] in Latin characters, i.e. ἀνικητός, *invicto*, the epithet so frequently applied to Mithras, Sol, and Apollo.

32. In the *Journal of the Archæological Association*, Vol. IX., p. 91, there is a description of various articles of the Roman period, which were exhibited by Mr. Gunston, who stated that he was informed that they had been found in London. In addition to the reasons which are there given for believing that the information communicated to that gentleman was incorrect, there seems to me to be in one of the inscriptions ground for suspicion that it was not found in Britain. The inscription to which I refer, is

L · AVTRONI
VRBANI · OL · II

The reading of this is evidently :—*Lucii Autronii Urbani ollæ duæ*. Now there is no example, so far as I am aware, of any British inscription mentioning the *ollæ*, which are so commonly noticed in stones found in Italy. The only sepulchral designations in inscriptions found in Britain, so far as I recollect, are *monimentum*, *tumulus*,