

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES ON JEWISH ANTIQUITIES.

By JOSEPH OFFORD.

(Continued from Q.S., 1918, p. 185.)

LV.—*Fresh Light on Hadrian's Jewish War.*

THE number of Latin and Greek inscriptions which I have been able to collect concerning Roman wars in Palestine during the present era, and the history derivable from such records as to the Legions and Auxiliaries stationed in that country under the Roman Emperors can be augmented by several minor epigraphical monuments, and one important text which was published by M. S. Reinach in the *Revue des Études Juives*, Vol. XVII, which had escaped notice.¹

This inscription refers to a veteran who obtained distinction during Hadrian's suppression of Bar-Cochba's revolt, and it was discovered near to Mount Pangea, in Macedonia. The Latin text is restored as follows:—

. . . . D. F. Octavius Secundus, Curibus, Sabbatina miles cohortis X Urbanae translatus in cohortem VI Pretoriam singularis tribuni, beneficiarius tribuni singularis praefecti praetorio optio in centuria signifer fisci curator cornicularius, tribuni evocatus Augusti centurio legionis X Fretensis donis donatus ab divo Hadriano ob bellum Judaicum corona aurea torquibus armillis, phaleris, et ab eodem promotus successit in leg(ionem) primam Italicam; principilus legionis eiusdem adlectus decurio in colonia

This may roughly be rendered as:—

Here rests Octavius Secundus, born at Cures (in the Sabine), soldier of the 10th Urban Cohort, transferred to the 6th Praetorian Cohort, Official of the Tribune. Assistant of the

¹ See *Proceedings Society of Biblical Archaeology*, XXIV, 1902, pp. 325-8, and XXV, 1903, pp. 30, 33, "Inscriptions Relating to the Jewish War of Vespasian and Titus." *Ibid.*, Vol. XX, 1898, pp. 59-69, "Inscriptions Relating to Hadrian's Jewish War." *Q.S.*, 1911, p. 91, "Inscriptions Relating to Campaigns in Palestine." *Ibid.*, 1915, pp. 200, 201, "A New Record of a Procurator of Judea." *Ibid.*, 1916, pp. 38-40, "A New Found Inscription Concerning Hadrian's Jewish War."

Tribune. Attached to the praetorian praefect. Adjutant of the centurion for century service. Ensign bearer. Employee of the cohort bureau. Reporter of the Tribune. Recalled to active (service) by the Emperor (with grade almost equal to that of centurion). Centurion of the X Fretensis Legion. Rewarded by the divine Hadrian (for acts of bravery) in the Jewish war (decorated) with a golden crown, bracelets, and phaleres. He received a fresh promotion, passing into the Italian legion as principilis of the legion, and was nominated decurion in the colony.

The career of the successful general whom Hadrian summoned from the distant province of Britain to suppress the Jewish revolt, whose complete title was Sextus Vinicius Faustinus Julius Severus, is set forth in a long inscription in his special honour, to be read in the *Corpus of Latin Inscriptions* No. 2830, and in the pages of Dion Cassius, or rather in those of the writer who abbreviated that author's work, for the reign of Hadrian, which is all we possess of it. He confuses this Julius Severus with another personage employed as an administrator in Syria at the time of Bar-Cochba's war by Hadrian—Tiberius Severus, Legate of the IV Sythica Legion, whom the people of Ancyra acclaimed in an eulogistic inscription as "a descendant of kings and tetrarchs"

Subsequent to the publication by M. Darmsteter of the relative inscriptions clearly differentiating the two personages, M. S. J. Halberstam pointed out what is evidently an unnoticed mention of the Severus from Britain in Rabbinical works. This occurs, for instance, in Mishno Taanith IV, 6, wherein the author writes "that upon the 17 Tammuz Apostemus, אפוסטמוס (some manuscripts spell the name פיסטמוס) burnt a copy of the Torah," apparently at Bethar, "and set up a statue in the Temple enclosure."¹

The discovery that Julius Severus also bore the cognomen of Faustinus led M. Halberstam to detect that this Apostemus refers to him, and was probably purposely adopted as his designation by Jewish writers to differentiate him clearly from Tiberius Severus.

Postemus, or Apostemus, it may be said, is not much like Faustinus, but N was frequently changed into M by Jewish scribes; this they did in writing the word Hispania. It may, however, have arisen from a scribal error of אפוסטמוס for אפוסטניוס.

¹ See M. R. N. Rabbino-witz, *Variae Lectiones*.