

## THE IDENTIFICATION OF 'LIBINE ABAS IAE' IN THE HISTORIA BRITTONUM.

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The chronological memorandum which is peculiar to the tenth-century manuscript (Chartres, no. 98) of the *Historia Brittonum* designated Z by Prof. Mommsen (M. G. H., *Chronica Minora* III, 1, p. 119) and printed first by M. Duchesne (*Revue Celtique*, Vol. XV, pp. 174—197, Avril 1894), has already received a considerable share of attention. It may be found in Mommsen, *op. cit.* p. 172, note 1, or in the *Revue Celtique*, *l. c.* p. 177; and the emendation of it that I suggest is a necessary one, appears at the end of this note. It was clearly the intention of the author of the memorandum in question to provide four data: namely, 1, the year in which he believed that the English invaded Britain; 2, the year in which 'libine abas iae' discovered the date of that invasion; 3, an approximation to the number of years which embraced the two events; and 4, the age of the moon on the first day of January in the year in which the discovery was made.

1. The date of the coming of the English to Britain is missing from its proper place between 'Christi' and 'sicut', and appears to have been inserted erroneously between 'domini' and 'anni', where we ought to find the year in which 'libine' made his discovery. Instead of the latter date we find 'ab incarnatione domini D. anni' which M. Duchesne (*l. c.* p. 182) and Prof. Thurneysen (*Ztschr. f. d. Philologie*, Bd. XXVIII, S. 93, Heft 1, 1895) treat as a date which was intended mistakenly to mark the English advent. M. Duchesne points out that the year 801, which follows the one arrived at by adding the 300 years interval to *A. D.* 500, offers the coincidence required between January 1 and the age of the moon. As, however, Venerable Bede was