

A Roman Coin found in Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, (Tennessee,) July 7.

It has long been a desideratum with the learned to know by whom the numerous old fortifications, &c. in the western country were erected: It is now in our power to add one fact that may serve to direct enquirers a little further.— A short time since a cellar was dug in the town of Fayetteville, on Elk river in this state, not far from the lines of one of those ancient fortifications so common in the western states, and in the dirt was found corroded with a kind of rust, a small piece of metal, which being disrobed of its covering was ascertainad to be a Roman silver coin, issued about 150 years before Christ and in a good state of preservation. It is in the possession of a merchant in Nashville, and has been seen by hundreds, many of whom are antiquarians, and they are all satisfied it is a genuine coin, and one gentleman who was lately in Italy and saw the busts of the persons represented on the coin declares the heads very good likenesses.

On one side around the edge these letters are seen—

Antoniana arg piva P P tri Cos III.

on the other side

Arrelivs C cesar arg P III Cos

which is construed to read thus

*Antonianus Augustus Prus. princip. pontifex tertio
c. consul*

Arrelivs Cæsar Augustus pontifex tertio consul.

The marks, letters, &c. exactly agree in ev-

ery particularly with the probable state of the arts and history of the times; but how the coin was brought to Tennessee we leave others to ascertain.

Since the subject of the Roman coin has occupied public attention, we have learnt many facts interesting to the antiquarian.

Some few miles above Columbia on Duck river are a number of fortifications and mounds, into some of which some young men dug a small distance, and found several well burnt bricks, about nine inches square and three inches thick, also several fragments of earthenware, also a sword about two feet long, differently shaped from any in use since the whites visited the continent, apparently once highly polished, but now much eaten with rust. We learn from a respectable source that a gentleman passing over one of the fields of ancient slaughter on the bank of the Casey fork, his eye caught some rude letters on a flat stone, he examined it and made out—we are all cut off. Who were the sufferers we have yet to learn, and hope that some fortunate discovery will one day satisfy the craving curious.
