

*Celtiberian* Prince, is certainly the noblest piece of Plate that is now extant: the embossing of it is so fine and so entire, that it is indeed unvaluable; and if there were an Inscription upon it to put us beyond conjecture, it were yet much more inestimable.

A great many Inscriptions are to be seen of the late and barbarous Ages, as *Bonum Memorium*, and *Epitaphium hunc*. There are twenty three Inscriptions in the Garden of the Fathers of *Mercy*, but so placed as it shews how little those who possess them do either understand or value them. I shall only give you one, because I made a little Reflection on it, tho' it is not perhaps too well grounded, because none of the Criticks have thought on it.

The Inscription is this, *D. M. Et Memoriae Aeternae Surtiae Anthidis. Quae vixit Annis XXV. M. XI. DV. Quae dum Nimia pia fuit, facta est Impia: Et Attio Probatiolo, Cecalio Calistio Conjux Et Pater, Et sibi vivoponendum curavit Et sub ascia dedicavit.* This must be towards the barbarous Age, as appears by the false Latin in *Nimia*: But the Inscription seems so extravagant, that a man dedicating a Burial-stone for his Wife and Son, and under which himself was to be laid, with Ceremonies of Religion, should tax his Wife of Impiety, and give so extraordinary an account of her becoming so through an excess of Piety, that it deserves some consideration.

It seems the Impiety was publick, otherwise a Husband would not have recorded it in such a manner; and it is plain that he thought it rose from an excess of Piety.

I need not examine the Conjectures of others; but will chuse rather to give you my own, and submit it to your censure.

It seems to me, that this *Surtia Anthis* was a Christian; for the Christians, because they would not worship the Gods of the Heathens, nor participate with them in their sacred Rites, were accused both of