

## PROCEEDINGS.

## SPRING MEETING.

THE spring meeting of the Society was held in the lecture theatre at Tullie House, Carlisle, on March 21st, 1933, and was attended by a large gathering of members.

The chair was taken by Mr. R. G. Collingwood, President of the Society, who at the opening of the meeting referred to the loss the Society had sustained by the death of its late President, Mr. W. G. Collingwood. After several members had expressed in fitting terms their appreciation of the eminent services rendered to our Society by our late President and their sorrow at the death of one who was universally loved and respected, it was resolved to place on record the Society's sense of the irreparable loss which in common with the learned world as a whole it had suffered by the death of Mr. W. G. Collingwood.

The following new members were duly proposed and elected:—Mrs. J. R. Burnett, Scotby; Mr. A. J. S. Curwen, Staveley; Cheetham's Library, Manchester; Mr. J. Dixon-Johnson, Middleham; Dr. J. F. Dow, Arnside; Miss F. Gordon, Cockermouth; Mrs. Gregson, Crosby Ravensworth; Col. A. Haworth, Ambleside; Mr. Harry Hodgson, Carlisle; Sir J. Lowry, Portinscale; Mr. C. F. J. Martindale, Carlisle; Mr. F. J. Marquis, Bowness; Mrs. A. J. Messenger, Silloth; Miss A. E. Montague, Windermere; Mr. B. Pickard, Lancaster; Mrs. H. Stewart, Carlisle.

The President, after remarking that the Society was to be congratulated upon its recent accessions of new members at a time when most learned societies were finding difficulty in maintaining their membership numbers, proceeded to report upon the work done by the Cumberland Excavation Committee and the new Committee for Prehistoric Studies. He also announced that in future the annual volumes of *Transactions* would have their pages trimmed.

It was announced that it was intended to hold the summer meeting and excursion in the Lake District about the middle of July.

The following papers were submitted and directed to be published in an early volume of the *Transactions*:—"Analysis

of the Denton Pedigree," by T. H. B. Graham, M.A., F.S.A. (Art. I); "The Chantry of Bramwra," by T. H. B. Graham, M.A., F.S.A. (Art. II); "Heraldry at Carlisle Cathedral," by F. J. Field (Art. III); "The Town Fields of Drigg," by Miss M. C. Fair (Art. VI); "Some Notes on Windermere Parish Church," by B. Logan Thompson (Art. IV); "A Deer Park in Wet Sled-dale," by B. Logan Thompson (Art. VII).

The President reported the discovery of a new volume of Bishop Nicolson's Diary, an abstract of the contents of which, by Mr. T. H. B. Graham and himself, would be published in an early volume of the *Transactions*.

An interesting lecture, with lantern illustrations, was given by Mr. F. G. Simpson and Mr. I. A. Richmond on "Recent Work on Hadrian's Wall." Many of the discoveries to which the lecturers referred are mentioned in the report of the Cumberland Excavation Committee, which forms Article XVI of the present volume of *Transactions*.

#### SUMMER MEETING.

The first excursion of the season was held in the Lake District on Thursday and Friday, July 6th and 7th, 1933.

The local arrangements were in charge of a committee composed of Mr. George Aitchison, M.B.E., Mr. S. H. le Fleming, Ld. Lt., Sir S. H. Scott, Mr. H. Swainson Cowper, F.S.A., Mr. G. G. Wordsworth and Mr. R. E. Porter, M.C., Hon. Excursions Secretary. A successful innovation in the management of the excursion was the appointment of Mr. M. G. le Fleming as transport officer in order to facilitate the parking of cars at the various stopping places. There was a very large attendance of members and friends, and the weather, if somewhat hot, was sunny and agreeable up to almost the very end of the second day's excursion, when a violent thunderstorm, accompanied by torrents of rain, supervened, fortunately too late to interfere with the completion of our programme.

#### THURSDAY, JULY 6TH.

The party assembled at Windermere Railway Station, at 11 a.m., and proceeded at once by motor coaches and private cars to

#### KENTMERE HALL.

Here Mr. W. T. McIntire described this ancient seat of the Gilpin family whose connection with Kentmere he traced back to the 14th century. Kentmere Hall has been visited on previous

occasions by our Society, and several descriptions of the building are to be found in its publications, among them being one by the late Mr. J. F. Curwen in *Transactions*, N.S. i, 285-288, and it is unnecessary to repeat information readily accessible elsewhere. The speaker, however, endeavoured to show by referring to the architectural features of the building that the original hall was of a later date than that of the 14th century pele tower, though in some previous accounts it has been maintained that their construction was contemporary. Before leaving the hall he expressed the regret which all his hearers must feel that the President's state of health had prevented him from being present at the excursion. It was arranged that a telegram should be sent to Mr. Collingwood condoling with him in his illness and wishing him a speedy recovery.

After the thanks of the Society had been conveyed by Mr. McIntire to Mr. Matthew Gibson for his kind permission to visit the hall, the party walked over to

#### KENTMERE CHURCH.

Dealing with the theories as to the Norman origin of this building, Mr. McIntire stated that the earliest mention he could find of the church was in a deed of 1453, relative to the neighbouring Brockstone farm. It was then a chapel under Kendal. The thickness of its walls might give some support to the tradition that it had once been a fortified church. He mentioned some of the benefactors of the church, amongst whom were the Aireys, a family connected with Kentmere from the 14th century onwards. The particular benefactor was John Airey, the nephew of Bernard Gilpin, "the Apostle of the North." He pointed out a tablet to the memory of Bernard Gilpin, erected as the outcome of a suggestion by the late Canon Rawnsley upon the occasion of the Society's last visit to Kentmere in 1913. He concluded by expressing the Society's thanks to the Vicar, Mr. Mason, for his permission to use the church.

Rejoining their vehicles, the party then continued their journey to

#### MILLRIGG,

where Dr. J. E. Spence described the British Settlement, basing his remarks upon the article contributed by Mr. J. A. Martindale to *Transactions*, N.S. i, 175-185. The examination of the ruins was facilitated by the fact that Dr. Spence had labelled their most interesting features and provided a large scale plan of the

settlement. He said that his audience might dismiss from their minds the idea that this enclosed settlement was ever intended as a military stronghold owing to the vulnerability of its site, which rendered it easily accessible to warlike tribes.

Lunch was now partaken of amid the beautiful surroundings of the Kentmere valley, and the party then performed the next stage of their journey to Burneside.

#### BURNESIDE HALL.

Here Mr. McIntire was again the speaker, giving an account of the various families through whose hands the property had passed and tracing the architectural history of the hall from the construction of the first pele tower to the additions made by the Braithwaites in the 17th century. He referred his hearers to the descriptions of the hall given by the late Mr. J. F. Curwen in his *Castles*, 260-1, and by the late Dr. Taylor, *Manorial Halls*, 176-180.

Owing to the kindness of the tenant, Mr. John Dargue, the visitors were enabled to inspect the interior of the house and admire the beautiful 16th century plaster work of the ceiling of the old withdrawing room. The chapel, now a bedroom, was also visited.

In thanking Mr. Dargue for his kind help, Mr. McIntire congratulated him upon his recent six successes at the Royal Agricultural Show, and reminded the visitors that many of the scenes represented in the well-known cinema production "Owd Bob" were enacted at Burneside Hall. He also thanked Major Cropper, on behalf of the Society, for his kind permission to visit the hall.

#### WINDERMERE PARISH CHURCH.

From Burneside the party returned to Windermere, and proceeding to Bowness visited the parish church of St. Martin, where they were received by the rector, the Rev. E. J. Nurse, M.A.

Mr. Nurse gave an interesting description of this well-known church. Among the points to which he drew his hearers' attention was the existence of a previous church upon the site of the present building, which, though extravagantly restored in 1870-3, dated from 1483. The foundations of this older church were some five feet beneath the level of the present floor, and the sole visible relics of its existence were the font and some stones showing marks of Norman tooling built into the present fabric. The rector drew attention to the fine east window with its ancient glass, pointing out the Washington coat-of-arms depicted in one

of its lights. He also mentioned the "Carrier's Arms" window and the inscription set up by Christopher Philipson, of Calgarth, and recording the failure of the Gunpowder Plot. Among the treasures of the church he displayed a copy of the "Breeches Bible" of 1516 and chained copies of Erasmus' *Paraphrase* (1516) and Jewel's *Apology* (1562). Reference also was made to the monument of Bishop Watson, of Calgarth. Mr. Nurse very kindly presented the visitors with post cards depicting the most interesting features of his church.

After he had been thanked for his address by Mr. McIntire on behalf of the Society, the party proceeded to

#### CALGARTH OLD HALL.

Here they were the guests of Mr. O. W. E. Hedley, and were received by Mr. George Aitchison, whose description of the ancient building was rendered all the more interesting by the fact that he is a grandson of "Christopher North" and a descendant of its former owners.

The earliest reference he could find to the site, Mr. Aitchison said, was in 1365, when a commission was appointed to consider complaints in connection with the parks of Troutbeck and Calgarth. In 1443, the king granted to Walter Strickland the office of keeper of the park at Calgarth for life.

The earliest mention of the hall itself was in the pedigree of the Philipson family. Mr. Aitchison traced the pedigree of the Philipsons from the marriage of Robert Philipson, of Holling Hall, with one of the Dockwrays, of Dockwray Hall, Kendal, in the early 15th century. Calgarth Hall had been a building of considerable size and importance, probably at one time much larger than it was now. The central portion was once the main hall with the principal rooms on the left and kitchens on the right. Undoubtedly it had suffered from neglect after its seizure by the Parliamentarians at the time of the Civil War, and a considerable portion of it had fallen into ruins. Later on, the house was rebuilt more upon the present lines. Of the old walls, that to the back of the house was some 7 feet 6 inches thick. The division of the oak panelling within showed that the original hall had been divided into three separate rooms. A doorway with a pointed arch, apparently of the 15th century, survived from the older house. The size of the fireplace in one of the downstairs rooms would lead one to conjecture that this room had been the kitchen of the old house. It was converted in 1635 into one of the private rooms, when the plaster overmantel was

added. In the room above was a fine plaster ceiling. The plastering of ceilings began about 1550, and that at Calgarth, which might be compared with the ceilings at Levens and Bleaze Halls, was dated about 1638, and was inferior to the examples at the other two halls in grace of line. This room was once lined with oak, which was removed by Mr. Watson, the previous owner of Calgarth Park. In the downstairs room the same form of plastering was seen over the mantel and displayed the armorial shields of Christopher Philipson and his wife, Elizabeth Wyville. This work was very crudely executed. In the early days the various devices which enriched the background of such compositions were nearly always modelled in raw plaster by thumb and fingers. Later, when considerable repetition of the device was needed, they were engraved in wood and "butter-press" put into the soft background.

After referring to the restoration effected by Mr. Hedley since his acquisition of the property and to his efforts to preserve its most interesting features, Mr. Aitchison mentioned the fact that of five coats-of-arms in plaster which existed in the downstairs rooms in 1777, only one now survived—that of Briggs of Cowmire Hall. Christopher Philipson, who died in 1556, married a daughter of Robert Briggs, of Helsfell Hall.

The speaker concluded by giving an account of the well-known legend of the skulls of Calgarth. After tea, kindly provided by Mr. Hedley, and after the thanks of the Society had been offered to him for his hospitality and to Mr. Aitchison for his interesting paper, the last stage of the day's journey was accomplished to Ambleside where the night was to be spent, the headquarters of the excursion being at the Queen's Hotel.

#### GENERAL MEETING.

The general meeting of the Society was held at the Queen's Hotel in the evening and was well attended. In the absence of the President the chair was taken by Mr. Stanley H. le Fleming, Lord Lieutenant of Westmorland and a Vice-President of the Society.

After the minutes of the last general meeting had been read by the Secretary, Miss Ainsley, and duly confirmed, the Chairman reported that vol. xxxiii of the *Transactions* was almost complete and would be issued to members very shortly.

Mrs. Hodgson presented a report on the recent work accomplished by the Cumberland Excavation Committee which had been accepted by the Council.

Dr. J. E. Spence presented the report of the Committee for Prehistoric Studies which was also accepted by the Council.

Mr. W. T. McIntire referred to the death of our member, Mr. Guy Heelis, and it was resolved that the condolence of the Society should be sent to his family.

It was announced that the autumn meeting and excursion of the Society were to be held in the Lancaster district on the 7th and 8th or 14th and 15th of September with Lancaster as its centre.

An appeal was made to members by the Chairman to support the publication of an index to Nicolson and Burn's history of Cumberland and Westmorland, and Mr. F. Hudleston seconded the Chairman in his request for new subscribers towards the accomplishment of this useful object.

The following new members were duly proposed and elected:—Mr. C. S. Cowper-Essex, Hawkshead; Col. Sir H. C. Darlington, Melling; Mr. J. C. Dickinson, Cark-in-Cartmel; Mr. V. J. Dunstan, Carlisle; Mr. A. C. Metcalfe-Gibson, Ravenstonedale; Mr. R. A. Metcalfe-Gibson, Ravenstonedale; Miss M. Goode, Ambleside; Mr. C. F. Gordon, Carnforth; Col. E. G. Harrison, Kendal; Mr. and Mrs. W. Heelis, Sawrey; Dr. B. R. Johnson, Grasmere; Mr. A. W. G. Lowther, Ashstead; Mr. E. P. Mawson, Lancaster; Mrs. Nellice Morton, Keswick; The Rev. E. W. J. McConnell, Staveley; Lt.-Col. Piers William North, Milnthorpe; Major E. H. Pattinson, Windermere; Mrs. W. F. Rawnsley, Ambleside; Mrs. F. H. Seton, Appleby; Mrs. L. Somervell, Kendal.

Mr. Birley then gave some interesting particulars of work recently carried out on Hadrian's Wall, and the following papers were read and directed to be published in an early volume of the *Transactions*:—

"Excavations at Watercrock" (II), by Col. Oliver H. North, D.S.O., F.S.A. (Art. V); "Some Recent Local Finds of Stone Implements," also by Col. North (Art. XIV) and "Three Proclamations of Ancient Fairs—Ravenglass, Dalton and Broughton-in-Furness, by Wilson Butler, M.A., LL.M., F.R.Hist.S. (Art. XII).

Among the exhibits shown by Colonel North were an axe-hammer weighing 5 lbs. 10 oz., discovered by Mr. T. H. Dawson near Sizergh Castle, and a small polished axe with a perfect cutting edge, found at Whinfell by Mr. Titus Wilson some years ago. This specimen was, Col. North explained, of special interest as an example of an axe turned into an adze.

Mr. McIntire exhibited a bronze spear head found at Threapland, Aspatria, and sent to him by Mr. J. Berwick, the Surveyor to the Local District Council. Col. North read with reference to this exhibit the following short note:—

Perhaps I may be allowed to say a few words on spear heads in general for those of our members who are not well acquainted with them.

Something in the nature of a spear seems to have been one of the earliest weapons used by man, probably starting with a pointed stick hardened to a certain extent by fire. Later on, stone spear heads were used.

In the earlier part of the Bronze age, when bronze was used for axes and daggers, it would seem that spears and darts of stone were still in use, and it is not till a later period of the Bronze age, when the art of making sockets by means of cores placed in the moulds had been discovered, that we find bronze used for spear heads. In a few cases the socket may have been made by a piece of flat metal having been hammered round a stick, but I do not know of any of this type having been found in this country, though it is a common form with earlier axe-heads.

The earliest spear-heads are simple and leaf-shaped, either long and narrow or broad with holes at the sides to fix them to the shaft.

The next form, to which this very fine example belongs, was made with eyes on each side of the socket below and in the same plane with the blades and usually with narrow heads. These eyes or loops were used to attach the heads to the shafts and were generally flattened to offer less resistance.

This specimen is not unlike the one from Lakenheath figured in Evans' *Ancient Bronze Implements of Great Britain*, fig. 395.

It was found at Threapland, Aspatria, and the man who found it has found other implements which he has given away, not knowing their importance, so I hope some more discoveries may be made there.

FRIDAY, JULY 9TH.

During the early part of the morning members had an opportunity of visiting the Armit Library and Museum to inspect the exhibits from the Roman fort at Ambleside. They then motored the short distance to

THE BORRANS FIELD.

Here Mr. Gordon Wordsworth was to have described the Roman fort, but in his unavoidable absence his place was kindly



filled by Mr. E. B. Birley who gave an account of the results of the excavations some years ago upon this important site by Mr. R. G. Collingwood and reported in preceding volumes of the *Transactions*.

In conclusion, Mr. Birley said that, of the many Roman sites in the Lake District, there was only a handful about which they knew anything at all worth mentioning. At present the main activities of the "spade" were concentrated on Hadrian's Wall, and there work must be continued for the next three or four years. After that time there would perhaps be an opportunity for carrying out the necessary excavations in the Lake District, but in the meantime he hoped members would give every assistance and take some part in the work themselves.

After describing the various roads leading to the fort, Mr. Birley said that the stone used in its construction could not have come from any place nearer than Lancaster. Much of the stone must have been brought up the navigable lake of Windermere.

After the excavations of 1913 it was proved that there had been two separate and distinct forts on the site. The first was undoubtedly an earth and timber affair, built with no attempt at levelling the site. For the second fort—the remains of which they now saw—the site was raised and levelled and built with stone, probably during the early part of the second century. It was reasonable to suppose that the earlier fort was founded by Agricola, and the main problem was whether the second fort was constructed twenty years later, or in the time of Hadrian.

After a vote of thanks had been accorded to the speaker upon the motion of Col. Oliver North the journey was resumed to Hawkshead.

#### HAWKSHEAD CHURCH.

Here Mr. H. Swainson Cowper, F.S.A., was the speaker. Mr. Cowper gave a concise account of the history of the church and described its architectural development from what was probably a square-planned, box-like, aisleless chapel of the 13th or 14th century to its present state. He based his remarks upon his own previous description of the church in his book upon Hawkshead and upon an article by the late Mr. J. F. Curwen in *Transactions*, N.S. xiv, 303-311. In the course of his paper he reminded his hearers that Mr. Curwen thought the tower, or at any rate the lower part of it, was the oldest part of the existing building, and might be of the 13th or 14th century. He suggested

that some part of the west wall on each side of the tower and the central part of the east wall belonged also to this early building.

After examination of the Sandys tomb, the remarkable ancient coffer for containing the church records, the curious staves, the remarkably well preserved register and other objects of interest connected with the church, the visitors repaired to the neighbouring.

#### HAWKSHEAD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

where the vicar of Hawkshead, the Rev. F. D. Stones, M.A., described the building, parts of which date from the 15th century. Mr. Stones gave an account of the foundation of the school by Archbishop Sandys and spoke of Wordsworth's sojourn in Hawkshead while a boy at this school. After thanking Mr. Stones, the members went to

#### HAWKSHEAD HALL,

where the Court House was described by Mr. H. Swainson Cowper. He began by reminding them that he had described the hall to the Society at their meeting there on September 24th, 1889—forty-four years ago\*. The interesting building, which is a gatehouse with a court room over, formed part of the manor place of the extensive manor of Hawkshead, one of the possessions of Furness Abbey. Though built of rough local rubble, it has a big pointed south window, with 15th century tracery, other windows with trefoil heads and an interesting niche over the entrance arch. In the court room itself, is a curious fireplace with dog-tooth moulding, which is possibly 13th century work re-used in the 15th century. The floor of the south half of the room was at a higher level than that of the other half, and thus formed a sort of dais. It is on record that the Abbot of Furness was at Hawkshead Hall in 1516 and again in 1532.

As this building is a gatehouse, it is certain there was also a residential part and farm buildings: and there is no doubt that these formed quadrangle on the west side. Foundations of a stone wall have been uncovered, joining the N.W. angle of the courthouse, while on the high ground above, very rude limestone coffins have been found. There seems, therefore, to have been a burial ground; and as there is a sandstone piscina or stoup, it is probable that there was a small chapel. There is so far no actual evidence that the farmhouse incorporated any walling of pre-Reformation date, or occupies the actual site of this chapel.

\* Mr. Cowper's paper will be found in *Transactions*, O.S. xi, 7-49.

It is quite possible that in early days, a monk or two from Furness Abbey may have lived at the hall, but in later times, it was certainly let to farmers.

In 1629 the site and demesne were sold to the Nicholsons, and were inhabited by them and afterwards by the Copleys. In 1860 they were bought by the late Mr. J. S. Cowper-Essex.

Apparently the courtroom had been used as a barn ever since the Reformation, and this was still its use in 1932, when, after undergoing considerable repair and preservation work, it was presented to the National Trust; and now is the headquarters of the Lakes' Association of Boy Scouts.

Mr. Cowper was thanked by Col. Haswell, and the party moved on to Grasmere, where, after an interval for lunch, they re-assembled at

#### GRASMERE CHURCH.

This ancient building was eloquently described by Mrs. H. D. Rawnsley, who referred to previous accounts of the church by the late Mr. J. F. Curwen in *Transactions*, N.S. xiv, 312-324, by the late Miss Armitt and by Mr. George Middleton. Mrs. Rawnsley mentioned the dedication of the church to St. Oswald and the existence of a St. Oswald's Well to which miraculous healing powers were formerly attributed. These facts suggested a very early foundation, but the earliest documentary evidence of the existence of a church at Grasmere was dated 1203. A description of the church with a history of its architectural development followed, and reference was made to its centuries long connection with the le Fleming family. This association involved the building in the disaster which overtook Rydal Hall during the Civil War, when in 1645 it was pillaged by Sir Wilfrid Lawson and his Parliamentary troops. Some amusing details were given with regard to the condition of the church in the 17th century, such as the quantity of wine consumed at Communion services and the presence of a cockpit in the churchyard. Sir Daniel Fleming towards the end of that century did much to restore the church. He rebuilt the Rectory, then in a ruinous condition, and bestowed the benefice upon his son, Henry, in 1685. Until 1814 there were only five pews in the church—the Rectory pew and four others, all held by the le Flemings. In the rest of the church were benches only with open railed backs. The men and women of the congregation sat on these apart. The benches were not fixed down, to allow of their being moved when burials took place in the church. The chancel was reserved for the

burial of the Rydal Hall family; the statesmen were buried in the aisles. Only the landless men were buried outside in the churchyard. The last burial in the church took place some 60 years ago. Mrs. Rawnsley concluded her interesting paper with a description of the ancient ceremony of rush bearing. She was thanked on behalf of the Society by Mr. S. H. le Fleming.

The next place to be visited was

#### DOVE COTTAGE,

which was thrown open to the visitors through the kindness of the trustees. It was fitting that the cottage where Wordsworth wrote much of his best work and which was associated with the happiest days of his life should be described by Mr. Gordon G. Wordsworth, the poet's grandson, who gave a delightful and intimate description of his grandfather's sojourn within its walls. He gave an amusing account of the lavish hospitality dispensed by William and Dorothy Wordsworth at the cottage, the resources of which, after Wordsworth's marriage and the arrival of a family, must have been somewhat severely taxed despite the tiny projection added to the building upon its south side.

The speaker referred to the visits of De Quincey, the Coleridges, Scott, Clarkson and Southey. Readers of Dorothy Wordsworth's Journals would remember how frequently she mentions the Fishers and Ashburners, their neighbours, who dwelt in the cottages opposite, where the Wordsworths were sometimes obliged to lodge their overflow of guests. He was glad to say that these two old cottages had now been secured by the Dove Cottage trustees. Mr. Wordsworth finally drew a vivid picture of the tenancy of the cottage by de Quincey.

Unfortunately the weather which had been becoming almost unbearably sultry now broke down and the party, who had been listening to Mr. Wordsworth's address in the far famed garden of Dove Cottage, were compelled to hasten to the shelter of their vehicles amid a deluge of rain, Mr. McIntire briefly thanking the speaker for his delightful description of the cottage and its literary associations.

The excursion concluded with a visit to

#### RYDAL HALL,

where they were the guests of Mr. S. H. le Fleming. The state of the weather prevented the use of the garden, but the party were able to assemble in the spacious reception room, where Mr. W. T. McIntire described the hall. He said that Rydal Hall had a

three-fold attraction for the antiquary and historian. In the first place, the old hall in the Low Park had guarded the gateway of one of the principal routes through the Lake District; secondly, they could regard Rydal Hall as the home of a family who for generations had had a marked influence upon the history of Westmorland and Cumberland, and, thirdly, it was a treasure-house of documents of much importance to the historian and, in many cases, possessed of intense human interest. He proceeded to trace the history of the hall from its early existence as a motte and base-court down in the valley, when it was the seat of the de Lancasters and subsequently to 1409, when by the marriage of Sir Thomas le Fleming with the second daughter of John de Lancaster, it passed into the possession of the family who have retained it ever since. He spoke of the history of the le Flemings according special attention to Sir Daniel Fleming, the great squire of the 17th century, who might almost be called the father of our local historians. His presence might well be said to pervade Rydal Hall and its surroundings.

Mr. le Fleming had thoughtfully arranged for the display of many of the priceless documents from the archives of the family and the privilege of examining these was much appreciated by the visitors, the hope being expressed that some of them may be published in these *Transactions* at an early date. Keen interest was also displayed in the collection of letters which were set out for examination.

Among the writers of these letters are represented most of the men who have influenced the course of our local history throughout many eras, those written to Sir Daniel Fleming being of special importance and illustrative of the wideness of his interests.

Mr. le Fleming kindly provided tea for the visitors before they left the hall and was thanked for his hospitality by Dr. Goodchild.

A vote of thanks was also accorded to Mr. R. E. Porter, the Hon. Excursions Secretary, to whose untiring efforts the success of the excursion was so largely due.

#### AUTUMN MEETING.

The autumn excursion of the Society was held in the Lancaster district on Thursday and Friday, September 14th and 15th, 1933. The committee for local arrangements consisted of Mr. T. Cann Hughes, M.A., F.S.A., Mr. G. M. Bland, F.S.A., Miss Gilchrist, Alderman T. W. Helme, M.A., J.P., Lt.-Col. O. H.

North, D.S.O., F.S.A., Alderman J. R. Nuttall, J.P., F.R.Hist.S. and Mr. R. E. Porter, M.C., Hon Excursions Secretary.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH.

A numerous company of members of the Society and friends assembled in front of Lancaster Castle, and, at 11 a.m., entered the Shire Hall, where they listened to the reading of a paper by Mr. Alderman J. R. Nuttall, J.P., F.R.Hist.S., his subject being

#### LANCASTER CASTLE.

The old Castle of Lancaster, Alderman Nuttall explained, consisted of three distinct parts—the ancient mediaeval Castle; the part, until late used as a prison; and the Courts of Justice. The Civil Court in which his hearers were assembled was the Shire Hall of the County of Lancaster, built when the last great alteration and building took place in 1792, upon the site of the ancient moat. Attention was directed to the shields of the Sovereigns, Constables of the castle and High Sheriffs with which the walls of the building were adorned. These shields went back to the reign of Richard I, and were of great interest to all students of local heraldry. The Court adjoining was the Crown Court, used mostly for criminal cases. It was built upon the site of the ancient hall of the Castle, and was the scene of the trial of the Lancashire witches. From the first appointment of Justices in Eyre and the establishment of Assizes in 1176 to the present day, assizes had been more or less regularly held in this building. In the Crown Court was preserved the old branding iron formerly used for marking the letter "M" (for malefactor) on the thumbs of prisoners. After briefly describing the prison, Alderman Nuttall, dealt with the history of the mediaeval Castle. The oldest part was undoubtedly the Lungness Tower or Keep, the date of which was estimated to be about 1100. It was about 80 feet square and 70 feet high, with walls 10 feet thick. It had the characteristic features of its period—flat buttresses and round-headed window arches. The present entrance was on the ground floor, but a picture of 1796, a copy of which was to be seen in the museum, showed that the tower was formerly entered by an open flight of steps on the outside, leading to the first storey.

Its upper storey was repaired and strengthened at the time of the Spanish Armada in 1588, and the initials, "E.R." for Queen Elizabeth and "R.A." for Richard Asheton, the High Sheriff of the time were to be seen on the north wall. "Hadrian's

Tower" and the Well or Constantine's Tower were then described, the names, Alderman Nuttall explained, being derived probably from the fact that the castle was built on the site of the Roman Castrum and from the popular tendency to ascribe a Roman origin to these towers. As a matter of fact both these towers were apparently of 13th century date.

The finest part of the Castle was its splendid gateway tower, the earlier part of which appeared to be of the 13th century. Most of this building, however, was of the 15th century. As evidence to support this statement, he drew attention to the two shields sculptured upon the tower which showed the "Lilies of France" and the "Leopards of England" quartered. One of these shields had a label superimposed upon it as the distinguishing mark of an eldest son during the life time of his father. These conditions implied that the tower was enlarged between 1405, the date of the adoption of the French coat-of-arms and 1413, when Henry V ascended the throne. The name of "John o'Gaunt's Gateway" was applied to the tower, and it was probably planned before he died in 1399 though finished later, as explained above.

After the party had been shown round the castle by Captain Burtion, Mr. R. G. Collingwood, as President of the Society, tendered the thanks of the visitors to Alderman Nuttall for his interesting paper and to Captain Burton for his explanation of the various points of interest in the Castle buildings.

#### THE PRIORY AND PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

The neighbouring Parish Church of St. Mary was then visited and was described by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon B. Pollard, B.D., M.Sc., C.F., who gave an interesting account of its history, commencing with the pre-Norman stone church, the existence of which is proved by the presence of the foundations of its apse beneath the pavement near the entrance to the present choir, the early masonry at the west end of the church and the numerous cross fragments found upon the site. The architectural development of the church was traced by the late Mr. H. J. Austin, upon the occasion of the visit of the Society to Lancaster in 1911, and readers are here referred to his notes in *Transactions*, N.S. xii, 418, and to the plan which accompanies them.

Canon Pollard gave a résumé of the history of the old Priory of St. Mary which was founded by charter in 1094 by Roger, Earl of Poicton, who granted the church to the Benedictine abbey of St. Martin of Séz. In 1414, Henry V suppressed the

alien priories, and granted Lancaster Priory to trustees, who decided to hand it over to an English monastic house, namely, the Brigittine Convent of Syon, at Syon Parr, Isleworth, Middlesex, a double convent for men and women. In 1430, at the instigation of Henry VI, provision was made for the creation of a perpetual vicarage, the abbess of Syon retaining the right to present the vicar, a right retained by the convent till the suppression of the monasteries by Henry VIII.

Attention was drawn to the beautiful choir stalls of the 14th century, which according to tradition came from Cockersand Abbey, but were much more probably, Canon Pollard maintained, designed and executed for the church in which they stand.

Much interest was shown in the cross fragments displayed around the choir. These are dealt with and many of them illustrated in the late Mr. W. G. Collingwood's *Northumbrian Crosses*.

The thanks of the Society were accorded to Canon Pollard upon the motion of the President, and the party then adjourned for the luncheon interval, after which they left Lancaster at 2-30 p.m., and motored to Heysham, where the first place visited was

#### HEYSHAM CHURCH.

For the description of the Church of St. Peter and St. Patrick's Chapel, Heysham, and the many objects of antiquarian interest surrounding them, the Society was fortunate in having the services of Mr. Alderman Nuttall, who acted as guide on the occasion of their previous visit to the spot in September, 1911. An epitome of Alderman Nuttall's paper, read at that visit, is given in *Transactions*, N.S. xii, 421, and the reader is referred to that account for the details of his explanation of the growth of the building of this remarkable church, of his sketch of its history and for his notes upon the ancient Chapel of St. Patrick upon the headland with its curious rock-hewn sepulchres. Reference was also made to the beautiful floriated cross at the west end of the church and to the hog-back and cross-shaft in the churchyard.

After Alderman Nuttall had been thanked by the President for his paper, the party spent a short time over the inspection of the hog-back and cross-shaft, and in visiting St. Patrick's Chapel (See W. G. Collingwood in *Transactions*, N.S. xxiii, 288). They then visited

#### HEYSHAM OLD HALL,

where Mr. T. Cann-Hughes, M.A., F.S.A., read a paper upon this beautiful 16th century house. This is a good example of an



Elizabethan manor house of durable carefully dressed stone: it has two storeys, with attics front and back.

The house has a central hall and two end wings. The windows of the hall have each six lights and those of the wings five. The windows have hood mouldings and diamond-shaped panes of glass in lead frames. There are eight finials in the front elevation. The chimney-stacks project 2 ft. 6 ins. at each end; the roof is original. There is a stone panel in the apex of the N.E. gable with lettering "RERE, 1589" with a Tudor rose. The back windows have four lights upon the ground floor and three lights above. The outer porch measures 3 ft. 9 ins. by 6 ft. 3 ins. The inner measurements are 3 ft. 1 in. by 6 ft. 1 in. The fireplace is 6 ft. 9 ins. wide.

In the N.E. wing is an old oak room, well restored by the late Rev. C. T. Royds, with a bedroom behind. In the S.W. wing there was formerly in front a parlour with a kitchen and offices and stairs behind. These two rooms have been thrown by Miss Royds into one drawing room, leaving the original roof between. The fireplace in the former kitchen is 9 feet wide. In the S.W. chimney stack is what was formerly a secret chamber leading to an underground passage. There was another escape in the attic of the S.W. gable, now used as a robes closet.

The hall was formerly owned by the Edmondson family. In the Heysham Registers appears the following entry:—"Helen daur. of Robert Edmondson of the Hall, born 17, bapt. 23 Nov., 1662." This is probably the "R.E." of the tablet in the gable.

The following wills of the Edmondson family of Heysham are to be seen in the Lancaster Probate Registry:—

1. Edmondson, Thomas, of Heysham, 1619.
2. Edmondson, Thomas, of Heysham, 1647.
3. Edmondson, Margaret, of Heysham, 1651.
4. Edmondson, Ellen, of Heysham, 1664.
5. Edmondson, Edward, of Heysham, 1665.
6. Edmondson, William, of Heysham, 1669.

(ob. 22 Aug. bur. 23).

There is a paper by Mr. James Waite on "The Lesser Halls of Lancashire," which contains notes on this building and a view. See Hist. Soc. L. & C., N.S. xii, 171-192.

Mr. Cann Hughes was thanked for his paper by Mr. R. E. Porter who at the same time expressed the thanks of the Society to Miss Royds for her kind permission to visit the hall.

The next halting place was at Overton near the mouth of the Lune.

## OVERTON CHURCH.

The Church of St. Helen, Overton, was described by the Vicar, the Rev. A. W. Nye, who said that the earliest mention of the church was dated 1246. The style of architecture, however, would indicate a much earlier origin, and the vicar, drawing attention to the masonry of the walls, expressed the opinion that these were of Norman date. Of that period certainly is the fine round-arched doorway consisting of three converging arches, springing from as many connecting columns, highly ornamented. The curious little figure placed in a niche above the door is sometimes described as an image of St. Helen to whom the church is dedicated. The vicar gave some interesting details of the history of the parish.

Sunderland, at the mouth of the river, had formerly been a flourishing port, but had declined since the construction of Glasson Dock. Near Overton are the remains of an ancient cross. Rushbearing was celebrated until recently on Holy Thursdays.

After the President had conveyed the thanks of the Society to Mr. Nye, a return was made to Lancaster where the night was spent. Before the general meeting in the evening many of the visitors inspected the Lancaster Museum under the guidance of Mr. G. M. Bland, F.S.A., the Curator.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Society was held at the Art Gallery of the Storey Institute in the evening, when the chair was taken by the President of the Society, Mr. R. G. Collingwood.

A statement was presented showing the following balances in the various funds of the Society:—General Fund, £395; Record Publication Fund, £55; Research Fund (No. 1 Account), £66; Roman Wall Five Years' Account, £17; Capital Account, £39.

It was resolved that Mr. G. Aitchison be nominated as auditor, and that otherwise the officers of the Society be elected en bloc, with the names of Mr. T. Gardhouse Charlton, Captain J. S. Curwen, O.B.E. and Miss Gilchrist added to the list of those of members of the Council.

The President and Mr. T. H. B. Graham were nominated to represent the Society at the Congress of Archaeological Societies to be held in London in October.

It was announced that the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments was to undertake a survey of Westmorland. The announcement was welcomed by the Council.

The following new members were proposed and declared duly elected:—Mrs. Wilfred Bently, Windermere; Mr. Lionel Budden, Appleby; Mr. P. J. Chambers, Scotby; Mr. Dearham Docker Dixon, Liverpool; Mr. Maurice Todd, Kendal; Mr. J. K. S. St. Joseph, Worcester; Miss Mildred M. Lamb, Scotby; Miss Mary S. Parker, Milnthorpe; Mrs. Margaret Shepherd, Burton; Miss Dorothy Elfrida Roper, Yealand Conyers; Miss Gertrude M. Simpson, Grasmere; Mrs. Lilian E. Wolff, Formby; Col. W. S. Woodcock, D.S.O., Carlisle.

The President presented a report on the recent work done by the Cumberland Excavation Committee and gave particulars of the work which the Committee hoped to carry on in the autumn. He also, in the absence of Dr. Spence, presented a report on the work of the Committee for Prehistoric Studies.

The President announced that Mr. John Swarbrick, F.R.I.B.A., who was to have given a lecture at the meeting upon "Cockersand Abbey," was unfortunately prevented from being present. He gave a brief summary of two interesting papers which had been submitted to the meeting:—"Tents of the Roman Army and Leather from Birdoswald," by Mr. I. A. Richmond, M.A., F.S.A. (Art. X), and "The Roman Camps at Reycross and Crackenthorpe," by Mr. I. A. Richmond and Mr. James McIntyre (Art. IX).

The Rev. W. S. Sykes presented the Society with several books of notes on the Millom district. This gift was gratefully accepted, and the President alluded to the pleasure it gave to all the members of the Society to have Mr. Sykes once more among them.

Mr. W. T. McIntire gave a brief summary of a paper which had come into his possession giving an assessment made in Underbarrow and Bradleyfield for Trophy Money in September, 1745. This assessment, he explained, was of interest as giving the names and residences of many of the inhabitants of the district at the time of "the '45." He also read a brief extract from the report of the Borough Surveyor of Kendal relative to work at "The Castle Dairy," Kendal:—

"The Borough Surveyor reported that in carrying out certain internal renovations at the Castle Dairy, he had exposed to view an arched oak ceiling in the passage between the front door and the staircase. Oak beams and supports, formerly hidden by plaster, have been scraped and polished; other oakwork, cleaned of paint and varnish, revealed a doorhead bearing the inscription "PAX HUIC DOMUI 1558." On a door frame in

the kitchen is inscribed the date 1560, while the stained glass in the kitchen window bears the date 1567. Three windows, previously walled up, have been restored and fitted with leaded lights, the lighting and ventilation of two rooms thereby being greatly improved."

Col Oliver North exhibited an arrow head, found recently at Low Wood, Sizergh.

The following papers were also submitted and directed to be published in an early volume of the *Transactions*:—

"Notes on Some Westmorland Clockmakers," by Mr. T. Cann Hughes, M.A., F.S.A.; "An Early Settlement on Moor Divock," by Dr. J. E. Spence (Art. VIII); "Unrecorded and Unusual Types of Stone Implements," by Mr. H. S. Cowper, F.S.A. (Art. V).

At the close of proceedings the President tendered the Society's thanks to the Corporation of Lancaster and to Mr. Bland, the Librarian, for the use of their buildings for council and general meetings.

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH.

Leaving Lancaster at 9-30 a.m., the party motored to Beetham, where the first halt was made.

#### BEETHAM HALL.

This former home of the de Beetham family was described by Mr. W. T. McIntire, who referred his hearers to an article by the late Mr. J. F. Curwen in *Transactions*, N.S. iv, 225.

He endeavoured to show by drawing attention to the masonry of the ruinous building at the west end of the barn which was formerly the hall of the mansion, built as its windows and doorways show at the end of the 14th century, the position of the original tower of the de Beethams. He gave a summary of the history of the family to its downfall in the Wars of the Roses, and suggested that the question as to the proper attribution of the tomb in Beetham Church was not yet finally settled.

He based his argument upon the fact that the armour worn by the effigy belonged definitely to the first quarter of the 15th century, whereas Sir Robert Middleton, the husband of Anne de Beetham, whose monument the tomb in the church is generally asserted to be, did not die till the close of that century. Moreover, as he was never really in undisputed possession of the hall, his right to be buried in the choir of the church was questionable.

The coat-of-arms depicted on the tomb which purports to be that of the Middletons is concealed by a pew, and accounts of

the shields by different antiquaries do not agree. With regard to the arms of de Beetham, he had received an interesting letter from Dr. Frederick Beetham, of Knaresborough, informing him of the existence, at all events till lately, of a rude representation in plaster of these arms in a house in Little Strickland.

After the President had thanked Lady Bromley-Wilson for her permission to view the hall, and the tenant for kindly throwing it open for inspection the party went on to

#### BEETHAM CHURCH.

This interesting building was described by Lt.-Col. Oliver H. North, who said that its present dedication was to St. Michael, though according to Machel there was an earlier dedication to the English saint Leoth on Liobgytha. He alluded to the finding on the site in 1834 of about a hundred coins of the 11th century, proving the existence of a church upon the spot at that early period. Indeed it was asserted that the lower part of the tower was of pre-Norman date, and at all events the tower arch was of a very early type. The South arcade was transitional, while the North aisle was a subsequent addition. The choir and the de Beetham chapel appeared to date from the 14th century, and two windows and the S. doorway were evidently of the Decorated Period. The font was concealed by the wooden casing and hood in 1636. Col. North pointed out the ancient glass in one of the windows and spoke of the altar to St. Sithe or Zita, the patron saint of domestic servants once existing in the S. aisle and the goal of yearly pilgrimages. He paid a tribute to the memory of the Rev. William Hutton, the 18th century vicar of Beetham and compiler of the *Beetham Reposilory*, to whom we are indebted for so much of our knowledge of Beetham and its neighbourhood. He read a note supplied by our member, Dr. J. Rawlinson Ford, upon the Beetham Tomb. The vicar was thanked for his kind permission to use the church and, before leaving for Nether Levens, members examined the two rude dials scratched upon the exterior of the church and the remains of the market-cross in the churchyard.

On the way to Nether Levens the President, accompanied by Mr. Stanley H. le Fleming and several other members of the Society, halted at Heversham and laid a wreath upon the grave of the late Mr. J. F. Curwen as a tribute to the memory of one who was loved and respected by all interested in the study of our local antiquarian remains.

## NETHER LEVENS HALL.

This beautiful old Westmorland Hall, the abode in succession of the families of de Levens, Preston and Wilson, of Dallam Tower, was described by Mr. McIntire. For an account of the hall readers are referred to J. F. Curwen in *Transactions*, N.S. iv, 235, and Dr. Taylor in *Manorial Halls*, 205-208.

After time had been allowed for a picnic luncheon, the journey was resumed to

## ARNSIDE TOWER.

Here Col. North was again the speaker and described tower as presenting the external characters of a Border pele, but to judge by its masonry evidently of a late date. In plan the tower is oblong, with turrets set on at the opposing angles on the south-east and north-west. The dimensions of the whole block are 45 feet north and south and 50 feet east and west, with walls averaging 4 ft. 2 ins. in thickness. There was no vaulted basement as in the cases of the earlier pele towers, and the put-holes of the timbers which supported the floor above the basement are still clearly visible. The tower rises to the height of four stories, while the two angle turrets rise considerably higher. The battlements of the roof are gone, but were borne out on boldly projected corbels which formed open machicoulis. The main entrance was on the basement, on the north side, through a pointed arched doorway in dressed sandstone without mouldings. The window openings are generally plain and square-headed with flat lintels of local limestone, but some have elliptical arched heads. In some instances the iron stanchions which closed them remain. The tower is roofless and ruined, but still shows that its interior was divided by a cross wall into two unequal spaces. A spiral stair of 54 steps leads to the upper floors of the tower. It was partially destroyed by fire, as recorded in the *Beetham Repository*, in 1602, but afterwards repaired and reoccupied until 1684-90. A larger portion of the south wall and the south-west angle of the tower were blown down in a gale about 1884, and the recumbent mass of masonry is still to be seen beside the building. Descriptions of the tower are to be found in Curwen, *Castles*, 249, and Taylor, *Manorial Halls*, 217.

## DOG HOLES CAVE.

A short drive from Arnside Tower brought our members to Warton Scar, where they climbed up to Dog Holes Cave. Here they were met by Dr. J. Wilfrid Jackson, F.G.S., President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society who gave an

interesting account of his explorations of the cave in 1910 and 1911. Dr. Jackson has described the results then obtained in *Transactions*, N.S. xiii, 55-58. Among the objects found was a weaving comb made from red deer antler similar to those found at the lake-village at Glastonbury. A similar comb was found at Lancaster in 1850 associated with Roman remains. Other finds were a circular bronze button with a central boss and outer raised ring, a strip of lead, three polished bone implements, large and small flint chips, late Celtic pottery, and human remains belonging to at least 20 individuals. An interesting point with regard to one of the jaw bones found was that the second pre-molar both had evidently been removed, this Dr. Jackson suggested, being perhaps a mark of tribal chieftainship. These remains apparently antedated the later Romans British occupation of the cave.

Lying lower down in the clay debris were remains of the wild ox (*bos primigenius*) and wild boar teeth and tusks, one of these latter being perforated to serve as an ornament. In 1910 a remarkable bronze balance had been found, and Dr. Jackson regretted that in his exploration of 1911 he had been unable to find the weights which might have cast some light upon their date.

Dr. Jackson was thanked for his valuable address by the President who said that our Society had reason to be proud of its association with the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society in the support of an enterprise which had yielded such important results.

After some of the more venturesome members of the party had descended into the not very inviting depths of the cave and returned after suffering no worse mishap than sundry spots of mud and candle grease upon their clothes, the last stage of the journey was accomplished to Warton.

#### WARTON PARISH CHURCH.

In the absence of the vicar on holiday Mr. T. Cann Hughes described this church. The advowson originally belonged to the Lancaster family and passed from them through the Brus family, and Thomas de Tweng to the descendants of his daughters, the Laurences of Ashton Hall. It afterwards became vested in the Crown who gave the presentation in 1547 to the dean and canons of Worcester. The patronage is now with the Bishop of Blackburn. There is a double dedication to St. Oswald and the Holy Trinity. In 1451, the vicar was George Neville, who subsequently became bishop of Exeter and archbishop of York.

The history of Warton parish was written by John Lucas, a native of Carnforth and educated at Warton Grammar School, founded by Bishop Matthew Hutton in 1595. Recently the original MS. volumes of this work, which had been lost, were recovered, and were published in 1931 by two of our members Messrs. J. A. Fuller Maitland and J. Rawlinson Ford. The original manuscript has been presented to the Lancaster Public Library.

The oldest portions of the church are part of the south aisle wall and the tower: these are of the 14th century. The mediaeval church was 56 feet long. There is a shield with the Croft arms over the porch of the N. aisle. There are three sedilia in the S. chapel. The font is probably Norman, with leadwork which formerly bore the initials of Sir Robert Bindloss of Borwick Hall, Sir George Middleton, of Leighton Hall, and Nathaniel West, of Borwick. On one of the pillars of the church is a tablet to Sir George Middleton who was High Sheriff of Lancashire and died 27 Feb., 1673, aged 74. The church was rather ruthlessly restored in 1892 when the Leighton Hall pew and several interesting inscriptions were destroyed.

On the tower, believed to have been erected by a member of the Washington family, are the Washington arms, formerly covered with plaster, but now glazed for protection against weather. Among the papers written upon these arms is one by our former Vice-President, the late Mr. W. O. Roper, F.S.A., in *L. and C. A.S.*, viii, 21-37.

#### WARTON OLD RECTORY.

From the church members proceeded to Warton Old Rectory, which was described by Mr. Cann Hughes. He said that it was an interesting ruin of the 14th century and had been scheduled by the Ancient Monuments Committee of Lancashire in 1925. The great hall measures 42 ft. 10 ins. by 26 ft. and had formerly an open timbered roof. It has a good vesica-shaped window. There is no fireplace, and it was possibly heated centrally. In the wall are holes for the screen. The full length of the original building was 75 feet.

There is evidence of the former existence of an oratory in the upper rooms. There is a paper dealing with this interesting building by the Rev. J. K. Floyer, F.S.A. (formerly Vicar of Warton) in *Hist. Soc., N.S.*, 28-47.

The meeting closed with a cordial vote of thanks accorded to Mr. R. E. Porter the Hon. Secretary for Excursions.