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INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE MOST HONOURABLE THE
MARQUESS OF RIPON, K.G., TO THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE INSTITUTE AT RIPON.¹

I TRUST I may be permitted, at the outset of the remarks which will constitute my address, to exercise a privilege which I am able to claim as one of the presidents of the Yorkshire Archæological and Topographical Association, and to offer a word or two of welcome on its behalf to the Institute on this your third visit to our great county. We are always glad when its antiquities prove sufficiently attractive to induce learned and distinguished Societies to come among us, and to render what aid they can in the investigations which your Institute over the United Kingdom, and our Society over the more limited area of our county, are engaged in pursuing.

We look with sympathetic interest upon the course your proceedings may take, and shall hail with satisfaction the publication of a Ripon Volume, which we venture to hope may at no distant period be the result of the present meeting. I know also that such a volume, into which may be gathered the memoirs and addresses read and delivered in the week upon which we are entering, will be specially welcome to all who, by residence or otherwise, are interested in Ripon.

Having welcomed the Institute to Yorkshire, I must now express my personal gratification that Ripon has been selected as the present centre of its operations. If we have not here the accommodation to be met with in the larger towns of the Riding, we have still left to us the purer air and unpolluted streams of which many of them are deprived, and you will find, I trust, in your programme and in the Manual prepared

¹ Delivered July 21, 1874.

for your use, a prospect of archæological attractions which may induce you to overlook some minor inconveniences.

I must, however, disclaim any intention of even attempting to summarise or give any historical lecture upon the many questions which are to occupy your attention, for I am conscious that in asking me to preside here you could expect nothing of the kind from me, and that your invitation and my acceptance of office are mainly based on my connection with Ripon and my ownership of Fountains Abbey. This magnificent ruin I hold to be a priceless possession, and what service I and those who have preceded me may have performed in exploring its remains and preserving them, has been most willingly rendered.

I yield indeed to none in my desire to preserve everything that can be of use in throwing light upon the history of the past, but I nevertheless appear before you now as one who cannot venture to deem himself otherwise than ignorant on many of the interesting topics which are to be brought before you, and my position to-day is that of an earnest inquirer, knowing little on your special subjects that is not known generally to all, yet anxious to know all that can be told by those more learned than himself about the places you are to visit, their meaning and their history. So important a group, and of such varied interest, cannot, I believe, be found within an equal area in any other part of England, and I rejoice that so many of them are entrusted for illustration to distinguished members of your body.

Not knowing any later or more scientific classification, I adopt that which commonly divides the history of our country into British, Roman, and English periods, and I may remind you that here at Ripon, on the western edge of the great Vale of York, where the beautiful dales which radiate westward rapidly expand into the great plain which stretches eastward to the sea, there are remains of no ordinary interest which, as it seems to me, connect this district with all the periods I have mentioned. On every side and almost in this immediate vicinity are traces of earthworks, which, as no date has been definitely assigned to them, are treated as of British origin. Of these you will see at Thornborough one at least of the remarkable series of circular enclosures which evidently, from their being in a direct line across the country from Aldborough to Well, and having, though some distance

apart, openings leading from one to the other, have been in some way connected. It will be specially interesting to have the period to which these remains belong even approximately ascertained. Side by side with them we have been fortunate at the present time in being able to have opened for your inspection Roman remains of considerable extent at Castle Dykes. The excavations there made, under the direction of the Rev. W. C. Lukis, F.S.A., have revealed many minor matters of interest as to Roman domestic buildings. Mr. Lukis will fully point out to you the results which have so far attended his labours, and I trust that the remains of wall decoration which he has unearthed at Castle Dykes, and which you will see in the temporary museum, will prove of considerable interest. Another point to which I believe I may safely call attention as connected with the Roman period, is the occurrence of a road which, I think, must be ancient, and have served to connect a point near Clothholme, known as the Roman Ridge, with the Castle Dykes, and that point at Wath where an entrenchment, protecting what may be presumed to have been a ford over the marsh, was placed. Crossing this marsh it would reach Watling Street, not far from Middleton Quernhowe. This marsh could only have been passed with great difficulty, as it is even now proving a matter of some trouble to the engineers who are making the new line of railway to Tanfield and Masham.

We are not so far from Aldborough that the site of our present city could have remained unaffected by the Roman influence, which would radiate from Isurium; and as these Roman remains may in their turn have had some reference to an earlier occupation, I look hopefully for some paper which may show a connection with what went before and what has since succeeded the presence in Britain of the Roman armies. In that long period, about which books tell us so little, there surely must be some distinctive traces which can exemplify the occupation of those who from time to time possessed the country, and I would suggest for consideration by the Council of the Institute the wisdom of making some list of all earthworks, whether alone and detached or incorporated in later works, which may, possibly, be referred to these, as yet, dark ages. On such a subject I feel sure we shall not look in vain for the powerful aid and wise counsel which Mr. G. T. Clark is so capable of giving

us. I would mention also a proposal which bears to some extent in the same direction, viz. : that a collection should be made of accurate drawings of all inscribed or carved stones, which exist at present in considerable numbers in various parts of what was anciently Northumbria. The suggestion that such a collection should be made is surely a peculiarly practical one, and might lead to a much more accurate generalization of the characteristics of these remains at various periods than has yet been achieved. It is proposed that the Association of our own county should join with others throughout the North in forming and publishing a collection of these drawings, and I ask those of you who may be able to give special advice as to the best method to pursue, either in collecting or publishing, to give us the benefit of your wisdom in the matter.

To pass on, I would remind you that S. Paulinus himself baptized in the Swale, though not perhaps in the Well now filled up, but in that formerly known as S. Austin's Well, near the north-west corner of Brufferton churchyard, to which a like tradition is attached. It is to be regretted, however, that this well, bearing such a name, and connected with such a tradition, should, as I hear is the case, have been destroyed ; and I feel sure that the owners, who, some few years ago, when improving their Brufferton estate, drained and filled up the well, will be open to receive any representation which the Institute may think it right, after due inquiry, to make to them on the subject.

I may well leave our beautiful, though small, Minster, as to its history, in the hands of such men as Professor Stubbs, the Rev. Canon Raine, and the Rev. Joseph T. Fowler ; and you have already heard about its architecture from the distinguished academician, from whose hands our Restoration Committee have but recently received it in the beautiful condition in which it now appears.²

As to Abbeys, you have four of the most interesting Cistercian houses to visit, and I cannot but think that an opportunity, which I believe to be unattainable elsewhere in England, is now afforded for such an examination of their architectural remains as may solve many vexed questions as to the uses to which the different apartments of these fabrics

² For Sir Gilbert Scott's memoir on some of the more distinctive features of Ripon Cathedral, see *postea*.

were put. I am sure it will be borne in mind that they were all the result of a deep religious movement; and it is, perhaps, not travelling too far from the subject, to call attention to the extent to which at all times Yorkshiremen appear to have been susceptible in a high degree to influences of this kind. One thing I would remark in reference to Fountains Abbey. The movement which produced that glorious church was not accompanied, as at the earlier Abbey of Rievaulx, by an importation of foreign monks. It would seem that the small band who dissented from what they thought the laxity of the Benedictine rule, as observed at St. Mary's, at York, were spontaneously actuated in the same direction as (though at first without any connection with) St. Bernard, and that it was not until some time after they had seceded from the Abbey at York, and acquired a foothold on the banks of the Skell, that they sought the counsel of that great light, not merely of the Cistercian Order but of the whole Christian Church, and adopted willingly the ascetic rules then imposed upon them. I am truly glad that attention has, by our County Association, been of late years very much concentrated upon Abbeys of this order, and that their visit to Fountains, in 1872, has incited our friend Mr. Sharpe to continue his researches, with a determined intention to ascertain and fix all that can now be known of the distinctive uses to which the separate apartments were put. I believe his designation of that part of the building in which I hope to receive you at Fountains to-morrow, will form a principal subject for discussion during the meeting. We may confidently look forward with interest to his approaching lecture, for our desire to know cannot fail to be stimulated by the sight of the plans and drawings which you see here collected with a view to its illustration. I hope I may mention without presumption an apparently small matter which has resulted from my own recent explorations in the Lady Chapel at Fountains. I have there uncovered for your inspection the bases of no less than six altars, each of them furnished with a small drain, or ground piscina, a short distance to the south of, and close to, the eastern wall. Such an arrangement, so repeated, and the absence of any trace of other piscinæ, has led me to make inquiries respecting them; and one of the latest subjects which engaged the attention of the late Sir Stephen Glynn, whose loss we all deplore, was the

reason and use of this apparently exceptional arrangement. That old and valued member of your Institute wrote letters to me upon this subject only last month, within a few days of his sudden and lamented death.

From Sir Stephen Glynne it was ascertained that the late Dr. Neale was responsible for that portion of the handbook of Ecclesiology in which these features are mentioned, but he was unable to say upon what authority Dr. Neale had stated them to have been prescribed in certain "Constitutions" of the thirteenth century. Sir Stephen, however, wrote as follows:—
"The instances of holes in the floor to serve as piscinæ are certainly very rare. The only one I have ever seen is in Carlisle Cathedral. The discovery in the Chapel of the nine altars is very remarkable, and it is possible that the Constitutions referred to may be of the Cistercians."

This inquiry is being pursued by the Rev. B. Webb, of Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, who, in the "Gentleman's Magazine," Volume lxi. p. 837, has found a topographical note which mentions MS. Injunctions for the diocese of Lincoln in the Bodleian Library, ordering a provision of this kind to be made in such churches as were without piscinæ. These ground piscinæ occur at Jervaulx, also a Cistercian Abbey, and I shall be greatly obliged to any one who can throw more light on the subject by giving the names of other places at which a like arrangement is to be met with. It may be a question whether the investigation thus begun should not be pursued, by removing the structure raised immediately within the east window at Fountains, in the hope of discovering the remaining three of the nine altars which have given name to the chapel.

Of the other Abbeys and Churches you are to see, your programme and the Manual I have already referred to give some information. I am confident you will appreciate the great interest which attaches to the magnificent castle at Middleham, and the part which its possessors have played in the history of England. Richard the Third, when Duke of Gloucester, made it his favourite home, and hence there was a time when, to use the words of the late Lord Lytton, "MIDDLEHAM—not Windsor, nor Shene, nor Westminster, nor the Tower—seemed the Court of England." What traces there may be of the royal occupation it will be for you to discover. You have in Easby an Abbey of the Premonstra-

tensian Canons, and in the castle of Richmond you have Conan's unrivalled keep. Both at Middleham and Richmond we shall find in Mr. Clark an expounder worthy of the grandeur of the remains, and of the important chapters of history with which they are connected.

Of mediæval houses you will see good specimens at Markenfield, Fountains, and at Bolton Castle, the connection of which last with Mary, Queen of Scots, during her residence there on her journey southwards in custody of Lord Scrope, will be known to you all. Lord Herries has most kindly sent us to the museum some of that unfortunate Queen's handiwork, together with a service-book which is said to have formerly belonged to her, and bears her name. In Mr. Parker's hands the architecture of these domestic buildings may safely be left for exposition, and Yorkshiremen who have not yet had an opportunity of forming an opinion as to the interesting investigations of that learned antiquary at Rome, must cordially thank him for so kindly exhibiting, in one of the rooms of our temporary museum, a collection of photographs and drawings amply illustrating the general work which is being there conducted.

Time would fail me were I to attempt to point out the special features which you will meet with in all the places to which excursions will be made. I can only say that in whatever direction the taste of any one archæologist among you may lead him, I am sure he will find something important bearing upon his subject. The monumental remains are all, I believe, of great interest both in themselves and in the history of those whose memory they were intended to preserve. The Marmions at Tanfield, the Fitzalans at Bedale, the Scropes at Wensley, have all tombs corresponding in character to the importance of those to whose memory they were reared. From a veteran instructor like Mr. Bloxam, we cannot fail to derive profit and instruction; and throughout the week I have little doubt that those interested in heraldry will find that the powerful families, possessors from time to time of so many manors in the district, have left on castle and in church, no less than upon their houses, heraldic records which tell of descents and alliances familiar perhaps to some but new to others.

Of the trade guilds of Ripon all traces are not yet lost, and the White Book of the Corporation, though not very

ancient, contains references to them, and will, I am sure, be open for your inspection in the hands of the Town Clerk. The horn of Ripon you have seen to-day.³ Some Ripon rowels in the Museum will illustrate the Spurriers' trade, which was formerly considerable here. Of authors and their connection with Ripon Mr. Edward Hailstone is to tell us. One of the latest writers who may claim a place on that list I would fain mention here, and express the sense of the great loss which Ripon sustained by the death of Mr. John Richard Walbran, F.S.A., whose latest work was the volume entitled "The Memorials of Fountains," which he so ably edited for the Surtees Society. On an occasion like the present his help would have been invaluable.

We have had the misfortune, too, to lose within the last few years Mr. W. Harrison, of this city ; and since the present meeting was planned, death has deprived us of the aid of Mr. W. F. Stephenson, who had just entered upon the duties of one of our Local Secretaries for this Meeting. I mention his name as entitled to every respect ; his well-known zeal in reference to historical and archæological pursuits would have made many of our arrangements more easy, and if you find our organization lacking in any respect, I must ask you to remember that we have thus been deprived of valuable help to which we looked forward in preparing for your reception.

And now it only remains for me to ask your indulgence for the shortcomings of this Address. For any thing which it may contain that is useful or suggestive, I am indebted to aid which I felt it my duty to seek, and which has been accorded generously and without stint. For though I have all my life had a warm interest in some branches of archæology, my studies have necessarily lain in another direction, and time and opportunity have been wanting to me for inquiries into the details of this interesting science. I am thus forced by your choice of me as the President of this meeting to appear before you in the strange position of one of the humblest of archæological students, raised for the moment to an official position, which requires him to deliver an Address to those at whose feet he would desire to sit as a learner ; and the only claim which I can advance for myself

³ An account of this interesting object will be given in the report of the Museum formed at the Meeting.

to the post I now occupy, is that of having always appreciated very highly the value of the attractive study to which this Institute is devoted.

It is yours to reconstruct for this late generation the history of the past in all its circumstances, and to remind us, as you are continually doing, that, amidst the advantages of certain kinds which we possess in these times, and of which we are so very conscious, we have many a lesson, among the noblest that can be taught to men, to learn from the thoughts, the words, and the deeds of those who have gone before us in the past, and who have laid for us the foundations of so much, of which we are but the heirs, though we are too often apt to boast as if we were the creators.

I am confident that it is in this spirit that your Institute approaches its work, and that you value the details of archæological science mainly because there is something to be learnt from every one of them of the spirit by which Englishmen of the past were animated, and therefore because each has something to teach to the Englishmen of the present and of the future. Thus cultivated, Archæology is no dry, *dilettante* study; it is a living science, replete with lessons of piety and of patriotism, and with examples of nobleness and of virtue; and I venture to believe that you will find the Yorkshire dales into which you are about to penetrate, no less fruitful in such teaching than that famous county of Devon in which your last meeting was held.