

ART. XVII.—*A remarkable Sepulchral Slab at Carlotton, Cumberland.* By R. S. FERGUSON, F.S.A.

Read at Cockermouth, Aug. 22nd, 1878.

CARLATTON is marked on the Ordnance Map as an extra-parochial place: it, however, had formerly a church whose site is well known, and, though no remains appear above ground, yet the soil is so full of stones as to compel the tenant to desist from any attempt to plough it. The site is a small field, which lies between the road from Carlotton Mill to Cumrew, and a rivulet, on which stands Carlotton Mill. It is on the opposite or south side of the road to a farm belonging to Lord Carlisle, which is marked on the Ordnance Map as Carlotton. The farm house is covered with rough-cast, a portion of which decaying off disclosed the slab I wish to call attention to. It is built into the wall of the house at a corner in the back garden; one of its longer sides being on the level of the ground. Its dimensions are 6 feet 2 inches in length, by 2 feet 3 inches at the head, and 2 feet 2 inches at the foot. It has on it a cross: to the dexter of which are a chalice and book, and to the sinister a sword and sword-belt. An inscription runs round the slab, with the exception of the foot. Though broken in places, it is easily read from a rubbing, and is

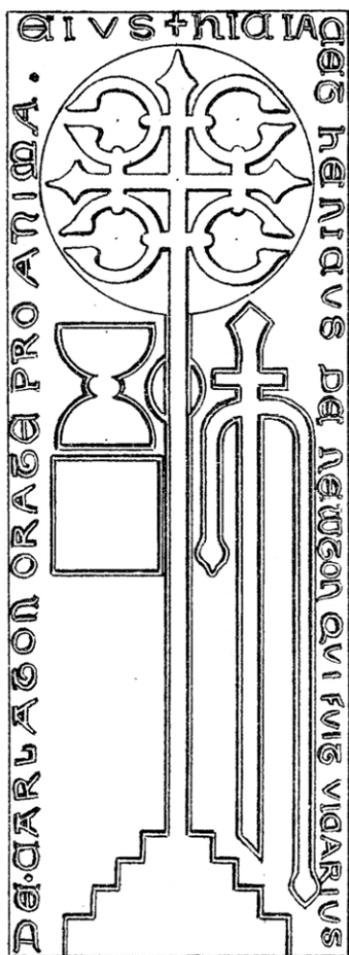
HIC IACET HENRICUS DE NEWTON QUI FVIT VICARIVS
DE CARLATON ORATE PRO ANIMA EIVS

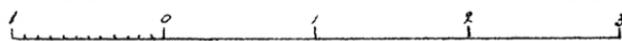
Henry De Newton was presented to the Vicarage of Carlotton in 1320 by the Prior and Convent of Lanercost. He probably died in 1344, as the Prior and Convent in that year appointed William de Stockdale to the Vicarage.

The cross, sword, and sword-belt are so exactly similar to the cross, sword, and sword-belt on a sepulchral slab at
Great

SEPULCHRAL SLAB AT CARLATTON CUMBERLAND.

Taken from a Rubbing.



Scale of  Feet

Great Salkeld (figured in *Cutt's Manual of Sepulchral Slabs and Crosses*, Plate xiii; and in *Lyson's Cumberland*, p. cxcv.) as to induce one to believe they came from the same chisel, a conjecture which receives additional probability from both places being on the valley of the Eden, and so easily accessible from one another.

The unusual combination of the chalice, the book, and the sword, with belt attached, (which last is in itself unusual,) make this slab, so far as I know, unique in England. The chalice and book do not often occur together, and where they do, the examples are generally in the county of Durham, with one at Great Salkeld. (See *Boutell's Christian Monuments*; *Dr. Charlton in the Archæological Journal*, Vol. V., p. 254). The chalice is the well-known symbol of an ecclesiastic; the book is often considered to mean a deacon, but *Dr. Charlton* seems to have doubted this, from his often finding it in connection with other emblems certainly not of an ecclesiastical character,* *Archæological Journal*, Vol. V., p. 254; *Boutell's Christian Monuments*, p. 66; *Cutt's Manual*, p. 43. On a slab at *Newbiggen*, in *Northumberland*, the book occurs in connection with the sword, and *Boutell's* suggestion is that the stone was intended to commemorate two persons. There is a stone at *Bala Sala*, *Isle of Man*, to an abbot of *Bala Sala*, which has a sword and a cross. *Grose* considers this to denote that the abbot had temporal authority. "*Cutt's Manual*" p. 39. But I find no instance of the chalice and sword being combined.

Boutell's theory, as to the *Newbiggen* slab, cannot be applied to this, though its unusual breadth lends itself to the idea that it might commemorate two persons. But the inscription proves it clearly to commemorate one person

* The Shears and Book occur together at *Bakewell*, *Derbyshire*, and *Dearham*, *Cumberland*. See *Cutt's Manual*, plates LVII, LXIII. *Lyson's Cumberland*, Plate II., p. cxcv. The *Dearham* Slab is now removed to *Dovenby Hall*.

only,

only, and that one, a priest, and the vicar of the parish of Carlatton.

Can Henry de Newton have been a warrior who had abandoned the sword for the chalice, and who ended his days as a priest? There is a slab at Haltwhistle (not so far from Carlatton) which has sword and shield on one side, and a palmer's scrip on the other,—“shewing probably,” says Mr. Cutts, (*Manual of Sepulchral Slabs and Crosses*, p. 39,) “that a Knight had become Palmer, or had died whilst performing a pilgrimage.”

The alternative is to suppose (as Grose does in the case of the Bala Sala slab) that the vicar of Carlatton exercised some temporal authority. I am inclined to think so.

“Karlatton,” says Denton, “stands in Gilsland, but is no part thereof,” that is of the Barony of Gilsland. On consulting the preface to “the Pipe Rolls for Cumberland, Westmorland, and Durham,” published by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1847, I find that the manor of Carlatton had escheated to the crown by the outlawry of Gospatric, whose property it was, prior to the 31st of Henry II. The Testa de Nevill (compiled in the reign of King John) includes Carlatton (Karlatan) in the list of escheats and says, “Robtus de Ros tenet eas pro dnm J. Rege.”

In the same document, under this heading

“Hec sunt ecclie que sunt
de donacone Reg' in Cumbr.”

occurs the following:—“Ecclia de Karlatona quā Thom' de Aldefeld tenet p̄ eundem,” *i.e.*, “de dono Reg' Johis.”

In 1842, certain lands in Cumberland were assigned by Henry III. to the Scottish King, in settlement of a well-known and long-standing dispute.* These lands were the manors of Penrith, Sowerby, Langwathby, Salkeld,

*The Pipe Rolls, Newcastle Soc. of Ant., p. xix. Rymer's “Fœdera.” 2
Nicolson and Burn, 549.

Carlatton,

Carlatton, and Scotby, all in Cumberland. Edward I. seized them in consequence of John Baliol's rebellion, and granted Carlatton to Anthony Beck, Bishop of Durham, a grant he afterwards revoked. By deeds,* dated Carlisle, March 17th, 1307, Edward I. granted the church of Carlatton (and also that of Mitford in Durham) to the Prior and Convent of Lanercost, the rights of Thomas de London, whom Beck had appointed vicar, being reserved. On London's death or resignation in 1320, the Prior and Convent appointed Henry de Newton.

These facts bear out Denton's statements as to Carlatton being no part of the Barony of Gilsland. Carlatton is a very small manor, never having had more than seven or eight families in it, and I take it that Henry de Newton was steward, or bailiff of the manor, as well as vicar of the church. He would probably be the only man in it who could read or write. The revenues of the manor accruing to the King were but small: the talliage from it was more than once returned as "nil." Probably no stranger would take the stewardship, and no resident but the vicar was competent.

Over the barn door at the same farm house is another sepulchral slab, about 6 feet 3 inches long, by 1 foot 11 inches at the top, and 1 foot 6 inches at the foot. It has on it a cross similar to the one on Newton's slab: the surface of the whole of the sinister side of the slab has been chiselled away. On the dexter side of the slab are a chalice and book, and the end of an inscription which reads:

ON ISTIVS ECCLESIE V ORATE P AIA EIVS PAT.

I suspect this slab to commemorate Robert de Loudon, or London, Newton's predecessor; the letters are of earlier shape than on Newton's slab. May the malison of a dis-

* Printed in Rymer's *Fœdera*.

appointed

appointed antiquary befall the mason who chiselled away the sinister side of this slab, so effectually. Had it also borne a sword, my theory would have had strong corroboration.

The Society is indebted to Mr. Mulcaster, of Brackenthwaite, a gentleman well conversant with the antiquities of his neighbourhood, for first calling attention to this very remarkable slab.

