

EXCURSIONS AND PROCEEDINGS.

JULY 10th AND 11th, 1879.

THE Society met on Thursday, July 10th, 1879, at Penrith, for a two days excursion from that place as headquarters, into the district which lies south and east of the town. According to arrangement, the members mustered at the Crown Hotel, at 2-15 p.m., and amongst those present were the Rev. Canon Simpson, Kirkby Stephen; Rev. Thomas Lees, Wreay; R. S. Ferguson, Esq.; J. A. Cory, Esq., Carlisle; Dr. Beardsley, Grange-over-Sands; Rev. J. Brunskill and Mrs. Brunskill, Plumpton; C. J. Ferguson, Esq., and Mrs. Ferguson, Carlisle; Rev. A. F. Sheppard, Holme Cultram; Wm. Brown, Esq., Tallentire Hall; Aaron Brown, Esq., and Miss Brown, Allerton, Liverpool; Henry Fletcher Rigge, Esq., Wood Broughton; Studholme Cartmell, Esq., Carlisle; Rev.—Platt and Miss Platt, Sedbergh; Rev. W. Morgan-Stoate, Bolton; James Atkinson, Esq., and Mrs. Atkinson, Winderwath; Thomas Varty, Esq., Stagstones; Alfred Peile, Esq., Workington; Rev James Harrison, Middleton; Rev. G. Cole, Kirkby Lonsdale; Dr. I'Anson, Whitehaven; Mr. R., and Mr. A. T. Powley, Langwathby; Dr. Taylor, Mrs. and Miss Taylor, Penrith; Rev. Keys-Wells, Clifton; Rev. J. Salmon, Brougham; Rev. T. Hodgson, Barton; Rev. R. Skinner, Dacre; Rev. R. Bower, Cross Canonby; Hyppolyte I. Blanc, Edinburgh; G. F. Braithwaite, Esq., Kendal; Mr. T. Wilson, Kendal; Mr. Machell, Penrith.

Clifton Church was the first place visited. The little church stands upon an eminence, commanding a fine view of the Eden Valley, and here the Society found the vicar of the parish, the Rev. Keys-Wells, who, for the convenience of the party, had caused to be cut down the long grass surrounding the various objects of interest in the churchyard. As usual, however, the interior of the building was first explored, the vicar kindly leading the way. He exhibited the oldest register, dating back to 1675, and an old English Bible printed in London in the year 1617, both of which were of great interest. He also exhibited a metal plate, found in the rectory grounds, on which was the inscription:—

“ This

“ This is in memory of Jane Rennie, that departed this life 11th August, 1778, aged 48 years.”

“ In her did centre the happiness of human life,
She was a real friend and virtuous wife.”

The Chancel was re-built by Lord Brougham. The pulpit is of oak, and upon the front of it is a very beautifully preserved carving of the Adoration of the Magi, on Flemish panels, part of the spoil of the French Revolutionary Army. The Rev. T. Lees made the following remarks.

Clifton Church owes its dedication to the circumstance of its having been one of the resting-places of the body of St. Cuthbert when it was removed by Bishop Eardulf and Abbot Eadred from Holy Island to escape the Danes, who devastated the coast of Northumbria during the last quarter of the ninth century. The course of this flight, as regards the two counties, I endeavoured to trace in a paper read before this Society at our meeting at Penrith, in June, 1874. The hejira lasted for seven years, viz., from 875-883 when the body found a resting-place at Chester-le-street, and there the bishop's "cathedra" was placed for 113 years, and then finally established at Durham. Wherever the body rested a cross was erected, and afterwards, in quieter times, a church built. That Clifton was one of the places we know from a MS. list, still in existence, in his own handwriting, made by Wessington, Prior of Durham, A.D., 1416-1446; the cross then erected, is probably that now placed on the east gable of the chancel, which was recently found buried in the churchyard. There is a beautiful west window in the nave. The chancel was re-built some thirty years ago. Our chancel probably very like the one at Cliburn (a sister Cuthbert Church), and the ancient chancel arch was probably semicircular, like that at Cliburn. The old arch was taken down shortly previous to Bishop Nicolson's visitation, in 1703, for he says "The arch betwixt ye chancell and body of the church has been lately taken down; and that alteration makes both much warmer than they were before." The bishop also mentions that the figure, in painted glass, of "Helynor Ingane, with her coat of arms—gules, six crosses fitchet, or, three above and three below, a bar indented."—now placed in the west window of the north, or Wybergh aisle, in his day occupied the east window of the quire; and that the quire and nave were exceedingly well-seated, well-floor'd, &c; but that the north aisle, both as regards floor and walls, was in a slovenly condition. The trefoil headed recess at the north end of the sacarium seems to have once had a door opening towards the inside—one hinge of which still remains. Registers begin in 1675. Of the skirmish on Clifton Moor between the advance guard of the Duke of Cumberland's army and the Stuart forces, in 1745, the register here contains the following entry:—"The 19th day of December, 1745, ten dragoons, to wit, six of Bland's, three of Cobham's, and one of Mark Kerr's regiment, who were killed ye evening before by ye rebels, in ye skirmish between the Duke of Cumberland's army and them at ye end of Clifton Moor, next ye town buried." Another of Bland's dragoons was buried on January 8th. What became of the slain adherents of the Stuarts we have no record; but the popular report that forty or fifty corpses were thrown into the river is worthless. In answer to an inquiry made in a Penrith paper last week, I beg distinctly to state that the Cross preceded the
Church

church. By canon law no one could build a Church unless the bishop had first erected a Cross on the proposed site. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries there was always a Cross erected in the middle of the churchyard to remind the people of the reverence due to the sacred place; and the boundary of the yard was marked out by Crosses. The ancient Cross at Clifton was originally erected to mark the resting-place of St. Cuthbert's body. A Cross would be erected where Brougham Church now stands, at the time of St. Ninian's preaching. Probably the first church at Ninekirks was of wood or wattle-work. Mr. Lees concluded by reading extracts from the writings of Thomas Becon, chaplain to Archbishop Cranmer, describing the ceremonies observed in former times in churchyards on Palm Sunday, and thus accounted for the name "Palm Cross" which is in some districts applied to the churchyard cross.

Clifton Hall was next visited, and then the carriages were called into use and Hornby Hall was visited. Dr. Taylor's papers on these places are printed in the Transactions. From Hornby Hall the drive was continued to St. Ninians, or Nine Churches. Here the Rev. T. Lees addressed the company on the subject of the Dedication of the Church. His remarks appear among the papers in this volume.

A return was then made to Penrith, where a large company sat down to dinner at the Crown Hotel.

After dinner the annual meeting of the Society was held, when the following officers were elected.

PRESIDENT: The Earl of Lonsdale.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: The Lord Bishop of Carlisle.

F. A. Argles, Esq.	Hon. W. Lowther, M.P.
E. B. W. Balme, Esq.	Lord Muncaster, M.P.
The Earl of Bective, M.P.	Sir R. C. Musgrave, Bart.
Robert Ferguson, Esq., M.P., F.S.A., (Scot.)	Hon. Percy S. Wyndham, M.P.
George Howard, Esq., M.P.	John Whitwell, Esq., M.P.
COUNCIL: Rev. Canon Simpson, LL.D., Kirkby Stephen, Chairman.	W. Jackson, Esq. F.S.A., St. Bees
W. Browne, Esq., Tallentire.	Rev. T. Lees, M.A., Wreay.
G. F. Braithwaite, Esq., Kendal.	H. Fletcher Rigge, Esq., Cartmel
J. A. Cory, Esq., Carlisle.	M. W. Taylor, Esq., M.D., Penrith.
Isaac Cartmell, Esq., Carlisle.	C. Wilkinson, Esq., Kendal.
R. S. Ferguson, Esq., F.S.A., Carlisle.	Rev. J. Clifton Ward, F.G.S., Rydal.
C. J. Ferguson, Esq., F.S.A., Carlisle.	

EDITOR: R. S. Ferguson, Esq., M.A., LL.M., F.S.A., Carlisle.

AUDITORS: I. W. Wilson, Esq., and David Page, Esq., M.D., Kendal.

TREASURER: W. H. Wakefield, Esq., Sedgwick.

SECRETARY: Mr. T. Wilson, Kendal.

The following new members were elected:— Mr. D. B. Robinson, The Thorns, Penrith; Mr. James Lee, Jun., Brampton; Mr. Robert Blair, South Shields; Mr. David Ainsworth, Wray Castle, Ambleside; Mr. T. A. Argles, Christ Church, Oxford; Mr. C. Pollitt, Kendal; Rev. W. M. Stoate, Bolton, Penrith; Mr. J. H. Bracken, Hilham Hall, South Milford; Rev. Thomas Calvert, 92, Lansdowne Place, Brighton; Mrs. Fidler, Croft House, Saint Bees; Major Steel, Temple Sowerby; Rev. R. Skinner, Dacre Vicarage; Rev. J. Tannahill, The Larches, Penrith; Mr. H. I. Jenkinson, Keswick; Mr. J. H. Harry, Carlisle; Mr. T. Machell, Penrith; Rev. B. W. Wilson, Lazonby; Mr. J. Deakin, Eller How, Grange-over-Sands; Mr. A. Powley, Langwathby; Rev. T. Hodson, Barton Rectory, Penrith; Rev. Canon Chalker, The Abbey, Carlisle; Mrs. D. W. Drysdale, 8, Croxteth Park, Liverpool.

A letter was read by the Editor, from the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, offering to present a set of their Archæological Journal, Vols. 6 to 25. Resolved that the same be accepted with thanks.

The next meeting was fixed to be held at Naworth Castle and in the neighbourhood; the Rev. W. Dacre, Rev J. Whitehead, and Mr. R. S. Ferguson were appointed a local committee with power to make the necessary arrangements, and fix the date for the same.

The following papers were communicated to the society:—

A Plea for the local Names, Part II., by Miss Powley.

Local Roman Potters and their marks, by R. Ferguson, M.P.

Subterranean Carlisle, by H. U. McKie.

Recent Roman Discoveries in Cumberland — Carlisle, Botcherby, Bowness, Mowbray,—by R. S. Ferguson, F.S.A.

The Kirkby Thore Registers, by the Rev. R. Bower.

Prehistoric Find at Lorton, by J. Wilson.

The High Sheriffs of Westmorland and Cumberland, by Sir G. Duckett, F.S.A.

Cumberland and Westmorland Magistrates, Original Letters of, 1688, by Sir G. Duckett, F.S.A.

They are to be found in their proper places in the Society's Transactions.

On the second day the Society's numbers were augmented by the addition of the Hon. W. Lowther, M.P., Col. Burn, of Orton Hall; Mrs. J. E. Hasell, and the Misses Hasell, (2); Mr. F. A. Argles, Eversley; Rev. G. F. Weston; Mr. T. W. Johnston, Liverpool; Rev. J. Tannahill; Mr. J. F. Crosthwaite; Rev. G. W. and Mrs. Atkinson, Culgaith; Mr. W. Jackson, F.S.A.; and others.

The members assembled at ten o'clock at the Two Lions' Inn,
Penrith

Penrith, where Mr. W. Jackson, F.S.A. read the paper which is printed in these Transactions. From thence conveyances were taken to King Arthur's Round Table, and to Mayborough. The Rev. Canon Greenwell and Dr. Rolleston (British Barrows p. 381) thus describe the first of these places.

"It consists of a mound about 300ft in diameter, within which is a broad platform, and beyond it a ditch enclosing a flat space 175ft in diameter. It is now partly destroyed by a road, which cuts off a portion of it, but was complete a hundred years ago, when it had two entrances opposite each other. Three similar constructions (one perfect, the others more or less destroyed), almost identical in shape with Arthur's Round Table, still exist at Thornborough, near Tanfield, in the North Riding of Yorkshire; and two more are to be seen on Hutton Moor near Ripon, not many miles from those at Thornborough."

Dr. Simpson here read a paper in which he held that the table was indeed for a hoam-gang of the Norsemen, and was probably constructed a considerable time before the Norman conquest, as a place on which duels were fought—such duels being generally fought on small islands or "isle gangs."

Dr. Taylor said that Mr. Stanley described similar earth works at Anglesey as places of audience of Roman origin. At one of them, stone seats were found arranged round the outer works: and Mr. Albert Way, who had visited Arthur's Round Table, described it as a Roman castrensian theatre in connection with the camp at Brougham. A ten minutes' walk brought the party to Mayborough, or May Castle, which consists of a circular piece of ground about 100 yards in diameter, surrounded on every side, except at the entrance on the east, by a vallum of small water pebbles from Eden and Eamont, of size a man could carry. The vallum was once 15ft. to 20ft. high, and is now covered with herbage. In the centre of the enclosure is a large monolith 12 feet high. There were, Dr. Simpson said, two other stones, one at each side of the entrance to the "castle," but they had been removed. It has been mentioned that part of the stone from this place was used in building the castles at Kendal and Penrith, but that, he need hardly say, was a "cram."

Mr. R. S. Ferguson read the following extracts from the Society's Transactions, vol. III p. xvi.

"Professor Harkness exhibited a portion of a celt, which had been found by Mr. Williams, at the entrance into the Mayborough near Eamont Bridge. It was obtained on the surface of the soil from which a thin covering of turf had recently been cut * * * the occurrence of this broken unfinished celt in connection with Mayborough leads towards the inference that this circular enclosure perhaps protected a settlement of Neolithic men, and in this respect it has its analogue in Cisbury Camp, as described by Col. Lane Fox, F.R.S."*

* Archæologia, Vol. xlii.

From

From Mayborough the carriages were resumed to Barton Church, and Barton Kirk, where papers were read by Mr. C. J. Ferguson and Dr. Taylor. At the church the vicar, the Rev. T. Hodson, exhibited the parish documents, which would probably repay close attention. The carriages were again resumed to the foot of Barton Fell, up which most of the party toiled to visit, under the guidance of Dr. Simpson and Dr. Taylor, the prehistoric remains on Moor Divock, and the "Kop Stone," where three cheers were given for the worthy president. At Helton the party broke up, though some went to the Anglo-Saxon burial ground in Lowther churchyard. The weather was during both days all that could be desired.

AUGUST 27 AND 28, 1879.

The members of the Society assembled for a two day's excursion on Wednesday and Thursday, August 27 and 28, 1879, in the vicinity of Naworth and Gilsland. The rendezvous was at Carlisle Station on the first day, in time for the 2-5 p.m. train east. At that time the weather was that usually experienced on these occasions. A brisk breeze was blowing, and as it drove a heavy rain before it, and the sky was quite leaden-coloured, things looked hopeless enough to discourage anybody but antiquaries. The very worst weather never hindered this Society from carrying out the main part, if not the whole, of the programme which it had set itself to accomplish. Moreover, on this occasion most of the work was to be done indoors. The destination in the first place was Naworth Castle, and at Naworth Gates Station there were present the following ladies and gentlemen:—Dr. Simpson, Kirkby-Stephen; Mr. R. S. Ferguson, Carlisle; Mr. J. Fisher Crosthwaite, and Miss Crosthwaite, Keswick; Miss Fidler, Whitehaven; Mr. Varty, Stagstones; Rev. A. Wright, Gilsland; Mr. H. Fletcher Rigge and Mr. Gray Grayrigge, Wood-Broughton, Cartmel; Mr. A. Piele, Workington; Mr. W. Jackson and Mrs. Jackson, Fleatham House; Rev. J. Tannahill and Mrs. Tannahill, Penrith; Dr. Adams, Mrs., Miss, and Mr. W. Adams, London; Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, Winderwath; Mr. Cartmell, Mr. S. Cartmell, and the Misses Cartmell, Carlisle; Mr. W. B. Arnison and Mrs. Arnison, Penrith; Rev. T. Lees, Wreay; Mr. J. H. Nicholson, Owen's College, Manchester; Mr. Thomlinson and party, Inglethwaite Hall; Rev. J. Whitehead, Brampton; Mr. C. J. Ferguson and Mrs. Ferguson, Carlisle; Mr. Powley and Mr. A. Powley, Langwathby; Mr. John Black, Edinburgh; Major Thompson, Milton Hall; Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lee, Brampton; and Mr. Wilson, Kendal (secretary) &c., &c.

At

At Naworth the party were most kindly received by Mr. George Howard, M.P., who at once conducted them into the hall, where seats had been arranged at the upper end. Mr. Howard was elected to the chair, and without further preliminary the proceedings were begun, and the following papers read:—

The Barony of Gilsland and its owners. R. S. Ferguson.

Naworth Castle. C. J. Ferguson.

The Heraldry of Naworth and of Lanercost. R. S. Ferguson.

Original Letters of Col. C. Howard (1st Earl of Carlisle), to Cromwell and to Thurlow. Sir George Duckett, Bart.

On their conclusion the party walked round the outside of the castle, and Mr. C. J. Ferguson pointed out the principle points of interest he had mentioned in his paper, and Mr. R. S. Ferguson explained the heraldic devices. Under the guidance of Mr. Howard, Master Howard, and Mr. C. J. Ferguson, the party visited the battlements, and also all those portions of the interior which are of general interest. The alabaster figures in the oratory were described by Mr. Lees and Mr. R. S. Ferguson.

Before leaving, Dr. Simpson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Howard for their courtesy and kindness to the Society. Mr. R. S. Ferguson seconded the motion, and expressed his personal acknowledgment of the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Howard, who had given him every facility for examining the Castle; he had also to thank Messrs. Carrick and Lee for the loan of a very beautiful "Survey of the Barony" made in 1841 when its boundaries were perambulated: he had also to thank Mr. J. G. Mounsey for the loan of a large map of the Barony.—Mr. Howard acknowledged the compliment, and said he was very much obliged to Mr. Ferguson and to the Society for making known much that was unknown before, and for so clearly explaining what was known.

The party now left the castle, and some of the more adventurous went to look at a circular mound that lies on the left, on the way to the station. This Mr. Howard suggested had been a Celtic camp, pre-Roman in its origin and used for military purposes. It is locally called Tower Tye. It is about forty paces in diameter and is nearly circular. The hill on which it stands, and the circle itself are almost covered with beech trees, so that an examination by means of digging is impossible, but a section was sometime ago cut through the mound by Mr. Howard and General Lane Fox, which proved its artificial character. Dr. Simpson suggested that it might possibly be a bothy belonging to a Celtic chieftain, but it was more likely to have been intended as an enclosure for cattle. If it had been intended as a place of defence the ditch would have been outside

side only, whereas it had been both outside and inside. He had in his mind at that moment Croglin Castle (near Kirkby Stephen) a place the name of which suggests its use, and it was used for herding cattle during the night. He thought that what was supposed to have been an earthwork had only been a sod dyke built up from both sides. Nobody seemed inclined to take up the challenge thrown out by Dr. Simpson, and a slow move was accordingly made to the station. Similar circular mounds exist at Hayton; at Watch Hill near Triermain; at Walwick Chesters, also called Tower Tye; and at Haltwhistle.

Soon afterwards the party were conveyed to Gilsland, where they dined together at the Shaws Hotel, and the first day's proceedings were at an end.

On the morning of the second day, little was done beyond the exhibition of a slab with a Roman inscription. It was found a hundred years ago at Bowness, and has been lost ever since. It is mentioned in Hutchinson's *History of Cumberland*, and Hutchinson's description of it raised a controversy between the English and German epigraphists, the former doubting and the latter supporting its genuineness. It came to light only recently.

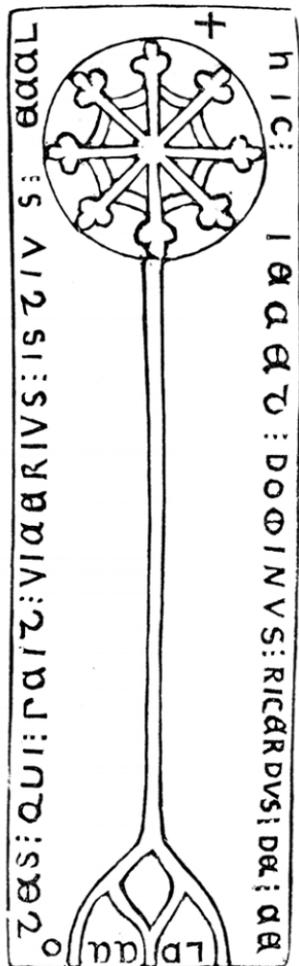
A chalice and paten of base metal, found under the floor of the south chapel of Kirkoswald Church, were also exhibited. They are very interesting and curious, and have been exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries in London. They will be described at some future period to this Society.

The following new members were elected:—Mrs. and Miss Thomlinson, Inglethwaite Hall; Mr. W. H. Hills, The Knoll; Ambleside; Mr. George Peile, Shotley Bridge, Durham; Miss N. Cartmell, Crosthwaite Vicarage, Milnthorpe; Capt. E. Tosh, Flan How, Ulverston; Major-General Steel; Mr. Gray Grayrigge, Wood-Broughton; Miss Nicholson, Carleton House, Clifton; Rev. W. S. Davis, Embleton; Mrs. Tannahill, The Larches, Penrith; and Mr. George Routledge, Stone House.

Shortly after twelve o'clock the party took their departure by train from Gilsland and went to Brampton, where they were met by carriages. In these they at once drove to Brampton Old Church where several ladies and gentlemen from Brampton and the neighbourhood joined them. The Vicar, the Rev. H. Whitehead, who was to describe the church, not being present at the moment, Canon Dixon of Hayton read a paper on the old Hayton registers, which will appear in this volume. Mr. Whitehead, on arrival, stated that when the ancient church was pulled down in 1789, the chancel was allowed to remain, because the churchyard continued to be used as a burial ground.

Consequently

Consequently what now remains is simply the fabric of the old chancel, with a modern porch added. In 1861 the burial ground was closed by order of the Privy Council, but a new piece of ground was obtained close by, and the interior of the chancel was arranged as it stands at present. When that was done the east window was removed and a plain square sash window inserted, and the late Joseph Parker said that a fresco was discovered on the north wall. He hoped Mr. Charles Ferguson would remove a portion of the plaster



and see whether that was so. Though the renovation took place twenty years ago, nobody seemed to know anything about the roof, or even whether the chancel had one. At present there is a ceiling. In some parts of the newly added land cobble stones are dug up whenever a grave is made, and in one place a foundation was found which had been opened up for inspection. The Talkin people buried their dead here, though they did not belong to the parish, and for this it was said they voluntarily gave the hay tithe. Burials were made at Brampton because the forest between Talkin and Hayton was infested with wolves. The hay tithe is still paid to the vicar of Brampton. A sepulchral slab to Richard de Caldcoates, vicar 1340, is in the porch; also the side of an altar-tomb, on which three coats of arms. 1, a bend chequy for Vaux; 2, Dacre; 3, a cross fleurie, with an escallop in the dexter chief. A paper on the Milburns of Talkin, by Mr. Whitehead, was laid before the Society, and that gentleman also lent the wood block of Caldcoates' tomb. Votes of thanks having been passed to Canon Dixon and Mr. Whitehead, the party went outside, and Mr. C. J. Ferguson took up the story. He said the chancel was apparently late Norman. In the south wall is an arch over a tomb, probably that of some benefactor to the church,

church, but he did not believe that the stone now beneath the arch was the original one. Mr. R. S. Ferguson said the foundation in the churchyard was probably that of an outpost of the Roman camp which had existed in the neighbourhood, and was meant to guard the crossing of the Irthing, and to keep up the communication with the camps at Castlesteads and at Watch Cross. Dr. Simpson suggested that it was merely the church path to the western door of the church.

Irthington was to have been visited if the river was fordable, but it was not, so on leaving the Old Church the party proceeded at once to Castlesteads, the residence of G. J. Johnson, Esq., one of the original members of the Society. Here a number of Roman gems were exhibited, which had been found many years ago during the making of a flower garden. This garden occupies the site of one of the camps on the line of the Roman Wall. In it are preserved, with great care, a considerable number of fine Roman altars, to which the Society's attention was directed. The party were conducted by Mr. Johnson through the grounds, and round the gardens and the camp. With respect to one of the gems some interesting communications were made, which appear elsewhere in the Society's Transactions.

A vote of thanks having been passed to Mr. Johnson, the carriages were in requisition again for the last time, and the return journey was made to Brampton at half-past four o'clock, thus concluding an expedition that was altogether successful.
