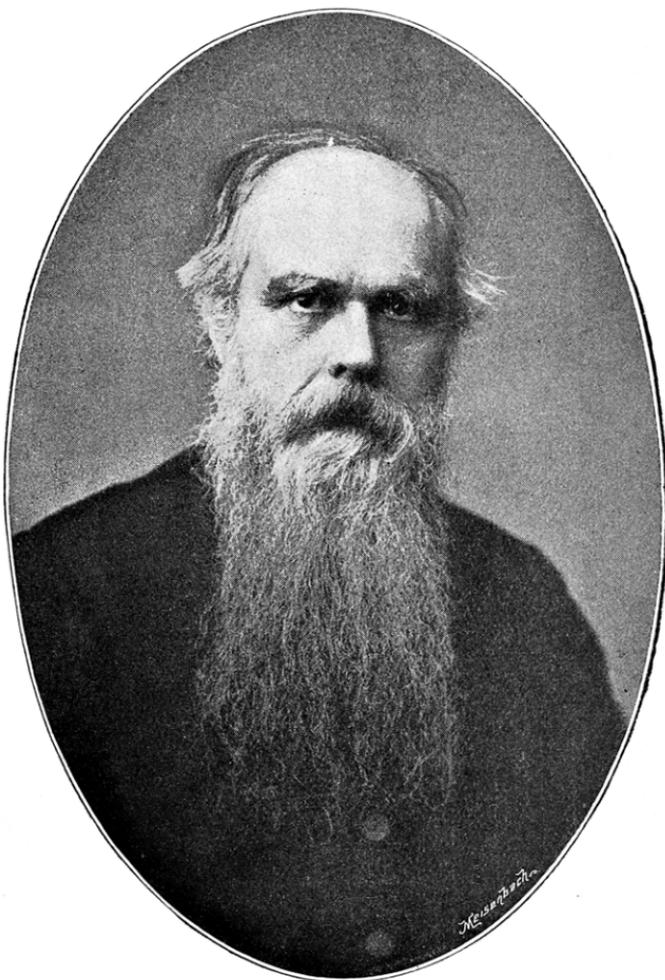


In Memoriam.



REV. H. WHITEHEAD, M.A.,
Vicar of Lanercost.

Frontispiece Vol. xiv.

See p. 253.

B. SCOTT & SON, CARLISLE, PHOTOGRAPHERS.

In Memoriam.

BY the sudden death on Thursday March 5th, 1896, of the Rev. Henry Whitehead, M.A., Vicar of Lanercost, the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society has not only been deprived of one of the most valued members of its Council, but has also lost the services of one of the most painstaking and accurate contributors to the pages of its Transactions: and the writer of these lines has to lament the loss of an ever ready and helpful colleague, and of a dear friend.

Henry Whitehead was born in the Isle of Thanet, and was in his 70th year when he died. He was educated at Lincoln College, Oxford, B.A. 1850, M.A. 1854: was ordained deacon in 1851, and priest in 1852 by the Bishop of London. His first curacy was at St. Luke, Berwick Street (1851 to 1856); he was there during the terrible outbreak of cholera in that parish in 1853, when 700 people died in ten days within a radius of a hundred yards from the Parish Church. During that terrible time, he was not only foremost in supplying the material and spiritual needs of the sick and dying, but he conceived and carried out the idea of tracing this outbreak to its source. He enquired into and made notes of every single one of these 700 cases, and found that every patient had drunk the water from the famous Broad Street pump, and that there was not a death among those who did not use it, or had boiled it before use. He completed his circle of

proof by finding that there was a leakage into the Broad Street well from the house opposite, where a case of choleraic diarrhœa had been registered before the outbreak of cholera. He wrote an account of this patient and pertinacious investigation, for which he was publicly thanked by eminent physicians engaged in the same enquiry, and it appeared in *Macmillan's Magazine* soon afterwards. After leaving St. Luke in 1856, Mr. Whitehead held six other curacies in or about London, until in 1874 he was presented to the vicarage of Brampton in Cumberland. He remained there until 1884, when he accepted the small living of Newlands, Keswick, but in 1885 he was offered by the Bishop of Carlisle and accepted the rectory of Newton Reigny near Penrith. In 1890 the valuable living of Morpeth, in the gift of the Earl of Carlisle, became vacant, and was offered to Mr. Whitehead, who firmly declined it: but he accepted from the Earl of Carlisle the vicarage of Lanercost, vacated by the acceptance of Morpeth by Mr. Bulkeley. There he remained until his sudden death.

This is not the place in which to discuss his parochial work: but in all his north-country parishes he left his mark: at Brampton the parish church was rebuilt during his incumbency: at Newlands the church was re-seated in oak: at Newton Reigny the church was restored and the vicarage enlarged: and at Lanercost the long ruined church of Kirk-cambeck was rebuilt. In all his parishes he was a centre of intellectual life, and the scientific societies of Brampton and of Penrith owe much to his services on their respective councils as an organiser and a stimulator, and also, in common with many other societies, as a lecturer. He was a member of the

Council of this Society, and some of the most interesting papers in its Transactions are from his pen: he has never yet got the full credit he should have done for the Society's book on Old Church Plate in the Diocese of Carlisle: this is due to his firmly refusing to let his name appear on the title page, as co-editor, or at all, except as having done two or three of the deaneries, but he acted as expert adviser throughout, and compiled most part of the valuable appendices. To archæology, prior to his coming into Cumberland, Mr. Whitehead had paid no attention whatever, and his mind was first directed that way by a request from the Editor of these Transactions for a paper on the Brampton Registers: this he promised to do: more than twenty years have elapsed, and that paper has never yet been written. But the study Mr. Whitehead made of the Brampton Registers with that paper in view was the fruitful mother of many papers on kindred subjects, which will be found in these and other Transactions, or are interred in local newspapers and parish magazines. The charm of the man to his archæological friends, and his power as a writer on archæological subjects, consisted in a mathematical facility for putting together and adding up small *indicia* of evidence, (as in the case of the Broad Street pump), combined with a vivid imagination that enabled him to realise the persons he was writing about. Thus out of an old register, Mr. Whitehead could conjure up a 17th century vicar or an 18th century parish clerk, to the life, quite natural and true. One great characteristic of his work was its thoroughness. The principal subjects with which he dealt were Parish Registers, Church Plate, and Church Bells: on these he was more than a mere local authority: but he also devoted much research

to the history of local Nonconformity, of George Fox, a favourite hero of his, and of Brampton in the 1745, and to supposed cases of centenarism, but this last he abandoned, as he found that people did not like having their centenarian relatives cut down to be mere eighties and nineties.

Much of his work went to ephemeral publications, but to the Transactions of this Society he contributed the following papers:—The Milburns of Talkin: Robert Bowman's supposed Baptismal Register: The Transcripts of the Registers in Brampton Deanery: Old Church Plate in Brampton Deanery: Church Bells in the Deanery of Brampton: Church Bells on the Border: Church Bells in Cumberland Ward, parts I. & II.: The Bells of Carlisle Cathedral: Church Goods in Cumberland, 1552: Brampton Presbyterians (17th century): Church Bells of Leath Ward, parts I, II, III, IV.: Keswick Town Clock Bell: Westmorland Parish Registers: and Parish Registers in Brampton Deanery.* Also jointly with Prof. Baldwin Browne, the Monuments in the Choir and Transepts of Lanercost Abbey. To the Transactions of the now defunct Cumberland and Westmorland Association for the Advancement of Literature and Science, he contributed the following papers: Brampton in 1745: and the Monuments of the Nave and Aisle of Lanercost Abbey: a list which by no means does justice to the work he did for the Asso-

*The proofs of this paper were only passed by Mr. Whitehead a few days before his death. In a covering letter he informed the Editor of the work he proposed to do for the Society:—a concluding paper on the Bells of Leath Ward [Renwick, Skelton, and Threlkeld], to be followed by papers on the Bells of Brigham, Cockermouth, Crosthwaite, Distington, and Holm Cultram. These done, he suggested that the rest of the Cumberland Bells, and of the Cumberland Registers should be undertaken by some younger man.

ciation, for he was a frequent lecturer on his own subjects to the various Societies which composed the Association.* To the columns of the local newspapers he contributed many interesting articles, particularly a series of reviews of local printed parish registers, which appeared from time to time in the Carlisle Patriot: the last of these, that on Kirkoswald register, though in type, had not been printed at the time of his death. In all things connected with printing, Mr. Whitehead was most scrupulously accurate, from the verification of quotations down to the placing of the commas, and the elimination of superfluous capitals: fantastic, indeed, some printing offices may have thought him, but he thoroughly understood the work.

He was a constant attendant at the meetings of this Society, and his absence from its gatherings, will be much regretted particularly from those informal ones which succeed those arranged for in the printed programme. Nor can his place as a worker be easily supplied.

* The following is a list of some of his lectures:—Hall Marks on Silver Plate: Crosthwaite Churchwardens' Accounts: George Fox, the Quaker: A walk round Brampton: Prince Charles Stuart at Brampton: Crabbe's Poem on Parish Registers: etc., etc. Many of the papers in these Transactions were also utilised as lectures at various places.

APPENDIX

(See next page).
