

## EXCURSIONS AND PROCEEDINGS.

*The first meeting of the Society for 1896, extending from Monday, June 22nd, to Saturday, June 27th, and consisted of*

## A PILGRIMAGE ALONG THE ROMAN WALL

*In conjunction with the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle.\**

CONDUCTORS { in Cumberland, Chancellor Ferguson, F.S.A.  
in Northumberland, R. Blair, F.S.A.

THE pilgrims began to assemble in Carlisle early on Monday. The weather in the morning of that day did not look altogether promising; and when those who had joined in the pilgrimage of 1886 recollected that it took place in uninterrupted sunshine, they began to fear that they were going to have no such good fortune on the present occasion. Fortunately, however, the weather, on the first day at least, proved propitious, and the afternoon was one of brilliant sunshine.

Amongst those who took part in the pilgrimage were Chancellor Ferguson, F.S.A., and Miss Ferguson, Carlisle; Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Hodgson, Newby Grange; Mr. and Mrs. MacInnes, and the Misses MacInnes, Rickerby; Mr. T. Hodgkin, F.S.A., Bamborough Keep; Miss Johnston, the Beeches; Colonel Sewell, Brandling Ghyll; Professor Ad. de Ceuleneer, Ghent, Belgium; Mr. and Mrs. Welby, Sheffield; Mr. Bros, Mr. Norris, and Mr. Abell, London; Mr. W. Heward Bell, Seend, Wilts; Mr. T. V. Holmes, F.G.S.; Sir W. Crossman, K.C.M.G., Berwick; Mr. R. Blair (secretary Newcastle Society of Antiquaries); Rev. G. W. and Miss Reynolds, Elwick Hall, county Durham; Mrs. and Mrs. Macarthy, Mr. Ingledew, and Mr. S. S. Carr, Tynemouth; Mr. M. Phillips, Whitney; Dr. Baumgartner, Mr. Irving, Mr. W. H. Knowles, Mr. and Mrs. W. Tomlinson, Mr. M. Mackay, Newcastle; Mr. R. C. Clapham,

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\* For an account of the Pilgrimage of 1886 see these *Transactions*, Vol. ix., pp. 124-151. For that of 1849 see "A History of the Picts or Romano-British Wall." London: George Bell; Newcastle: Richardson; Carlisle: Thurnam, 1849, from the pen of Richard Abbatt, F.R.A.S.

Southdene Tower, Gateshead; Mr. J. P. Gibson, Hexham; Mr. R. O. and Miss Heslop, Corbridge; Mr. W. L. Fletcher, Stoneleigh; Mr. W. G. Collingwood, Coniston; Mr. M. Hair, Carlisle; Miss M. Gibson, Whelprigg; Mr. Robert Bateman, Carlisle; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Simpson, Romanway; Mr. John E. Sealby, Thornthwaite; Mr. W. M. Townley, Grange; Mr. Ecroyd, Marton House; Mr. H. B. Lonsdale, Carlisle; Mr. Robert Wrigley, Brampton; Mrs. Jackson, Miss Beevor, Mr. Robert Crowder; and Mr. T. Wilson, Kendal, (secretary of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society). The local committee were Chancellor Ferguson, Mr. T. H. Hodgson, the Rev. A. Wright, and Mr. R. G. Graham (Beanlands Park).

The party spent Monday forenoon at Carlisle in visiting the Cathedral, the Castle, and the Museum at Tullie House, under the guidance of Chancellor Ferguson. At two o'clock they proceeded by the North British Railway to Kirkbride, where vehicles were in waiting to convey the party to Bowness. That place was reached shortly after three, and the pilgrims, having left the carriages, proceeded to the west end of the village, where, in the neighbourhood of the school-house, the Chancellor pointed out where the Roman Wall commenced. He gave a brief account of the main features of the Great Barrier, which, he said, consisted of (1) a stone Wall, with a ditch on its northern side; (2) a so called Vallum, south of the stone wall, but which has now been proved to be a great ditch, with the earth thrown out of it; and (3) Stations and Watch Towers. At the meeting of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society last year it was suggested that there was a fourth feature—namely a Turf Wall—but that, he thought, was not yet proved.\* It must not, however, be supposed that the Wall was the only fortification which the Romans erected; for there were fortifications all along the coast, of which remains had been found at many places, such as Ellenborough, Moresby, and Ravenglass. There were, in fact, fortifications covering wherever a ship could ride at anchor. After inspecting the camp and church, and one or two other points of interest, the party re-entered the carriages and drove by Port Carlisle to Drumburgh, where the Roman camp was visited under the guidance of the Chancellor, who explained the point here in dispute, namely, whether the Wall went across or round Burgh Marsh. He suggested that, possibly, in some modified condition, it went across the Marsh, where a harbour may probably have existed in Roman times. Sir W. Crossman pointed

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\* *Ante*, pp. 185-191.

out that a camp probably existed at Bowstead Hill, which would guard the east end of the Burgh Marsh, just as Drumburgh did the west end.

The church of Burgh-by-Sands was the first stopping-place after crossing the Marsh: it stands within the area of one of the camps on the Wall.\* The pilgrims next saw what was to be seen of the Roman remains at Beaumont and Kirkandrews-on-Eden. At Kirkandrews Rectory a much welcomed tea was supplied by the Rev. T. O. Sturkey and Mrs. Sturkey. Carlisle was reached about eight o'clock.

Tuesday morning proved very wet and stormy, and a start was not made by the pilgrims from the Great Central Hotel till about 10 o'clock. After crossing Eden Bridge the line of the Wall at Devonshire Banks, Stanwix, near Hyssop Holme Well, was pointed out, and the site of the station at Stanwix was also indicated, but the weather compelled the Chancellor to curtail his remarks, and to shorten the programme. The drive was then continued to Bleatarn, attention being drawn on the way to Drawdykes Castle and other features of interest. At Bleatarn most of the party got out of the conveyances and walked into the fields, the weather having by now taken up. In 1894 and 1895 some excavations were made at Bleatarn with a view to determining the relative age of the Wall and Vallum, but they were not productive of any definite results. † Reaching Irthington the party saw the Saxon mound at that place, and visited the church. At Castlesteads they were shown the "finds" which had been made in the station there, and while some of the party drove on to Walton a number walked through the fields and followed the line of the Wall and Vallum to Walton village. On the way to Lanercost about a dozen of the pilgrims got as far as Hare Hill and afterwards joined their companions at the Priory. Having examined this interesting Augustinian ruin, the party visited Naworth Castle, and then proceeded by train to Gilsland and thence in conveyances to the Shaws Hotel. Mr. Hodgson and others rendered good service during the day by assisting Chancellor Ferguson in explaining and describing features of interest.

On Wednesday morning the weather was fine, and the pilgrims having travelled by train to Naworth, drove to Hare Hill and then followed the line of the road to Birdoswald. At Hare Hill there is,

\* At the church Chancellor Ferguson pointed out the entrance of the bone-hole—a stone with a round hole in it, about which several absurd conjectures have been made.

† These *Transactions*, Vol. xiii., pp. 453, 462; and *Ante*, pp. 185, 186, 191.

as readers of Dr. Bruce's book are aware, "a fragment of the Wall which stands nine feet ten inches high. It is, however, divested of its facing-stones. Hutton, speaking of the Wall here, says: 'I viewed this relic with admiration. I saw no part higher.'" The pilgrims found that the facing-stones of the relic had been "restored," and the story was told that some years ago one of Lord Carlisle's officials took them away, thinking that they might be useful for building purposes, but put them back again in obedience to orders from his employer, who was not at all pleased with the interference which had been made with this precious bit of the remains of the Wall. Leaving Hare Hill the party drove to Coombe Crag, and examined with much interest the inscriptions which the Roman quarrymen had made upon the rocks. At Appletree, the next stopping place, the party stood upon the Turf Wall and discussed the question whether it was anterior or subsequent to the building of the Wall. This turf or sod Wall is an exceptional feature of the Roman remains, and was only discovered last year. Mr. Bates, the historian of Northumberland, had curiously enough, a short time before the discovery was made, expressed the opinion that such a Wall existed. Sections were cut through the ground to a point south of the Vallum in 1895, and Mr. Haverfield, who conducted the operations, has made a report giving the results.\* Briefly,—it was found that at Appletree between the Wall and the Vallum a Turf Wall had been built. The suggestion is that the Turf Wall ran from sea to sea, but was destroyed to make way for the Stone Wall. Sir William Crossman was asked by a number of his fellow pilgrims to state his opinion upon the question of date, and he said that he thought the sod Wall must have been a second or reinforcing line of defence. It was clear to him, looking to the fact that the Stone Wall was overlooked by a hill close to the north of it, that here was the very weakest point of the Great Barrier, and it was natural that the Romans should have strengthened the position by the erection of a second line of defence such as this Turf Wall seemed to be. There was a trace of a double ditch to the Stone Wall, and if they went into the other field they would notice it. His opinion was, subject to further discoveries, that this Turf Wall was an exceptional means of defence, nothing like it occurring elsewhere. The next stage of the journey was the well-known camp at Birdoswald, which was examined under the guidance of the Rev. A. Wright. It was now getting towards one o'clock, the hour fixed for luncheon at the Shaws Hotel, but the fine air of the district had

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\* *Ante*, pp. 185-191.

whetted the appetite, and many were glad to avail themselves of the opportunity which was afforded them of temporarily satisfying the cravings of hunger with a glass of milk from the clean, cool, dairy.

After luncheon at the Shaws Hotel, the conveyances were re-entered and the party drove to Gilsland Vicarage where they were received by the Rev. A. Wright, who had been of useful service to the pilgrims during the journey from Hare Hill. On reaching the Vicarage, however, a heavy rain set in, which had the effect of making the pilgrims cry "halt" for a time. In the Vicarage garden an interesting bit of the Wall exists, and Mr. Wright has some relics of the Roman time which people visiting the Wall are always welcome to see. A good programme had been arranged for the afternoon, but a fearful storm of rain prevented it from being carried out, except by two or three reckless and athletic individuals. Some of the party returned early to the Shaws Hotel; others took refuge at Greathead.

At the Poltross Burn the duties of the Chancellor, as conductor, ceased, and devolved upon Mr. Blair, under whose guidance the rest of the programme was carried out, and in fine weather.

In Cumberland the line of the **STONE WALL** was marked by red flags: of the **VALLUM** by yellow: Roman roads by white flags, and Roman camps by red and white flags.

#### WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH AND 17TH, 1896.

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The second two days' excursion of this Society, 1896, took place on Wednesday and Thursday, September 16th and 17, the members meeting at noon on the former day, at the Waterhead Hotel, Coniston. There were present Chancellor Ferguson, F.S.A., Carlisle, president; the Rev. R. B. Billinge, Urswick; Mr. W. G. Collingwood and Mrs. Collingwood, Coniston; Mr. Gillings, Broughton-in-Furness; Mr. S. L. Petty and Mrs. Petty, Ulverston; Miss Gough and friend, Mealsgate; Mr. John Rawlinson Ford, Leeds; Mr. Mr. Stephen A. Marshall, Skelwith; Mr. Cedric Vaughan and the Misses Vaughan, Millom; the Rev. F. A. Malleson, Broughton-in-Furness; Mr. G. B. Postlethwaite, Westminster; Mr. G. B. Simpson and Mrs. Simpson, Roman Way; Mr. J. Simpson-Yates, Penrith; Mr. W. H. R. Kerry and Mrs. Kerry, Windermere; Mr. Joseph Cartmell, C.E., Brigham; Mr. W. G. M. Townley, Grange-over-Sands; Mr. J. H. Nicholson, Wilmslow; Mrs. Poynting; the Bishop of Barrow, Mrs. Ware, and party; Mr. T. Barlow-Massicks; Mr. George Watson, Penrith; Mr. J. Wrigley and Mrs. Wrigley, Seascale

scale; Mr. Harper Gaythorpe, Barrow; Mr. Richard Carruthers, Carlisle; Mr. W. L. Fletcher, Stoneleigh; Mr. A. Severn, Miss Severn, Mr. A. Severn, jun.; Mr. T. Wilson, secretary, Kendal; and others.

#### CONISTON HALL.

Owing to recent heavy rains the proposed visit to Hummer Bridge for the inspection of pre-historic earthworks at Bleaberry Haws had to be deferred, the long wet grass making it impossible. The route was therefore changed, and Coniston Hall was the first stop in the journey. Here Mr. W. G. Collingwood read a paper on the Hall, written by Mr. H. S. Cowper, F.S.A., and printed in these *Transactions*, volume ix., p. 439.

#### TORVER CHURCH AND THE CRANMER DOCUMENTS.

The next point of call was Torver Church, where the members of the Society were met and welcomed by the rector, the Rev. T. Ellwood, M.A., who in a paper read in the church, said that the manor of Torver belonged formerly to the abbot and monks of Furness. It changed hands several times and in 1738 it was purchased, together with the manor of Ulverston, by the Duke of Montague, and from him it descended by marriage to the Duke of Buccleuch. Now it belongs to the Crown. Originally Torver was a chapelry dependent upon the Church of Ulverston, and was probably served by a reader. In 1538 a faculty for the burial of the dead was granted by Archbishop Cranmer.\* There have been three churches on the site of the present church, the last having been consecrated as St. Luke's Church by the late Bishop of Carlisle. The following is a list of incumbents for two centuries back, with dates of preferment: Edwd. Walker 1688, Andrew Naughtley, 1707, John Stoup 1709, Thomas Poole 1716, John Hall, 1718, Robert Walker (the Wonderful Walker) 1734, John Hastwell 1736, Robert Bell 1740, Matthew Inman Carter 1807, and Thomas Ellwood 1861. The Rector pointed out that he and his two predecessors had held the living of Coniston 156 years.

Carriages were then resumed to Sunny Bank; here the members

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\* A question was asked as to how it was that Archbishop Cranmer should grant a faculty for the right of burial at Torver, which was in the province of York. The Rector replied that in the province of York faculties were always issued from Canterbury, and this was so still. Special licenses for marriages, dispensations to hold livings in plurality, &c., all came from the Archbishop of Canterbury, through the Master of Faculties. These faculties and dispensations were a relic of papal power, and King Henry VIII. transferred this power from the Pope to the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Stat. 25 Hen. 8, c. 21.)

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embarked in boats for Peel Island, where interesting excavation work has recently been conducted. Mr. Collingwood, who has had this work on hand, pointed out the foundations of rough walling and chambers partly cut in the rock, which seemed to indicate dwellings and fortifications of a rude type. At the evening meeting he exhibited a model of the island, showing plan of remains and position of the quarries from which the stone had been got for building: together with iron nails and rivets, fragments of pottery, apparently early mediæval, part of the lip of a freestone mortar, slabs of worked millstone grit, and specimens of the light, porous, purple slag found on the island. Authorities in the neighbourhood were divided on the nature of this slag, which did not resemble any produced in modern smelting works or ancient bloomeries.

The members were conveyed by the steam Gondola up the lake, after their inspection of Peel Island, and on the way the sites of four old bloomeries were pointed out on the west side of the lake. Dinner was at the Waterhead Hotel, Coniston. At a later hour the annual business meeting of the Society was held, when Chancellor Ferguson was re-elected president; Mr. T. Wilson, secretary; and Mr. W. C. Crewdson, treasurer. Mr. John Fell was elected a vice-president of the Council. The Council was re-elected, with the additions of Mr. W. G. Collingwood, representing Coniston district; Colonel Sewell, representing Mid-Cumberland; and Mr. Joseph Swainson, representing the Kendal district, who fill vacancies caused by retirement. Mr. Joseph Simpson, of Roman Way, was elected an auditor, in the place of Mr. Frank Wilson, who has left the district. The following new members were elected:—John Cock, Allerdale House, Cocker-mouth; the Rev. F. A. Malleon, Broughton-in-Furness; George B. Postlethwaite, Holly Brake, Chislehurst; David Burns, Stanwix, Carlisle; Asher and Co., Covent Garden, London; the Rev. J. Cropper, Seaton; the Rev. Canon Trench, Kendal; the Rev. W. S. Sykes, Millom; Dr. John Kendall, Coniston.

Subsequently, the Rev. T. Ellwood read a paper on "High Furness, its bloomeries, and forges."\* This was followed by papers on "The Old Duddon Furnace," by Mr. T. Barlow-Massicks; and a paper on "Pre-historic Remains in Furness," by Mr. Harper Gaythorpe. Both these papers will appear in these *Transactions*.

#### BROUGHTON-IN-FURNESS.

The members left Coniston on Thursday morning for Broughton,

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\* Printed in these *Transactions*, Vol. viii., pp. 85-92.

and conveyances were taken to the Stone Circle at Swinside, the journey being performed in a perfect deluge of rain.

The Secretary (Mr. T. Wilson) read extracts from a paper on "A Group of Cumberland Megaliths," submitted by Mr. C. W. Dymond, M.I.C.E., F.S.A.,\* to the Society, at Workington, in June, 1880, from which it appeared that the number of stones remaining in the Circle at Swinside is 55, of which 32 are still standing, but many have fallen inwards. One of the stones has been rent by a rowan tree, but this, it is noticed, is now dead. The original Circle was a perfect one, and is 92 feet in diameter. Tradition says that at one time there was a stone in the centre of the Circle, but of this there is no trace, and the "oldest inhabitant" can give no information on the subject.

Subsequently Broughton Tower was visited, where a paper on the building was read by Mr. J. Fell, and a paper on Broughton Church by the Vicar, the Rev. F. A. Malleon. A flying visit was paid to the Church to inspect a piece of walling, said locally to be Anglo-Saxon, but which presents none of the characteristics of that work. The party left Broughton at 5 p.m. by trains in both directions, after an interesting two days' excursion, although Thursday's experience of weather will not soon be forgotten.

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\* Printed in these *Transactions*, Vol. v., pp. 47-50.