

In Memoriam.



WILLIAM SLATER CALVERLEY,
VICAR OF ASPATRIA.

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In Memoriam.

IT is with deep regret that we record the death of the Rev. William Slater Calverley, F.S.A., vicar of Aspatria, and a most valued member of the Council of this Society. It took place on Wednesday, September 21, 1898, at Hayborough, near Maryport. He had not enjoyed good health for some years, heart disease, with complications, having prevented the full use of his remarkable powers. He was a native of the neighbourhood of Leeds, and completed his education at Oxford, though he did not stay long enough to take a degree. He was ordained deacon at Carlisle in 1872, by Bishop Goodwin, and was appointed curate in the parish of Eskdale in the south of Cumberland. In the following year when he took priest's orders, he removed to Maryport, where he also served as a curate. His stay there, however, was short. In 1874 he became curate of Dearham, and in 1877, on a vacancy occurring, he was appointed vicar. There he did good work, including the restoration of the church and the enlargement of the churchyard. He also greatly improved the vicarage, and started the movement for building the district church at Ellenborough. On the retirement of the Rev. T. W. Powell in 1885, Bishop Goodwin preferred Mr. Calverley to the living of Aspatria, and he brought to the discharge of his duties the same active spirit as had made its mark at Dearham, but increasingly hampered by ill-health.

Any notice of Mr. Calverley would be inadequate without a reference to his genius in antiquarian research. Some of the best papers in the *Transactions* of this Society are by him. In one department, that of the ancient stone crosses which are to be found at Gosforth, Bewcastle, Ruthwell, and elsewhere he was an unsurpassed authority; the felicity with which he interpreted the Gosforth cross will remain a brilliant example of the success with which imagination points the way to learning, as Dr. Tyndall said it pointed the way to science. His assistance in exploring the Roman fort at Hardknott and as one of the committee of experts who superintended the excavations on the Roman Wall was also of the utmost value. To the *Transactions* of this Society Mr. Calverley contributed the following papers:—Notes on Sculptured Stones at Dearham Church: Illustrations of Teutonic Mythology from early Christian Monuments at Brigham and Dearham; Sculptured Runic Grave-Blocks at Dearham (conjointly with Prof. Stephens); The Sculptured Cross at Dearham; Early Sculptured Cross Shaft at Dearham Church; Some Ancient Dials in the Diocese of Carlisle; Sculptured Stone at Isell Church, bearing the “Svastika,” “Triskele” and other Symbols: Coped or Hogbacked Tombstone at St. Michael’s Church, Bongate, Old Appleby; Cross Fragments at St. Michael’s Church, Workington; Notes on some Coped pre-Norman Tombstones at Aspatria, Lowther, Cross Canonby, and Plumbland; Red Sandstone Cross Shaft at Cross Canonby; Fragments of a British Cross and many Early English and other Grave Covers found in Bromfield Churchyard; Pre-Norman Cross Fragments at Aspatria, Workington, Distington, Bridekirk, Gilcrux, Plumb-

land and Isell ; Fragments of pre-Norman Crosses at Workington and Bromfield, and the Standing Cross at Roccliffe ; Bewcastle Cross ; The Roman Fort on Hardknott, known as Hardknott Castle (2 papers) ; Pre-Norman Cross Shaft at Heversham ; and Shrine-Shaped or Coped Tombstones at Gosforth. The above is far from exhausting the list of papers for which his name appears on the Society's *agenda*, and for which he made the drawings, without, however, completing the letterpress for publication, nor does it include the communications he made from time to time to the Society of Antiquaries of London, and the Royal Archæological Institution. Shortly before his death he issued the prospectus of a book to be called :—

“Notes on the Early Sculptured Crosses, Shrines, and Monuments in the Present Diocese of Carlisle. By William Slater Calverley, F.S.A., Vicar of Aspatria. Member of the Council of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society. Local Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, London, &c., &c.” The following is an extract from the prospectus :—

The Book is dedicated to the memory of the late Bishop of Carlisle, Harvey Goodwin, D.D., who took great interest in the work, and whose permission for dedication to him was given in 1886. The Chancellor of Carlisle has kindly promised to revise the proof sheets.

Besides matter already published in the *Transactions* of the local society and other places, the work will contain many illustrations of newly discovered fragments and monuments which have never been interpreted or illustrated, together with the author's opinions, and suggestions concerning the bearing of the whole upon the state of society and the religious development of this most interesting region of Cumbria, the very country of the early poets Taliesin and Merlin, and of the

British Kings of the North, Urien Rheged, the great Cumbrian chieftain, and his son Owain, at the period closely following the Roman occupation, and when such men as St. David in Wales, and St. Kentigern in Strathclyde, were re-lighting the torch of Christianity and laying the foundation of the system which has done so much to establish the position of Great Britain among the Nations.

He did not live to finish the book, which had been in contemplation for many years: the work of completion has been undertaken by his friend, our member, Mr. W. G. Collingwood, who was well acquainted with and shared Mr. Calverley's views on the interesting matters dealt with in the book.

Mr. Calverley became a member of this Society in 1877; at the time of his death he was a member of its council; he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1885, and was also one of that Society's local secretaries for Cumberland. He was also a member of the Royal Archæological Institute, at whose annual meetings, as at the meetings of this Society, he was a constant attendant, and his absence from both will be much regretted by numerous friends.
