

ART. VII.—*On a Brass found in Arthuret Church.* By the Rev. CANON BOWER, M.A., Vicar of St. Cuthbert's, Carlisle.

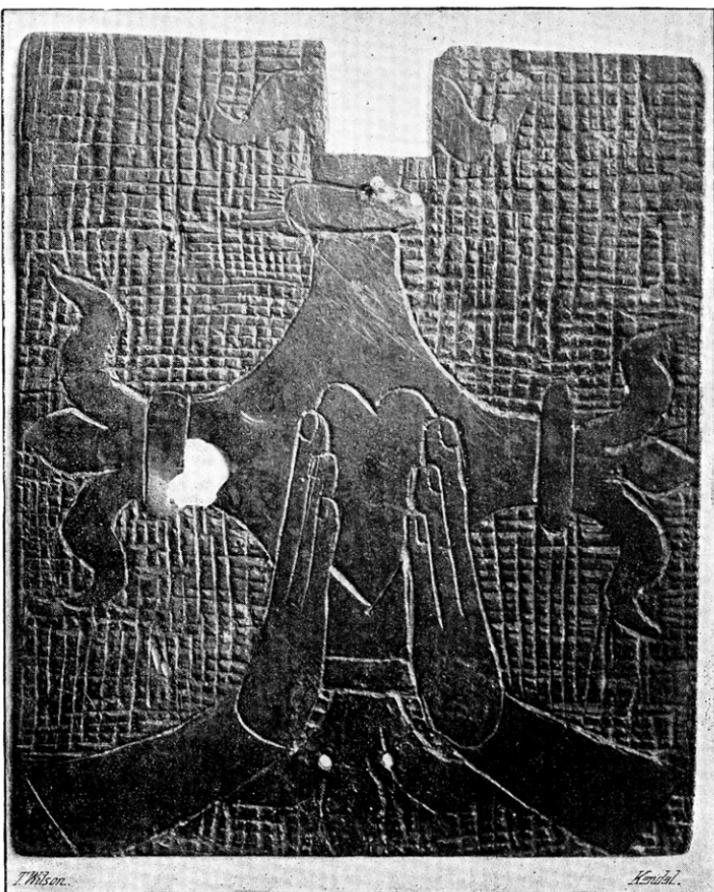
Read at Carlisle, June 20th, 1900.

SHORTLY after the publication of my paper on “Brasses in the Diocese of Carlisle” *my attention was called by Mr. Mill Stephenson, F.S.A., to a rubbing which he possessed of a brass in Arthuret church. As I had visited the church and diligently searched for brasses and found none, I was at a loss to know what had become of this brass. However, Mr. Stephenson referred me to the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, 2nd series, vol. iv., p. 316 (April 29th, 1869), where it was stated that the brass had been exhibited by Sir Frederick Graham, of Netherby. This gave the clue to its discovery. The present rector of Arthuret, the Rev. Ivor C. Graham, nephew of Sir Frederick, searched until he found it under a glass case with other curiosities in the hall. It is his intention to place it again in the parish church.

Sir A. W. Franks in the article in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries says :—

The brass exhibited by Sir Frederick Graham is a new variety to me in such monuments. It represents two hands holding a heart which rests on a cross fleury. A heart was not an unusual device in the Middle Ages and is considered to refer to the soul. Mr. Haines has collected in his manual (p. cvij.) all that is to be found on the subject, as far as monumental brasses are concerned, and Miss Hartshorne has published a monograph of the whole subject, under the title “Enshrined Hearts.” Mr. Haines states that the hearts held by hands issuing from clouds are to be found at Loddon, Norfolk, 1462; Elmstead, Essex, c. 1530; Caversfield, Bucks, 1533;

* These *Transactions*, vol. xiii., art. xii.



BRASS FOUND IN ARTHURET CHURCH.

(TO FACE P. 114.)

and Southacre, Norfolk, c. 1430, where the heart, now mutilated, bore the text from Ps. xxi. 5, "In manus tuas, Domine, commendo spiritum meum, quia redemisti me, Domine deus veritatis." Such memorials have been stated to indicate that the deceased had been able to perform a vow which he had made; but they have more probably different meanings according to inscriptions that accompany them, and are intended to indicate a trust in the presence of God (Haines, p. cviij.) Occasionally the heart seems to have been placed over the tomb in which the heart only was buried, as at Wiggenhall St. Mary, Norfolk, and at Saltwood, Kent; but in these cases it is not held up in the hands of the deceased.

The probable date of this memorial is the fifteenth century. It was found in the church at Arthuret, under a heap of bones, and has probably been torn off some ancient tomb in Puritan times.

The brass was discovered at the restoration of the church in 1868 above the Netherby vault in the north aisle of the chancel, where the organ now stands. The Rev. A. G. Loftie, rector of Great Salkeld, and then curate of Arthuret, obtained it from the workmen, and retained it in his possession until Sir Frederick Graham saw it and sent it to the Society of Antiquaries.

In no other brass in the diocese do hands hold hearts. But several instances occur among the effigies; viz.:—At Cartmel both Sir John Harrington and his lady hold them; at Crosthwaite, Sir John de Derwentwater and his lady; at Workington, Sir Christopher Curwen and his wife, Elizabeth de Hudelston; and the unknown figure at Kirkland.

This brass is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $6\frac{1}{4}$ broad.