

PROCEEDINGS.

APRIL MEETING.

IN pursuance of the resolution passed by the Society at Seascale (June 11th, 1902) a meeting for the reading of papers was held at Carlisle, in the Art Gallery of Tullie House, on Thursday, April 30th, 1903, from 2 to 4 and from 5 to 7 p.m., the arrangements being made by the Chairman of Council and the Secretaries. Nearly fifty members and friends attended, among whom were the Bishop of Barrow-in-Furness (president), Chancellor Prescott, Mr. W. O. Roper, F.S.A., and Mr. R. D. Marshall (vice-presidents), the Rev. Canon Bower, Mr. T. H. Hodgson, the Rev. F. L. H. Millard, Dr. C. A. Parker, Colonel Sewell, and the Rev. J. Whiteside (members of Council), Mr. T. Wilson (hon. sec.), Mr. W. G. Collingwood (editor); the Revs. H. D. Ford, A. G. Loftie, A. F. Still Hill, C. T. Phillips, and S. Swann, Captain Spencer Ferguson, the Misses Noble, Miss K. Marston, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. M. Parker, Dr. Newman, Messrs. T. Carey, A. B. Clarke, T. H. B. Graham, J. and H. B. Greenop, J. P. Hinds, R. M. Lidbetter, J. H. Martindale, H. Penfold, and others.

At the outset, in the absence of the President, Mr. T. H. Hodgson was asked to take the chair, on the motion of Canon Bower. The first business was the election of new members as following :—Mr. T. R. Chamley; Mr. Joseph Dickinson, Red How, Lamplugh; Mr. Henry Staveley Hill, New Oxley, Wolverhampton; Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson, F.S.A., Alnwick; Mr. George Dale Oliver, Howard Place, Carlisle; the Rev. C. T. Phillips, West Seaton Vicarage; Mr. A. W. Rumney, Keswick; the Rev. T. Sharp, Barton Vicarage; the Rev. Horatio Spurrier, M.A., Irton Vicarage; Miss Swann; Mr. John Watson, Meadow View, Gosforth; Miss Elizabeth Wilson, Seascale.

Mr. J. H. Martindale then read his paper on "Cleator Church" (Art. X.), Dr. Parker described "The Danish Camp at Gosforth" (Art. XI.), also exhibiting a small highly-polished celt from Moresby, of a bright, hard, greenstone (serpentine?) The Rev. A. G. Loftie then shewed a portion of a burial urn, dug up recently at the top of the hill half way between Great Salkeld and Lazonby stations. The urn was found complete and full of bones; all but the piece

exhibited was reinterred. This fragment, as to material and workmanship, resembled Bronze Age burial urns already found in the neighbourhood; but the ornament was unusual, consisting of sets or stripes of indentations, irregularly but always vertically disposed, and apparently produced by pressing against the wet clay a piece of cord with hard and closely twisted strands, or a bit of turned wood. This fragment Mr. Loftie presented to Tullie House Museum.

Canon Bower then shewed and described a large quantity of Roman remains recently discovered in Carlisle (see these *Transactions*, N.S. III., p. 412), some of the exhibits being contributed by Captain Spencer Ferguson; after which Canon Bower read his paper on "Busts, Portrait-Medallions, etc.," (Art. VII). Mr. J. P. Hinds next gave part of his essay on "Local Worthies buried in Westminster Abbey" (Art. VI.), and the Rev. C. T. Phillips exhibited an ancient sword found near Workington.

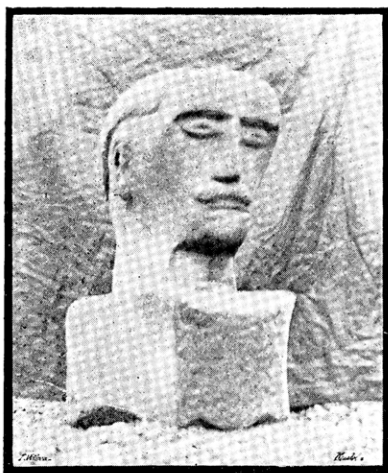
This sword, which had been dug up recently, during the making of a new road about 80 yards north of the river Derwent, upon a gravel ridge known as Oysterbanks, was found in two pieces, one 19 inches long and comprising the pommel, guard, and part of the blade, complete though greatly rusted; and the other a bent-up part of the blade, including the point. This part when straightened out would be $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, making the total length (if nothing is missing) $31\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The total weight is 3lb. 4oz. The pommel is of the large size common in Viking Age swords, measuring $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, 2 inches in breadth, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height; dome-shaped, but too rusted to show detail. The grip is $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length; the breadth of the tang where it joins the guard is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches; its thickness $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. The guard is straight, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches long; narrowest where it joins the blade, but widening out to $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and apparently holding the remains of a knob or button, as seen in Viking swords. This is only in one limb of the guard; the other seems to have lost its knob. The blade is 2 inches wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick at the guard. At $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the guard there is a sudden thickening, which seems to be the mounting of the scabbard, and this thickening continues more or less to the point, which is greatly enlarged, apparently from the rusting of the scabbard tip to the blade point. Above this, on the concave side of the bend, the ridge of the blade is visible. An example of a sword in an iron sheath bent up like this is given in Du Chaillu's *Viking Age*, I., p. 137. The sword from the Hesket tumulus, now in Tullie House, is broken and bent up, and interlaced patterns can be seen on its guard. The breaking and crumpling suggest that the sword was buried with its dead owner, but no signs of an interment are reported from the place where it was found. Derwent-mouth was, of course, a great port, with Roman and pre-Norman remains.

Two bronze armlets from Thirlmere were next exhibited by Mr. R. D. Marshall and described by the Editor (Art. III.), and the meeting was adjourned for an hour, during which the Council met, by Dr. Newman's kind invitation, in his office. A thunderstorm somewhat diminished the attendance for the second half of the programme, which was opened by Mr. T. H. Hodgson, F.S.A., with "Further Explorations (March, 1903) of the Vallum" (Art. XIX). Miss Noble read her paper on "Askham Church" (Art. V). The Editor read contributions by Canon Rawnsley (Art. XXI.) and Prof. T. McKenny Hughes (Art. II). In connection with the Sizergh neighbourhood, Mr. W. O. Roper, F.S.A., called attention to the ancient corduroy road in the Gilpin Valley, which was visited by the Society later in the year.

By this time the Bishop of Barrow-in-Furness had taken the chair, arriving from a confirmation at a distance. He mentioned the fresh loss to the Society in the death of Mr. J. A. Wheatley, one of the very few original members still on the list; and a resolution was carried asking the President to convey the condolences of the Society to the families of the late Mr. Wheatley and the late Rev. J. Brunskill.

The Bishop then gave a brief account of some passages in Bishop Nicolson's Diaries, part IV. (Art. I).

A group of exhibits were next shewn, recently given to Tullie House by the family of the late Rev. J. Brunskill, and consisting of an axe-hammer, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, 4 inches broad, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick, the hole being $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, remarkable as being of a comparatively soft freestone; a fragment of a quern; two pieces of "Samian" ware; the base of a Roman vase; a mortar, stoup, cresset-lamp, or "incense cup," from the neighbourhood of Ormside, of cream coloured freestone, nearly cubical in shape, 7 inches high, and $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches square in breadth, with the edges stop-chamfered, the chamfer terminated with incised curves, and every side incised with a six-rayed circle. Also a head (figured opposite) found in the cutting where the Midland Railway crosses the Roman road a little north of Appleby (*i.e.*, close to Maidenhold or Redlands Camp?) of local red freestone, measuring 13 inches high on a base of the same stone, which is 8 inches high, and $10\frac{3}{4}$ by $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad. The base looks like carved stone from some architectural feature of a house. The head has been fixed into it by a threaded bolt, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick, cemented into the stone with material like Portland cement; the same cement has also been used round the edges of the socket hole. The face has been painted flesh colour, the hair red, the back and sides of the base red, and the curved chamfer white. The front panel of the base is not dressed smooth like the rest, and as none of



SCULPTURED HEAD
FROM THE ROMAN ROAD NEAR APPLEBY.

TO FACE P. 336.

the surface appears to have been taken away it does not seem that any inscription has been chiselled off, but that this face joined the block to its original place in a building. The head (not very well detailed in the photograph) has a turned-up moustache and an imperial; high collar and cropped hair. The back and top of the head are left rough, as if it was meant to be seen only from below. From the site of the find Mr. Brunskill thought it might be Roman, and Dr. A. S. Murray, to whom he sent the photograph reproduced, said that the way in which the hair turned back at the temples was characteristic of emperors such as Gordianus I. (228-244 A.D.), but that if the carving were of Roman date it might possibly be a local British attempt to represent Gordianus II., whose bald forehead in coins somewhat resembles this. Dr. Murray, however, had not seen the original of the photograph, and a careful inspection suggests that it is rustic work of the nineteenth century, and meant for an ornament to a gatepost.

"Lammerside Castle," by Mr. H. S. Cowper, F.S.A. (Art. IV.), and notes on stone implements from Walney, by Mr. Harper Gaythorpe, F.S.A., Scot. (Art. XXIV.), were next read by Mr. Collingwood; the latter additionally illustrated by a series of over 50 photographs of stone and bronze implements, chiefly from Furness. The meeting concluded with a report on digging at Castlerigg, Keswick, in search of Derwentwater Castle, by Messrs. T. H. Hodgson and W. G. Collingwood (Art. XXII).

At half-past seven a party of the members dined together at the Great Central Hotel, the Bishop of Barrow-in-Furness in the chair.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting and first excursion took place in the South Westmorland district, with headquarters at Grange-over-Sands, on Thursday and Friday, June 25th and 26th, 1903, the committee for local arrangements being Messrs. T. H. Hodgson, F.S.A., T. Wilson, and J. F. Curwen. Very fine weather favoured the first day, and the attendance outnumbered any previous meeting; 117 places were taken for the coaches, and many others followed in private carriages and on cycles. Among those present were the Bishop of Barrow-in-Furness (president); Mr. T. H. Hodgson, F.S.A., Mrs. and Miss Hodgson; Colonel and Mrs. Sewell; Mr. W. D. Crewdson; the Rev. J. Whiteside; Messrs. T. Wilson and J. F. Curwen (hon. secs.), and W. G. Collingwood (editor); the Rev. Canons Ayre, Lonsdale, Hudson (Horncastle); the Revs. G. E. P. Reade, A. J. Heelis, W. R. Hopper, J. Park, C. F. Husband, A. F. Still Hill; the Rev. F. S.

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and Mrs. Alston; Miss Quirk; Mrs. Metcalfe-Gibson; Mr. and Mrs. Petty; Mr. F. W. Crewdson; Miss Gough; Mr. T. R. Chamley; Mr. A. L. Dixon; Mr. W. N. and Miss Thompson; Mr. J. Harrison; Mrs. and Miss Carrick; Mr. John Marshall and party; Miss Cropper; Mr. C. J. Cropper and party; Mr. J. Rawlinson Ford and party; Mr. W. G. Groves; Mr. J. Wiper; Dr. and Mrs. Fawcett; Mr. J. Gunson; Miss Ullock and party; Miss K. Marston; Mrs. Mason (Kirkby Stephen); Dr. Mason; Miss Richardson; Mr. J. Coward (Ulverston); Mrs. Todd and party; Miss Creighton; Mr. C. L. Braithwaite; Mr. F. Sessions; Mrs. Brecks (Warcop); Miss Donald; Miss Theodora Wilson; Mr. A. Fothergill and party; Mr. Stephen Marshall and party; Mr. J. Greenop; Miss L. Reynolds; Mr. John Watson and party; Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson, F.S.A.; Mr. F. Nicholson; Mr. J. A. Barnes; and others.

On arriving at Oxenholme carriages were taken for Kendal Church, where the Anglian Cross fragment was described by the Editor (Art. XXV.), and then onward to Sizergh Castle, which was opened to the Society by the courtesy of Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G. Here Mr. John F. Curwen gave a comprehensive explanation of the development of the building from the original pele tower.

By the wayside, near Lawrence House, about a mile south of Sizergh, a halt was made to look at a site pointed out by Mr. J. A. Barnes as a possible "burh." Since our meeting the place has been examined by Professor T. McKenny Hughes, F.R.S., who writes:—"My attention was first called by Mr. Bagot to the mound east of the road near the top of the rise going north from Levens Bridge. This appears to me to be a natural feature. It is one of the many heaps of washed moraine matter which occur along the lower valley of the Kent. The material consists of fragments of rocks, which are found further north in place. It is made up of layers of sand, gravel or large boulders, all showing current-bedding and other evidence of having been sorted by water. In a cultivated area the steepness of these mounds is often exaggerated by ploughing for ages close up to their base, and finally their resemblance to artificial mounds is further increased by their having timber planted on them and a ditch and bank constructed round them to protect the young trees. When such mounds are prominent objects, or otherwise conveniently placed, they have often been utilised by those who sought a strong site for a burh or a conspicuous spot for interment. On the west side of the road close by, there is a similar mound, though not so well defined, which was used as a burial place, and there may have been interments on the top of the mound at the east side also, but I have never heard of any. The mound itself was not thrown up for any such purpose, but is entirely a natural structure. It has been

planted, enclosed by a fence, and used for ages as a gravel and sand pit, so that the whole of the centre has long ago been carted away and the present delusive appearance of fosse and vallum accidentally produced."

At Levens Hall, after luncheon and a stroll in the gardens, Mr. J. F. Curwen described the leading points in the history and architecture (see his little volume on the subject: T. Wilson, Kendal), and the party made the most of the opportunity kindly afforded by Captain Bagot, M.P., of viewing the interesting interior and the many relics and works of art it contains. The President proposed the usual votes of thanks to Sir Gerald Strickland and to Captain Bagot, which all present accorded with more than usual heartiness.

On leaving Levens the carriages containing the leaders of the party unfortunately distanced the rest, and arrived at Stakes Moss too soon. Mr. J. A. Barnes having shown and described the Corduroy Road (Art. XIII.), his audience was dispersing when the second and larger part of the company appeared, to whom he obligingly repeated his description. This delay made it necessary for most of the members to forego the sight of Nether Levens, where Mr. J. F. Curwen found but few hearers for his notes on the ancient family and hall (Art. XVIII.).

Heversham Church was described by the Rev. R. H. Law, curate, and Mr. Curwen, and the Anglian Cross-shaft in the porch by the Editor. While viewing the church plate Mr. Crawford Hodgson, F.S.A., pointed out the whistle at the base of the handle of the flagon, a curious survival of an ancient drinking custom. The company was then kindly entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Curwen at Horncop, and took train for Grange.

A large party sat down to dinner at the Hazelwood Hydropathic, the President in the chair. After dinner a Council meeting was held, at which Messrs. C. J. Ferguson, F.S.A., and F. H. M. Parker were nominated as delegates of the Society to the Archæological Congress in London. Mr. Parker subsequently represented the Society at the Congress.

At the Annual Meeting the officers were re-elected with the addition of Messrs. R. D. Marshall and William Farrar, and the Rev. James Wilson, M.A., as vice-presidents, and the substitution of Mr. F. H. M. Parker for the Rev. James Wilson on the Council.

As the April meeting had disposed of the paper-work before the Society, this evening's business was not so heavy as usual. The President exhibited a hymn book with music in its original Little Giddings binding, in exceptional preservation. He said that the Anglican nuns of Little Giddings, the community described in "John Inglesant," did not make these bindings, as popularly

supposed, but that when their sewing of books is mentioned it should be understood of their peculiar way of stitching the sheets. The reason of the almost universal decay of these once brilliant covers is that the ornament was wrought with peacock's feathers, which are liable to the attacks of insects. This volume, long and carefully preserved in the Bishop of Barrow's family, shows the original effect better than any example of this binding in the British Museum.

On behalf of Mrs. Fletcher, of Ashville, Stourbridge, the Editor then showed a relic discovered in the foundation of Brigham Church Tower (Cumberland). It is a pin of bronze, somewhat sharply pointed and measuring $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length, with one end flattened out and bent into a loop. Through the loop is passed a small ring, of which the diameter, taken on the lesser axis, is less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. The whole weighs $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Though the ring is slightly incomplete, it cannot be a penannular fibula, because the pin is far too thick and the ring too small; but it resembles a silver hair pin (though less ornate) figured by Dr. J. Anderson in *Scotland in the Iron Age* (p. 27) and a bronze hair pin from a Scottish "broch" (p. 223), in which, however, the ring is not loose. Brigham Church Tower was dated "about 1220" in the paper in these *Transactions* (iv. p. 156), by the late Isaac Fletcher, M.P., F.R.S., who took a great share in the restoration of 1864-5. It was then that the workmen, while underpinning the foundation, discovered this relic—bent, though not broken as at present—and gave it to Mrs. Fletcher, who has now given it to Tullie House Museum.

Friday, June 26th, opened with heavy rain, which diminished our numbers. Only about three dozen assembled in Beetham Church to hear the Rev. Austin Slack's address, which was chiefly taken from the MS. "Complete depository" of the Rev. W. Hutton, 1760; and after examination of the original volume, Mr. J. Rawlinson Ford made an offer, since accepted by the Council, to transcribe the book for republication as one of the Society's *Tract Series*. The base of a cross in the churchyard and the well-preserved early Dial on the right hand side of the priest's door were noted, and the party adjourned, in the wet, to Beetham Hall, where Mr. J. F. Curwen described the features of this ivy-covered ruin (Art. XVII.).

Luncheon was taken at the Wheatsheaf Inn, though one or two preferred to explore the Beetham Cave, under the guidance of Mr. Hastings of the Mill, without finding anything of particular antiquarian interest, though the cave may, no doubt, have been used as a hiding-place or habitation, for which it is well adapted.

The rain moderated as the carriages reached Hazelslack Tower, where the rural policeman was in attendance to watch the intruders, who nevertheless were permitted to enter. It had been intended

also to visit Arnside Tower, but as some of the raiders wished to catch an early train back to their northern homes, Mr. J. A. Barnes here read his notes on both of these ancient fortresses as follows :—

HAZELSLACK AND ARNSIDE TOWERS.

Hazelslack and Arnside Towers are examples of the rectangular pele style of building, though the word pele is not now locally applied to them. In a list of twenty-two of the chief surviving specimens of this style of building, given in Taylor's *Manorial Halls*, Arnside comes fifth in order of size and Hazelslack last but one.

Externally, Hazelslack Tower is nearly square (29 feet 9 inches by 24 feet), with a small projecting turret at one corner. The walls are of rough blocks of limestone set in mortar; there is no plinth or buttress to break their uniformity. The entrance door, a pointed arch of dressed freestone, is at the base of the turret. Inside, the tower is divided by a thick wall into two compartments, the smaller serving as a kind of entrance passage; at the far end a flight of steps leads to a door on the first floor, and is continued to the top by a spiral staircase in the thickness of the wall. The larger division had four storeys. The basement has a vaulted chamber, probably used as a larder; the second floor, which is supposed to have been the ladies' chamber, has what is considered to be a late decorated window with two lights.

Outside, on the north wall, is the line of junction of an adjoining building, since vanished; it consisted of two storeys, the lower a kitchen and the upper a dining room open to the roof.

Arnside Tower is similar to Hazelslack, but everything is on a larger and more elaborate scale. In addition to the main turret there is a smaller one at the opposite corner containing garderobes. There is the same central dividing wall, but the smaller division contained a set of rooms instead of serving as a mere passage.

There were two main entrances, one by way of the turret, as at Hazelslack, another directly into the larger division, with a spiral staircase leading up from it; both doors had pointed arches in dressed freestone, but they have disappeared in recent years. Most of the windows are square-headed, of red sandstone, as are also the fireplaces.

The basement was not vaulted, but supported on timbers, the holes for which are visible. The ground floor of the larger division contained the kitchen and entrance passage; above these was the dining-hall.

On the question of date the verdict based on architectural features is in conflict with tradition. Dr. Taylor assigns Hazelslack to the

early fifteenth century, arguing from the decorated window, pointed doorway, vaulted basement, and other minor details, and he places Arnside a century later, chiefly on the ground of its more elaborate structure and better adaptation for ordinary domestic purposes. Tradition, on the other hand, as recorded in the Beetham Repository (1760), asserts that these two towers, along with Dallam Tower, were built about 1375, by the three sisters of Thomas de Thweng, fourth owner of the barony of Kendal.

The great over-sands route crossed from Hest Bank to Kents Bank within a mile or two of this locality, in full view of the tower. In 1322, Robert Bruce came down that route and reached Lancaster before his ravaging progress was stopped, and the memory of that concrete instance of danger would long be a stimulus to tower-building in the neighbourhood. That route was the live wire from which at any time a flash might break.

Nothing is known of the history and occupation of Hazelslack Tower and very little of those of Arnside. It is said that both were included in the estates of Sir James Harrington which were confiscated in the first year of Henry VII. (1485) and given to Lord Stanley, but I do not know on what authority the statement is made. We first touch firm ground in 1602, when we find the following entry on the fly-leaf of a register in Lancaster Parish Church, "Md. that the 27 day of October at nighte Beinge in the yere of our Lord God 1602 Being a mightie wind was Arneshead Tower Burned as it pleased the Lord to p'mitte. Ric. Townson Minister." The tower must have been subsequently renovated, for in 1684 or thereabouts it was unroofed and the timber taken to Knowsley, the seat of the Earl of Derby, near Liverpool. In 1884, a great storm tore out one side and the central partition, leaving the tower in the ruined condition in which we see it to-day.

With thanks to Mr. Barnes for his valuable services throughout the two days the meeting concluded, and the party broke up at Arnside station.

SECOND EXCURSION.

On Thursday and Friday, September 10th and 11th, 1903, the second excursion of the year was held in the district between Maryport and Wigton. From the number attending the first excursion it was feared that the party might be too big to be accommodated anywhere except in one of the largest hotels in the district, and so arrangements were made to spend the night at the County Hotel, Carlisle. The local committee consisted of the Rev. F. L. H. Millard (on whom fell the greater part of the work in planning out

the carriage drives), Messrs. H. P. Senhouse of Netherhall, E. T. Tyson, T. Wilson, and J. F. Curwen. Among those who attended at one time or another during the two days were the Bishop of Barrow-in-Furness (president), Mr. H. P. Senhouse of Netherhall, Col. Sewell, and the Rev. James Wilson (vice-presidents), the Rev. Canon Bower, Dr. Barnes, Messrs. H. S. Cowper, F.S.A., T. H. Hodgson, F.S.A., E. T. Tyson (members of Council), J. F. Curwen (hon. sec.), and W. G. Collingwood (editor); Lady Lawson and party (Brayton), Col. Irwin, Capt. Ferguson, Mrs. Todd (Carlisle), Mrs. Highet, Mrs. Carrick, Miss Gough, Miss Wilson (Seascale), Miss K. Marston, Mrs. Holt, Miss Twentyman, Miss Donald, Miss Quirk, Mrs. Monnington, Mrs. T. H. Hodgson, Miss C. L. Wilson, the Misses Thompson (Workington), the Rev. D. G. and Mrs. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Watson, Mr. and the Misses Hine, Dr. Little and family, the Revs. A. F. Still Hill, W. H. Wilkinson, and W. R. Hopper, Messrs. E. H. Banks, Wilson Butler, J. B. Bailey, T. Carey, J. Cartmell, W. I. R. Crowder, W. L. Fletcher, Harvey Goodwin, J. Gunson, J. Greenop, J. P. Hinds, Percy Hibbert, William Little, J. H. Martindale, F. Nicholson, F. Sessions, J. Tyson and J. Watson (Gosforth), C. Lloyd Wilson, J. S. Yeates, and others.

On Thursday, September 10th, those of the party who arrived by the Carlisle train at Maryport were met by Mr. J. B. Bailey and taken to Netherhall through the grounds, stopping to inspect the small "camp" on the low flats by the river. It has generally been supposed to be Roman, but may now perhaps be classed with other small enclosures as a *tún-garth* or *curia* of the early Middle Ages. At Netherhall members from the south, coming by a later train and met by Mr. Carey, joined the company, and Mr. Bailey described the Roman altars, etc., for which the veranda is famous. By the further kindness of Mr. Senhouse, the interior of the house, with its interesting relics, was open to the visitors, who then climbed the hill to visit the great Roman Camp. On the way up, Mr. Bailey showed the sites of the find of altars in 1870 and of the temple discovered by Mr. Wilfrid Hine and himself in 1880, and described the recently-traced Roman road to Crosscanonby (Art. XX.).

By this time the threatened rain had begun to fall in earnest, and the weather became very stormy; indeed, a severe gale was blowing which elsewhere produced serious results. On the exposed site of the camp there was no chance for more than a hasty walk round, and the large party trooped down to the Golden Lion for luncheon. One or two took the opportunity of visiting the curious and striking "burh," still happily traceable on the extreme point of the ridge on which the camp stands—an early mediæval fortress of great strength and importance, as commanding a frequented harbour at the end of the ancient road to Carlisle.

At two o'clock covered carriages took the faithful remnant to Dearham Church, where they were met by the Rev. E. H. Sugden, vicar. The Editor spoke on the pre-Norman Stones (see Calverley's *Early Sculptured Crosses, etc.*, pp. 117-132), expressing great satisfaction at finding the famous churchyard cross now safe under cover and seen to great advantage within the church. The Vicar showed the Roman altar, old oak, etc., and the reredos to the memory of the Rev. W. S. Calverley, F.S.A., formerly vicar.

Still in heavy rain they arrived at Gilcrux, and admired the quaint interior of the ancient church, with its round arch, old font, morsel of pre-Norman cross-head, and early sepulchral cross-slab. Since the meeting, the vicar of Gilcrux, the Rev. G. H. H. Smith, has kindly taken a suggestion of the editor to fix together the fragments of the cross-head upon an inscribed base, for their better display and preservation.

At Plumbland, the Rev. Dr. Curwen described the church with its remains and associations, and offered for sale on behalf of the church a few copies of his "Ingoldsby Legend" rendering of the local anecdote told by Reginald of Durham (of which an abstract is given in the "The Lake Counties," pp. 119, 120). The pre-Norman and mediæval grave-stones built into the upper storey of the tower were visited by many, and Dr. Curwen led the way—still in the rain—to the fragments of the remarkable hogback in the churchyard, the old yewtree and the pigeon-cote.

Aspatria Church was reached about half-past five. Here the Rev. F. L. H. Millard, vicar, described the ancient font which, from a notion current among some antiquaries that it bore symbolism analogous to that which they read into the Barbon (Casterton) cross, has hitherto met with less than its deserved consideration. It was known, also, to be partly of plaster, thickly painted over, and until the recent restoration its true character was hardly revealed. Mr. Millard said:—

"The Aspatria Font stands upon an octagonal base from which rise four shafts, and a centre figure—all modern. The actual date of the bowl and base is uncertain, but that they are ancient there can be little doubt, in fact of an age not unworthy to rank with some of the most interesting work in the county. Whatever the date may be it becomes evident on examination, that at the Reformation period, this font was defaced, stripped of its beautiful adornments, and flung dismembered out of the church. Large holes were made in each side of it and the carved work incontinently knocked about. Upon the suppression of these destroyers of beauty, some kind of restoration of the church took place, and the old battered font, minus its beautiful hinged top, was replaced. New pillars were

made by no unskilled hand, and the base and bowl were replaced. The gaps in either side were filled in with plaster; plaster casts of the defaced ornamental work were made and somewhat rudely fixed in. All trace of the style of capitals provided for the old shafts was evidently lost, for clumsy horns of plaster were substituted. Then to hide the defacements the whole was thickly painted with several coats of light yellow paint, the bowl and upper surface being lined and covered with lead. The font was first placed near the S.W. door, whence it was removed in 1848 to a position it occupied till 1903 under the W. arch.

Carved out of red sandstone, its entire height is 3ft. The top measures 2ft. in across, and the octagonal sides of the base $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The central column is 3 inches high and 36 inches in circumference, while the four smaller columns are $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference. Above the capitals of these smaller columns has been carved a large pointed leaf, and between their cases a small double leaf raised.

Each of the four sides of the square and upper portion is different. On the W. are four double leaf ornaments, on the N. three larger single leaf ornaments, on the S. three similar leaves, surmounted by two points and lesser leafage. The most remarkable is the E. side. A winged demon with head downwards, and closed wings, descending right under the font proper, is seen spreading a bifurcate curled tail upwards, each portion of which ends in a serpentine head surrounded by leafage and fruit, holding a leaf or branch in its mouth. The meaning is of course obvious—the renunciation and expulsion of the evil spirit in baptism. The leafage and fruit may possibly have reference to the legend of the fall of man through the serpent wiles in the garden of Paradise.

At the partial restoration of the church in July, 1903, the font was removed from beneath the W. arch and placed in the baptistery where it now stands upon an additional step. With great labour the paint was removed, a good deal of the plaster came away, and the history of the font to some extent revealed itself."

The vicar then described the famous hogback, lately removed into the church and now safe from the weather. In the vestry the editor pointed out the many interesting early fragments (Calverley's "*Crosses*" etc., pp. 11-25) after which tea in the schoolroom was acceptable to the damp and chilly pilgrims, who left for Carlisle by the 6-20 train, still in the wet.

Subsequent to this visit the old cross-shaft standing in the churchyard has been placed in the Baptistery.

At the County Hotel, Carlisle, 33 members and their friends sat down to dinner, the Bishop of Barrow in the chair; after which a

council meeting was held. At the general meeting the following new members were elected;—The Rev. C. Whitaker, Ulpha; Mr. J. M. Musgrave, Cockermouth; Mr. W. F. Rawnsley, Ambleside; Mrs. Dyson, Ulverston.

The President announced that a communication had been received by the Council from Mr. H. Penfold, the Nook, Brampton, suggesting that the Society should contribute towards the placing of a memorial stone on the site of the Capon Tree near Brampton; but that it was contrary to precedent that the Society as such should subscribe, though the Council felt that the object was a desirable one and worthy of the support of members.

The Rev. James Wilson of Dalston, then read two papers: the first on the letter of Earl Gospatric, recently found at Lowther Castle, illustrated with a photograph of the document. This is the 12th century copy, as it seems, of an original dating from some time between 1067, when Gospatric bought the Earldom of Northumberland from William the Conqueror, and 1092, when William Rufus took possession of the land of Carlisle. It is of great interest not only as the earliest genuine charter relating to Cumberland, and as giving valuable details concerning places and persons of the 11th century, but as proving, apparently, that the King of Scotland at that time had no definite authority in Cumberland, as historians have believed. No allusion is made to Scottish sovereignty, and Gospatric appeals to the palmy days of Eadread and to the laws of Earl Siward. It also renders necessary a fresh interpretation of the Inquest of Service of 1212, from which it has been supposed that Henry I. was the original source of enfeoffment of most of the knights of Cumberland in their fees as stated therein. A minor point, but one of popular interest, lies in the new explanation this document has been stated by some—with whom Mr. Wilson does not agree—to give of the name of Cumberland:—*callun þam landann þeo weoron Cumbres* being interpreted as “all those lands that were Comber’s” as if Comber were an owner whose name was applied to the whole of the district then known as Cumberland.* Mr. Wilson promises a full discussion of this document for our next volume: meanwhile the text is as follows:—

Gospatrik grot ealle mine wassenas & hyylkun mann,
freo & ðreng, þeo woonnan on eallun þam landann þeo
weoron Cumbres & eallun mine kynling freondlycc; & ic

* In *Comber* the *m* is barred, for *Commber*. Possibly “the Cumbrian” was Moryn, the British (Welsh) lord, in previous times, of the district (not the whole of Cumberland) to whose inhabitants the letter was addressed. The credit of the first discovery of the document is claimed by our member, the Rev. Frederick W. Ragg.—(ED.)

cyðe eoy (*for* eow) þ(at) myne mynna is & full leof þ(at) Thorfynn Mac Thore beo swa freo on eallan ðynges þeo beo myne on Alnerdall swa ænyg mann beo, oðer ic oðer ænyg myne wassenas, on weald, on freyð, on heyninga & æt ællan ðyngan, þeo by eorðe bænand (*for* eorð-būand) & ðeoronðer, to Shauk, to Wafyr, to poll Waðoen, to bek Troyte & þeo weald æt Caldebek; & ic wille þ(at) þeo mann bydann (*for* bydand) mið Thorfynn æt Carðeu & Combeðeyfoch beo swa freals myð hem swa Melmor & Thore & Sygoolf weoron on Eadread dagan, & ne beo neann mann swa ðeorif (*i.e.* ðearf, bold) þehat (*for* þat) mið þ(at) ic heobbe gegyfen to hem, ne ghar brech (*text here corrupt*) seo gyrth ðyylc Eorl Syward & ic hebbe getyðet hem cefrelycc swa ænyg mann leofand þeo welkynn ðeoronðer; & loc hyylkun bȳ þar byðann geyld freo beo swa ic bȳ, & swa willann Wallðeof & Wygande & Wyberth & Gamell & Kūyth & eallun mine kynling & wassenas; & ic wille þ(at) Thorfynn heobbe soc & sac, toll & theam, ofer eallum þam landan on Carðeu & on Combeðeyfoch þ(at) weoron gyfene Thore on Moryn dagan freols myd bode & wytnesmann on yylk stow.

The Rev. James Wilson's second paper, which is also promised in full for next volume, with the plans which had been prepared by the editor, dealt with so-called "camps" at Bromfield, Whitehall and Weary Hall. He had found mention in a document of 1227 of the *Curia de Bromfield*, the "court" of Bromfield, *i.e.* the garth or enclosure belonging to the vicarage, which he identified with the earthwork once known as Mungo Castle and commonly called Bromfield Camp. In such "courts," originally enclosed for farming purposes, the lord's retainers would assemble, and public business would be transacted; whence the name of a "court" of law. This, he thought, was the true meaning of many small earthworks which could never have been of use as fortifications, nor of Roman or British origin (as indeed has been suggested by the editor of these *Transactions* in the *Victoria History of Cumberland*, vol. I.)

Mr. W. Little, of Chapel Ridding, then read his paper on "the Evolution of the Bottle" (Art. XV.) illustrated with a number of ancient bottles from Troutbeck, Westmorland, and a leather black-jack from his own collection.

Mr. Alan D. Curwen's paper on "the Christians of Ewanrigg" (Art. XVI.) was laid on the table, and in connection with the promised display of two bronze-handled knives from Urswick, the editor explained that Mr. Harper Gaythorpe, F.S.A., Scot., had given him notice of the supposed find at a late hour, before actually seeing the objects. Since the programme was printed Mr. Gaythorpe had gone to Urswick and immediately recognized the knives as manufactured out of a brass-backed saw, made by someone who had been trying to pass a joke upon him.

"The Will of Edward Ridge," by Mr. H. S. Cowper, F.S.A., was taken as read (Art. VIII.), the author explaining that he did not wish to make the meeting into a funeral. The description by Mr. T. H. Hodgson, F.S.A., of "An Ancient Palisade on Bowness Flow" and the search for the Roman Camp at Burgh-by-Sands will be found in this volume as Art. XIV. and part of Art. XIX.

Before the meeting broke up the Rev. A. F. Still Hill exhibited a copy of "Exempla Sacre Historie," 1500; Mr. H. S. Cowper, F.S.A., showed photographs of the Sizergh tapestry in his possession; and the editor laid on the table drawings of the pre-Norman crosses recently found at Lancaster.

The evening concluded with a vote proposed by the President and carried unanimously to hold a meeting for the reading papers at Carlisle in April, 1904.

The next morning, favoured by sunshine, a large party took the 9-10 train to Leigate and drove to Bromfield, where the Rev. R. Taylor met them at the vicarage gate. After seeing two ancient crosses which are built into the outhouse wall, they passed through the churchyard, where the vicar pointed out the monument erected by himself on the base of the old churchyard cross where news, in old times, used to be cried, (Calverley's *Early Sculptured Crosses*, etc., pp. 80-83) and led the way into the church which his labour and taste have done so much to beautify. He gave an interesting account of the history and legend of St. Mungo and this church dedicated to him, pointing out the various pre-Norman and later relics (already described in these *Transactions*). A vote of thanks, on the proposal of the Bishop of Barrow, was given to the vicar for his kindness.

On the site of "Mungo Castle" the Rev. James Wilson repeated to a larger audience his remarks of the night before on the "Curia": and later on, the coaches being halted in view of Whitehall Camp-field, he gave further explanation in support of his view. It may be worth while mentioning, to correct a mistaken impression which seems to have been produced in the minds of some who heard him imperfectly, that it was not the great Roman camp on the hill at

Maryport but the small square enclosure below, in the grounds of Netherhall, for which he suggested a post-Roman origin, as one of the mediæval *curiæ*.

Before reaching Whitehall, however, a halt was made in Blennerhasset, and a large number of the party walked across the fields to see Harby Brow Tower. They had scarcely set out when a storm of rain came on, but this little known and splendidly preserved pele was worth the walk and the wetting. No information was at the time forthcoming; the curious inscription in the farmhouse, apparently recording the foundation of "thys house," was too difficult to read in haste and by the light of wax matches in a storm of wind: but while waiting for a paper on the subject reference may be made to Edmund Sandford (c. 1675) who says (p. 25 of our Society's edition) "Harby Brow: a Tower house sometimes of the Troughtons And some Tenents, but now they belong to Squire Blencoe of Blencoe hall"; and to the Lysons, who tell us,— "Harby or Harby-brow, anciently called Leesgill, was for many generations the property and seat of the Highmore family. Nicholas (corrected in the appendix to Francis, 5. Jac. I.) Highmore sold it to the Blencows, who possessed it for several descents. This estate was purchased of the latter about the year 1745 by — Steel" (*Cumberland*, p. 9.)

The delay and the wetting occasioned by this adventure left no time for the intended visit to its "camp" (or *Curia*) and the interesting old house of Weary Hall, where Mr. Morton, the tenant, had made preparation for our arrival. Boltongate was reached about one, and the school-house was kindly placed at the disposal of the party for lunch. The Rev. J. Ewbank, Rector, in describing the church with its vaulted stone roof, unique in our district, pointed out the row of corbels at the spring of the vault and said that Chancellor Ferguson, on the Society's visit sixteen years earlier, had opposed the current notion that these corbels were intended to support a loft, which could never have existed. The Rector, following Mr. C. J. Ferguson, F.S.A., thought that they had been used to hold the framework in building the vault. Bishop Goodwin once said that Bolton Church was classically beautiful but mathematically it ought to have fallen down; the weight should force the walls out; it was buttressed, however, by its side chapels. A projecting stone to the north of the chancel arch may have supported a rood-loft, to which the door, as Canon Bower pointed out, was in evidence. The church is said to have been built by Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland, who had been governor of Provence, and brought over workmen from the South of France. The legend in "Hutchinson" tells that imps built this church we

now see in one single night, for the wizard Michael Scot; a story which may be interpreted to mean that the Scots burnt the old church, and the careful Cumbrians rebuilt it of stone, so that it might not be burnt down again. A somewhat similar arched roof with corbels at Lincluden Abbey is attributed to the thirteenth century. The names of rectors are given from 1292 with fair regularity until Reformation times. The chalice of 1570-71 is one of the oldest in the diocese. The font is ancient, but was squared and chiselled at the restoration in 1861. The registers go back to 1621. The bell-turret was removed from the east to the west end in 1812, and contains the original sanctus bell. Beneath it, but not intended for its support, is an enormously heavy mass of masonry on corbels, above a very slight wall, no explanation of which has been given. This is one of a group of churches, which on the map seem too closely plotted together for the convenience of the countryside; but they seem to cluster round Prior Hall, where the unusual richness of snowdrops appears to suggest that there were anciently gardens: and possibly all these churches were served from this centre, which may explain their situation. The low window in the chancel formerly called a "Leper window" may perhaps have been used as a confessional, though the penitent would have to kneel outside exposed to the drippings from the roof—another of the puzzles of this curious church (see these *Transactions* iii., pp. 1-8).

The Bishop of Barrow in proposing the thanks of the Society to the Rector, remarked on the similarity of Bolton church to churches in the south of France familiar to him, which lent colour to the legend of the Earl of Westmorland and his Provençal workmen.

About two o'clock, another shower having passed, the drive was resumed by way of Catlands Hill to Wigton. The panorama from the summit was superb, but the delay in walking up and down cost us the time intended to be spent at Old Carlisle. We could only nod to it in passing, as the coaches raced one another into the town, and caught the 3.34 train for Carlisle with very few minutes to spare.