

ADDENDA ANTIQUARIA.

STONE IMPLEMENTS IN FURNESS.

Mr. John Dobson of Urswick, writing on September 15th, 1909, notes the finding of (1) a stone axe-hammer from Much Urswick, partly bored for a handle but never completed, apparently because an unlucky blow broke away part of the splitting end, but interesting from the ornamental fluting on the outer face above the shaft end; (2) a very fine neolithic chipped celt, not at all polished or ground, some twelve inches long, four broad at the widest part and three at the cutting edge, found in making a drain, close to some hitherto unnoticed earthworks near Bolton Chapel; (3 and 4) two chipped celts recently bought in a sale at Ulverston, origin unknown.

BISHOP MEYE'S SEAL.

The seal of John Meye, Bishop of Carlisle, 1577, was found by Dr. Haswell at Lowther Castle, and as it had not been described by Mrs. Henry Ware in her articles on the bishops of Carlisle in these *Transactions*, o.s., xii. and xiii., it was forwarded to Mrs. Ware, who kindly sends the following description:—

"The central panel is the Blessed Virgin and Child, and there is an inscription round it which I cannot make out. There is a figure on the left side of the Virgin, and a man in a helmet on the other side. John Meye's arms are underneath; on the left side the mitre on a crosslet, and on the right side a chevron between three cross-crosslets fitchée or, on a chief of the last as many roses gules. One seal has the writing of Jo. Carliley at the top."

THE ST. BEES GIANT.

The following extract, from the Twyne MS., xxiii., 673, at Oxford, dated about 1630, was kindly but anonymously sent to the Editor, July 14th, 1909:—

"A true report of Hugh Hodson of ? Thornensay in Cumberlande to Sir Rob. Cowell of a gyante founde at St. Bees in Cumberlande 1601 before Xmas. This gyant was buried 4 yardes deepe in ye ground which nowe is a corne feild. He is 4 yardes and an halfe longe and was in complete armour; his sword and battle axe lyenge by him. His sword was 2 spans broad and more than 2 yardes longe. The head of his battle axe a yard longe & ye shaft of it all of iron as thicke as a man's thigh and more than 2 yardes longe.

His teeth are 6 inches longe and 2 inches broade; his forehead is more than 2 spans & an halfe broad. His chynebone will contayne 3 peckes of oatmeale. His armor, sword and battleaxe at Mr Sands of Rotington & at Mr Wyboyl at St Bees, very fresh to be seen."

In connection with this subject, Mr. W. N. Thompson of St. Bees has supplied the loan of a pamphlet, entitled "Rötinn the Viking," printed before 1880; a copy is in the Jackson Library, where it is erroneously attributed to the late William Jackson. In this is quoted a similar account from the Machell MSS., vol. viii., p. 621, which for "Thornensay" reads *Thorneway*, for "Cowell" (or "Cewell") *Sewell*, and for "Wyboyl" *Wybers*. Mr. Thompson adds:—"I believe the story was first printed by Jefferson in 1842, quoting without comment the Machell MSS. (*Allerdale above Derwent*, p. 330n). Machell was 50 years old when he died in 1698, so that this 'true report' could not have been made to him in 1601. It was probably taken from the Oxford MS. Richard Brathwaite was already gibing at it in 1615; speaking of swindles he says:—

Or he may finde a giant at St. Bees

And with his sight get money if he please.—*Strappado for the Divil*.

Machell was no doubt right in disbelieving the story."

THE WINDOW TAX.

The president, Mr. T. H. Hodgson, F.S.A., writes:—"On p. 289 of this volume there is a reference to some windows at Rampside Hall which have been built up, 'probably at the time of the taxing of window glass.' Windows were built up not on account of the tax on glass—not window glass only—which was levied from 1745 to 1845, but of the tax on windows, assessed according to the number of windows in a house, which was first imposed in 1695 and, with some alterations in amount, lasted till 1851, when it was finally abolished, and the present inhabited house duty substituted for it. Those whose memory goes back for sixty years will remember many houses in which windows had been built up to escape the tax."

"SIGILLUM AD PROCURACIS."

As an explanation of the inscription on the reverse of Mr. Ragg's Shap seal (these *Transactions*, n.s., ix., p. 274), let me refer to a deed entered in Bishop Halton's Register at folio 35b (in the printed book, p. 199). It is a proxy, or power of attorney, dated 1303, from the abbot and convent of St. Mary's at York to take possession in their name of the church of Bromfield, which had been appropriated to them; and to this document has been set "sigillum capituli nostri ad procuraciones"—i.e., the "seal for proxies," or "proxy seal."—W. N. Thompson.