

In Memoriam.

The Rev. Canon Arthur Gershom Loftie died at Undermound, Rydal, in October, 1922, in his 79th year. Born at Nice, educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and ordained in 1867, he was preferred to the vicarage of St. Bridget's, Calderbridge; and while in that parish he wrote a useful history of Calder Abbey. In 1894 he became rector of Great Salkeld, and wrote the history of that church. In 1904 he was appointed rector of Wetheral, of which parish he also wrote a history, in the press at the time of his death. He was one of our oldest members, elected in 1875. To these *Transactions* he contributed papers on Calder Abbey (o.s. vi, 368; viii, 467; ix, 206) and exhibited a Bronze Age urn at our meeting at Carlisle on April 30th, 1903. He also edited "The Rural Deanery of Gosforth" and wrote the church inventories of that deanery for the Chancellor's Committee.

Hamlet Riley of Ennim, Esq., J.P., D.L., who died on Oct. 14th, 1922, in his 72nd year, had been a member of our Society since 1884. Educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge, he was captain for his university in the first Rugby football-match against Oxford. He settled at Ennim in 1878 and took an active part in affairs of the county, ecclesiastical, administrative and political. He was a major in the C. and W. Yeomanry Cavalry, and during the War he was military member of the Territorial Association.

Arthur William Simpson, born in Kendal in 1857, died at Littleholme, Kendal, on Nov. 8th, 1922, having been a member of our Society since 1905. Of Quaker connexions and always an active member of the Society of Friends, he was an artist in his work—that of a woodcarver and designer—and an antiquary in his knowledge of furniture; a man of great talents, character and energy. Besides his well-known business in house furnishing he carried out many important works for churches, and was a member of the Church Crafts League, as well as of the Design and Industries Association and the Art Workers' Guild. For a time he sat on the Kendal Education Committee; until his death he was Chairman of the Starthwaite Home for Epileptic Boys. A member also of

the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, he was an indefatigable walker and mountaineer up to the recent period when illness curtailed his many activities.

The Rev. Cæsar Caine, vicar of Cleator, who died on Dec. 2nd, 1922, aged 66, a member since 1911, made useful contributions to West Cumberland history. Of Manx extraction, and at first a Wesleyan minister, he was ordained in the Church of England in 1899, and for two years was curate of Garrigill, Alston, where he wrote "Capella de Gerardgill." After nine years in charge of All Saints, Ipswich, he came to Cleator in 1910 and took up the study of local antiquities and natural history. Already author of "The Martial Annals of York," "The Archiepiscopal Coins of York," etc., he published "Cleator, Past and Present" (Wilson, Kendal, 1916), "The Churches of Whitehaven Deanery," and many articles including, in these *Transactions*, "The Manor Court of Egremont" (N.S. xv), "The Borough Court of Egremont" (N.S. xvii), "Ravenglass Fair and Cross" (N.S. xxi), "The Port of Ravenglass" (N.S. xxii), "Notes on Waberthwaite" and "Antiquities at Egremont" (N.S. xxiii). He was a founder and for some years president of the Ehenside Nature Club. From 1917 to 1919 he served as Chaplain to the Forces at Netley Hospital.

The Rev. Canon James Wilson, M.A., B.D., Litt.D., died on March 26th, 1923, at Dalston Vicarage. He was born in 1856, the son of James Wilson of Drumgoland and Billis Grove, co. Cavan; he graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, and was ordained in 1879 by Bishop Goodwin to the curacy of St. Paul's, Carlisle. In 1888 he was collated by the same Bishop to the vicarage of Dalston. Bishop Diggle made him honorary chaplain and honorary Canon of Carlisle. He was elected member of our Society in 1883, a member of Council in 1892, and vice-president in 1903. To these *Transactions* he contributed "Fonts of the Rural Deaneries of Carlisle, Gosforth and Whitehaven" (o.s. x, xi), "The Dalston Transcript of 1589-90" (o.s. xi), "The Dacres of Lanercost" and "Early Sporting Notes" (o.s. xii), "Early Registers of Westward," "Bishop John Penny," "Signatures of Carlisle Notaries" and "Victims of Tudor Disestablishment" (o.s. xiii), "The earliest Register of Thursby" (o.s. xiv), "Queen Mary's Benevolence to the see of Carlisle" and "The seal of Archdeacon Byrbanke" (o.s. xv), "Charitable Trusts in the Diocese of Carlisle," "A Chinese tombstone from Cargo," "Excavations at Foldsteads" and "The site of Rockcliffe Castle" (N.S. ii), "The Tilliols," "Arms of the Sandys of Cumberland" and "Gillesland and its

Scottish owners" (N.S. iii), "An English letter of Earl Gospatric" and "The Greystokes" (N.S. iv), Notes on "Aconeuz," "Clobest" and "Gospatric's Writ" (N.S. v), "Two Waldeves," "Clerical Celibacy" and "Old Carlisle" (N.S. vi), "Runes on the lost head of Bewcastle Cross" (N.S. x), "John Denton" (N.S. xi), "A Hebrew medal from Workington" (N.S. xiii), "Original deeds at Tullie House" (N.S. xiv), "Hayes Castle" (N.S. xvi), "Rectors and Vicars of Dalston" (N.S. xxii), and "The passage of the Border by Aeneas Sylvius" (N.S. xxiii). On the death of Chancellor Ferguson he took over the editing of the *Victoria County History of Cumberland*, of which two volumes appeared; the MS. of the remainder exists, we understand, in readiness for publication and it is greatly to be hoped that so valuable a work may not be lost to students of Cumbrian topography. Canon Wilson also edited for the Surtees Society, of which he was a vice-president, and for our Society conjointly, "The Register of the Priory of St. Bees." His volume on "Rose Castle" (Thurnam, Carlisle, 1912) and his articles in the *Scottish Historical Review* are also full of valuable matter relating to our district. With him we lose a most learned and scholarly exponent of the mediæval antiquities of Cumberland, and our greatest authority on the ecclesiastical history of the ancient diocese of Carlisle.

We regret also to hear of the death of Mr. Percival Ross, F.S.A., A.M.Inst.C.E., of Bradford, who though not a member contributed to these *Transactions* valuable papers on "The Roman Mile" (N.S. xviii) and "The Roman Road from Low Borrow Bridge to Brougham" (N.S. xx). It was he who in 1904 pointed out the normal sequence of turrets on the Wall leading to successful exploration (N.S. xiii, 299) and brought to light the milestone at Hangingshaw (N.S. xv, 132). He died on April 4th, 1923.

Sir John Stirling Ainsworth, Bart., died on May 24th, 1923, at Harecroft, Gosforth. Born on Jan. 30th, 1844, the second son of Thomas Ainsworth, of the Floss, he took the degrees of M.A. and LL.B. at University College, London, and was a prominent ironmaster and a member of the Royal Commission on Mines in 1910; director of the Whitehaven (afterwards Parr's) Bank, and chairman of the Cleator and Whitehaven Railway. For four years he commanded the 3rd V.B. Border Regiment. He was M.P. for Argyllshire 1903-1918; J.P. and D.L. for Cumberland and Argyllshire, high sheriff of Cumberland 1891, and created a baronet in 1917. A member of our Society from 1878, he took

an active interest in explorations at Gosforth in 1901, and served on the Local Committee for our meeting of June, 1902.

Robert Penrice Lee Booker, M.A., became a member in 1899, when he had already been for four years a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He was a master at Eton College, whence he only retired to live permanently at Droitwich a very few years before his death. He never contributed any independent articles to these *Transactions*, but took an active part, in conjunction with Professor Haverfield, to whom he was related, in the work of the Cumberland Excavation Committee on Hadrian's Wall.

We deeply regret to record the death of Major Thomas Atkinson Argles, which occurred on July 21st, 1923. He had been a member of our Society since 1879, and had kindly filled the office of Treasurer from 1908. Born at Kendal in 1859, he was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, of which he was M.A., and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1883. On the death of his father in 1885 he settled at Eversley, near Heversham, and occupied himself with every form of public work. He was on the County Bench from 1884, High Sheriff in 1891; County Councillor from 1889 and County Alderman from 1917; a Diocesan Lay Reader and member of important Church Councils, on which his assistance was greatly valued; a manager and benefactor of schools and hospitals and many local institutions; holding high office in Freemasonry; president of the South Westmorland Conservative Association and of other political organizations; and from 1890 Captain of "G" company, Border Regiment of Volunteers, from which he retired with the rank of Major in 1911. Mrs. Argles, who died in May last, was very well known as a singer, interested with her sister, the late Miss Mary Wakefield, in musical education and in the famous Westmorland Festivals. The loss of Mr. and Mrs. Argles is felt very keenly throughout our district.
