

ADDENDA ANTIQUARIA.

A QUERN-STONE FROM LOW ROW.

An upper stone of a quern was found shortly before 1933 on Low Birkhurst farm, Low Row, Cumberland, by Mr. Thomas Burns, the tenant at that time. It was ploughed up in the 'Potato Field,' which is a small knoll lying about 250 yards north-west of the farm-house, enclosed by trees on the east and north, and flanked on the west by a cutting which leads steeply down to the south bank of the river Irthing [see Ordnance Survey six-inch map, Cumberland XII S.E. (1926 ed.)].

The stone is a red sandstone. Its upper surface is carefully dressed, the lower is rougher and without grooves. Its diameter varies from 12 to 13 inches; it is from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick at the rim, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the centre. The central hole measures $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches at the top, and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the bottom. The rim is smooth, as if it had once carried an iron collar for attaching the wooden handle, and is slightly undercut.

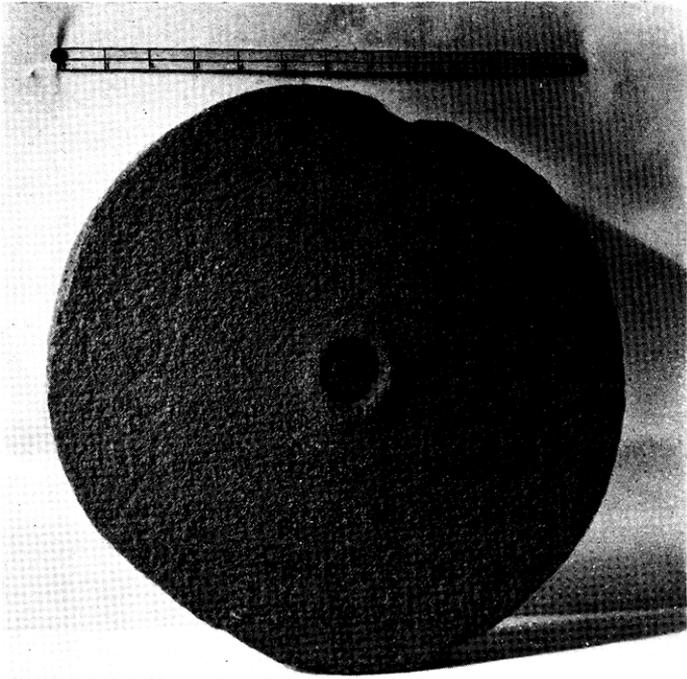
Though no other find is associated with this site, it is of interest to note that the Stanegate must have passed near here on its way from Nether Denton to Boothby. The road is known in the long cutting of Pottsleugh, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south-west of Low Birkhurst (see these *Trans.* n.s. xxxvi, 191).

By the kindness of Mr. Lamb, who owns Low Birkhurst, and of Mr. G. Mitchell, the present tenant, the stone has been given to Tullie House Museum, Carlisle.

R. P. WRIGHT.

A HOLY WATER STOUP AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, COCKERMOUTH.

The Rev. R. W. Crook, Vicar of All Saints' parish, Cockermouth, has recently called my attention to the discovery of what may possibly prove to be a Holy Water Stoup. "In August, 1937," Mr. Crook wrote, "alterations were being made in Wild's Garage, Crown Street. The contractor, Mr. Joseph Lowden, told me he had found what he called 'a font' built into the wall. I said, at once, that however it had got there, the place for it now was the mother church of the town. He agreed, and though many people wanted it as a bird bath for their gardens, he brought it to the



ROMAN MILLSTONE FROM LOW ROW.

Photo. R. P. Wright.

To face p. 218.

porch of All Saints' Church." By the kind permission of the Vicar, I was given an opportunity of examining this relic, which thanks to his prompt action is now safely housed in a corner of the porch secure from exposure to wind and weather.

It has been carved out of a block of gray sandstone about 12 inches square at the base, though the four lowest corners have been chamfered away. The height of the stone is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and its upper portion has been somewhat rudely cut into an octagonal form. Upon its top has been cut a round basin, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and six inches deep at its lowest point. Upon the interior surface of the basin, a short distance below the brim, is a small incised cross, resembling the crosses often found upon altar slabs. There is no drain, and I am inclined to believe that we have here a Holy Water Stoup and not a small font. No ornamentation is to be traced on the outer surface, unless a small projection at one of the angles of the octagonal upper part was intended for such a purpose. A careful examination of the sides of the stone yields no signs of its having been attached to a wall, and it would seem that it has been originally supported by a pillar. Its form and appearance would justify the supposition that this "stoup" is of 14th century origin. There is no record with regard to the sacred building in which it stood, but it seems not altogether unreasonable to suppose that it formed part of the furniture of the earlier church upon the site of All Saints'. This church is referred to in a record in the Tower to the effect that in 1394 Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, founded a chantry in the chapel of All Saints in Cockermouth (Nicolson and Burn, II, 66). This ancient building was demolished and replaced by a later church in 1711, and this second church upon the site was entirely destroyed by fire in 1850. The present beautiful church was built in 1852. If the relic described above is indeed a Holy Water Stoup, the find is one of exceptional interest, for but few such stoups have been found in our diocese. Examples previously mentioned in these *Transactions* are to be found at Heversham (N.S. xxv, 39), Morland (N.S. xx, 245), Witherslack (N.S. i, 187), Drumburgh, now at Tullie House, Carlisle (N.S. ii, 115-117) and Holme Cultram (*Ibid.*, 341). There is also a square 14th century Holy Water Stoup standing in the chancel of the church at Martindale. Yet another stoup, from Ewanrigg, is mentioned by Mr. Skelton on page 53 of the present volume.

W. T. McINTIRE.