

ART. XIV.—I. *Sir John Clerk's trip from Drumcrief to Carlyle in September 1734*; II. *A trip into England for a few days in 1741 by Sir John Clerk*. Transcribed and edited by W. A. J. PREVOST.

Read at Keswick, July 7th, 1961.

INTRODUCTION.

IN CW2 lxi (202-237) was printed Sir John Clerk's account of his journey to Carlisle, Penrith and Westmorland in 1731. Three years later Sir John, with his wife, his daughter, his niece Dolly and his sons George and Patrick, paid another visit to Cumberland. His MS. account of the expedition is among the Clerk of Penicuik papers in Edinburgh Record Office (Box 82/2111).

In 1741 Sir John made another trip to Cumberland. His MS. description, which extends to seventeen pages, is in Box 82/2116. Another but shorter version of the same excursion, extending to six pages only, is in Box 82/2110/7. Sir John makes no reference to this trip in his *Memoirs*.

I. THE JOURNAL, 1734.

On Wednesday the 4 of September 1734 my wife, my eldest daughter, my niece Dolly Clerk¹ and my sons George and Patrick, being desiring to see Carlyle and the English border, we went off about 8 in the morning from Drumcrief.² My wife and the two lasses were in a chaise, the rest of us with 2 servants on horseback. About 2 we reached Echelfechan where we dinned. About 3 we set

¹ Dorothea Clerk, daughter of the deceased William Clerk, brother of Sir John. Her mother, Agnes Maxwell, died in 1728 when Dorothea became heiress of Middlebie and Sir John became her "charge" and managed her affairs. In due course she married George, the baronet's third son and one of her companions on this "trip".

² Drumcrieff, a small property in Moffat parish, purchased by Sir John Clerk in 1727 from the Duke of Queensberry.

out again and by the way I showed to my niece her little estate of Midlebee, about 2 miles from the place we left.

On our way we met with Mr Irvin younger of Bonshaw, one of the Duke of Queenberry's chamberlans³ who was so good as to convoy us to Carlyle and afterwards to return with us.

We took a guide at Graitney who knew better the horse way than the chaise way, for at our first entrance into the little gulf over to the English border and a little way under Ailisone Bank we fell into quick sands and our horses were soon to the back. Here we wrestled for some time and with a good dale of hazard, but in a minute or two got safe out.

The women were not a little affrighted at this English salutation. However, on we came to the Esk which runs near 150 ells in breadeth and was in a top flood. The channel in the mean time was good and with the encouragement of a Highland drove of cattle before us, we got safe over and resolved for the future rather to go about 10 miles than pass this way again. About 7 we came safe to Carlyle.

The next day was taken up in the following manner. We went to the Cathedral and heard prayers in the morning, and the organ and apparatus gave great satisfaction to my wife and our young folks.

George was sent off in the morning to Penrith to bring Mrs Maxwell, formerly Lady Midlebee,⁴ to see my wife and her niece Dolly. He went from thence to see his master, Mr Wilkinsone, at Louder,⁵ and his school folks,

³ John Irving (1699-1747), eldest son of William Irving (1663-1742) of Bonshaw where the Irvings had been established since 1296. Sir John was one of the Duke's "commissioners" and had much to do with the ordering of the Duke's affairs.

⁴ Mrs Grace Maxwell was sister-in-law of Agnes Maxwell and the widow of John Maxwell, "last of Middlebie", who died before 1729. She is perhaps to be identified with the Mrs Grace Maxwell, whose monumental inscription in St Andrew's churchyard, Penrith, states that she died 22 March 1760 aged 64 years. The registers say she was buried on 24 March. Middlebie was entailed in 1722 and transmitted to Agnes Maxwell by her father. Grace Maxwell's maiden name was Smith.

⁵ CW2 lxi 205-206.

and stayed all night, but Mrs Maxwell with two ladies from Penrith came to us that night at Carlyle. After prayers was over we went and visited the castle, still in bad repair, and from the walls of the town took a view of the country about, which look'd very fine in comparisone of our grounds about Moffat.

In the afternoon we went and viewed Corby Castle, the seat of one Mr Howard⁶ where I had been about 11 years before.

This place is by nature exceeding charming and indeed so full of natural beauties that I think no place of my acquaintance in Britain is equal to it.

The house stands on a promontory of rock overlooking the River Eden which runs by Carlyle so that there is a most charming prospect on all sides. The river is covered with wood on both sides, and above the house on very high ground which embellishes the country there is a large oak wood.

As Corby Castle stands on a rock it affords a very agreeable winding walk down to the river where there are some artificial grotos that look very pretty. On the river side is a large walk haveing on the one side the river and on the other a high bank covered with wood and beautified all along with grotoes and statues of the rural daieties. At the end of this walk next the house is a cascade 140 feet high and on top of the cascade a temple of the Dorick order very well wrought, out of which the water falls. This cascade is not quite finished but is, however, the finest I belive in England.

At the other end of the walk is another temple with a portico and pediment very well finished. This pediment or timpany is of carved stone but not of the best manner. The statues are all of stone but not very well done, only they show what they might be. They stand here and there on the banks amongst large oakes and are naturally enough disposed. There is one of these statues representing Pole-

⁶ Thomas Howard, son of William Howard and Jane (Dalston) his wife.

phemus which serves for a vista to this fine walk. It stands near the cascade and is about 12 feet high, of 3 stones not at all disproportionable.

In this river near the side of the walk is a salmon cruve consisting of 3 divisions with hecks to receive and keep in the salmon. This piece of machinry yealds to the owner a rent of 150 lib yearly at least.

On our return from this fine walk we were carried into the house wher Mr Howard himself met us and entertained us with wine and good ale. From thence he carried us into his garden where he entertain'd us with fruits.

This gentleman, as he has reasone, seem'd exceedingly pleased with his seat. He gave me a description of it in writing which he had drauen up where he concluds that it had no paralel in England and he showed me a passage in the 4th book of Milton's Paradise where he describes the Garden of Eden which very near resembles the description one wou'd give of Corby Castle.

At night we returned to Carlyle where we met with Mrs Maxwell from Penrith. Next day we were entertained with the Cathedral service and with 2 anthems which gave much satisfaction to the ladies tho' but indifferent musick.

In the afternoon we went about and visited the town and particularly we made the touer of the Wall which is pretty well keapt. We went likeways and saw one Kilaker's garden in the town which is but small but very neat. At the door of the summer house is a little Roman altar and on the front of it this inscription.

LEG VI
VIC . PE
GP . PF

On the one side of it is the figure of the patera and on the other the sympervium or rather the prefericulum.⁷

On the 7 by 7 in the morning we took journie home-wards and to avoide the bad steps we had in our coming

⁷ See Professor Birley's Appendix.

to Carlyle we took the road directly for Long Town which is about 3 miles above Gretney. Here we were very kindly entertained by one Mr Lindsay,⁸ parson of Arthuret, for as his son was my son George's coudisciple at Louder he was so kind as to invite us to his house. Here we stayed about an houer. My wife and the lasses passed the Esk in a boat, it being then in a flood, with Mr Lindsay who convoyed them the length of Echelfechan, and I rode up the river two miles to see a Roman station at Netherbee, the seat of the Lord Preston.⁹ This Roman station has been pretty considerable in the time of the Roman Empire in Britain for there are a good many ruines remaining and the vestiges of 5 or 6 streets. Amongst the ruines last year was discovered an edifice under ground which is divided into 2 cells, each about 12 feet square. They were vaulted above but this piece of work was broken down. The sides are covered about an inch thick with a sort of plaister composed of lyme and beaten bricks which is extreemly hard. The floors are covered with large broad free stones and pasted over with the above composition of lyme and brick dust. Under the floor is a conduit which I guess to have served for conveying away the water, for stright below this edifice on the side of the camp ther is a small current of water. I apprehend that the use of the innermost of these cells has been either for a wet bath or hot bath but rather the last, for I do not well conceive that the plaister cou'd have resisted the water; however ther is such a cement in a piscina or wet bath in the town of Baice¹⁰ near Naples. In the outmost cell ther was an altar found which I saw in one of the gardens of Neitherbee. It has this inscription on it.

⁸ The Rev. William Lindsey was Rector of Arthuret 1728-1735, and also Rector of Melmerby 1701-1739, and of Aikton from 1739 until his death in 1753.

⁹ Charles Graham, third Viscount Preston (1706-1739). The peerage, created in 1681, became extinct with his death.

¹⁰ On the coast of Italy, due west of Naples.

DEAE SANCTAE
 FORTVNAE
 CONSERVATRICI
 MARCVS AVREL
 SALVIVS TRIBVN
 VS COH · I · AEL
 HISPANORVM
 ∞ E Q
 VS L M¹¹

At Neitherbee there are 3 other pieces of Roman antiquities built up in the wall of the house on the garden side such as the figure of a genius sacrificing and other things to be found in Mr Horseley's book amongst the inscriptions in Cumberland.

I belive the old name of Neitherbee has been the station called Aesica, mentioned in the book called Notitia Imperii Romani, and if so it has derived its name from the River Esk in the nighbourhood of this place but I cannot think that the river has derived its name from Aesica, because Esk in the old British language signifies only a river or water of which I know 5 in Scotland as this river Esk, with 2 of this name in Lothian and 2 in the north. That which runs by Pennicuik is called North Esk and that which runs by Newbattle is South Esk.

My Ld Preston's house at Neitherbee is built out of the stones of the Roman station. It is a very sorry, ruinous place as any nobleman's house I ever saw.

The country herabouts is very fine, especially that part of my Ld Preston's estate that lies on both sides of the River Esk.

The tenants here are very poor and their rents very small. The culture of the grounds is much neglected and no better than at Moffat for there are no enclosures and very little planting. Possibly this dessolation is oweing to

¹¹ Here follow Sir John's speculations about the interpretation of the inscription. These have been omitted, and the reader is directed to Professor Birley's observations in CW2 liii 22.

the disorders upon the borders of England and Scotland before the Union of the Crowns. I see few trees here above 50 or 60 years standing.

The river is very large and abounds with salmon. The foords are excellent when the water is low, so that it is a wrong step for any body to pass below where the tyde flows, for near Long Town the water may be passed with great safety and in the summer time the road is excellent from Long Town to Carlyle, and the way cannot be above 2 or 3 miles about. One by takeing this road shuns all hazards from quick sands or other inconveniences.

This river continuing in a flood I was obliged to pass it in a boat. On the other side, before we came to the Water of Sark, I was shoven Solway Moss where K. James the 5 lost his army. This moss is best described by Lindsay of Pitscottie. It wou'd seem that the Scots nobility were willing to be taken prisoners and delivered up to Harry the 8, King of England, for as they were for the greatest part Protestants they were affraid of their King's indignation and more of the fury of the popish priests, for before this skirmish the King of Scots was advised to prosecute them and have their lands forfeited to the Crown for their heresy. The ground here is plain and not mountenous. Consequently what other historians write about the English seing the disorder of the Scots from the height upon the advancement of Oliver Sinclair¹² for their general must be false, for the Scots fell into disorder by the darkness of the night and were surrounded by the English, very few being slain.

About 3 in the afternoon I came up with the rest of the company to Echelfechan. Here we dined. The good parson of Arthuret had convoyed my wife this length. About 4 we parted and about 9 we came safe back to Drumcrief.¹³

Laus Deo.

¹² Oliver Sinclair (1537-1560). Scottish general at Solway Moss who was proclaimed general just before the engagement, which seems to have caused confusion rather than inspired confidence.

¹³ On page 143 of his "Memoirs" Sir John makes a brief reference to this "trip into England": "We staid in England only 3 or 4 days," he writes.

II. THE 1741 TRIP.

As I wanted to ride for a few days, this being the chief preservative of my health, I resolved to see the west parts of Northumberland and north east parts of Cumberland and there to observe their improvements and methods of living, because these wou'd suit best with my own climate. My companions were Mr Brown of Dausington, my cousin german, and my second son George.¹⁴

We carried guns and dogs with us because we knew that in the parts we were to travel there wou'd be abundance of game.

We set out ont the 19 Aug 1741 and dined at Need-path¹⁵ near Peebles where we were invited next day after the marriage of Mr Christie's second daughter to one Ewart, a writer in Drumfrise. Mr Christie was my particular friend and the bride was a companion of my sone George's wife at Drumfrise.¹⁶

[*Details of the journey from Peebles to Bewshaugh have been omitted.*]

On my way to Bewshaugh I saw some gentlemen's houses, particularly Sir Gilbert Eliot of Stobs¹⁷ house in no disagreeable, strait place.

'Tis incredible how coal horses pass these moors as they do in the winter time, for they were never drier as in this summer, yet we were bogged several times. Our raged, deep way took us up more than 5 houres, so that we came to Bewshaugh pretty late.

This is a farm rather than an inn about 5 miles within the English Border. It is a large house badly fitted up and no liquor in it of any kind except milk and water. Of the last it had plenty as standing on the banks of North Tyne.

¹⁴ MS. 2110/7 "Plus 2 servants, 2 or 3 guns and as many dogs."

¹⁵ MS. 2110/7. "We dined that day with Mr Kreesty at Needpaths..." He was James Christie of Garwalfoot, whose two sons John and Archibald were correspondents of Sir John. Archibald was a naval surgeon.

¹⁶ In 1741 George Clerk-Maxwell had a business and lived in Dumfries.

¹⁷ Sir Gilbert Elliott of Stobs, 3rd Bart. Born circa 1681, he succeeded to the baronetcy in 1694 and died in 1764.

The coal work from whence Haick is served lies about 2 miles to the north east of this place. I was told that at least 5 or 6,000 loads are carried from it 16 or 18 miles within the Scotch border.

Next day being the 21 of Agust we rode down the river about 10 miles and dined at a market town called Billengem.¹⁸ For some miles, especially on the sides of the river, we had very good roads and found abundance of haughs on both sides the river, of very good soile with great products of corns and hay.

About midway we turned off to the left through a moor and saw some black game with a covie or two of partridges. Some of them we shot but none of the heath game. Near this place is a gentleman's seat called Hysel-side.¹⁹ In the afternoon we departed from Billengem to lodge all night at a village called Newbrugh, not far from South Tyne and about 4 miles west of Hexham.

We saw by the way on the East side of North Tyne and South side of Reidwater a house and park called Chip Chase or Gipsies which, as I was informed, is spelt in old writings Chivy Chase, and here I belive the Ballad of Chivy Chase took its rise, not from Civiott Hills or the battle of Otterburn as is commonly thought. It is a large castle belonging at present to Esquire [blank space] and formerly belonged to Piercy, Earl of Northumberland, but this was only in superiority, for the family of the Herons had the possession of it these many years.²⁰ I question not but here the Earl of Douglass went to destroy Lord Piercy's deer, for the parke has been very large tho' now contracted into some inclosures of 100 acres or thereby.

¹⁸ MS. 2110/7. Bellingham, "where a good deal of excellent malt is made."

¹⁹ Hesleyside, since 1343 the seat of the Charlton family.

²⁰ MS. 2110/7. "Chipches, the ancient seat of the Umphravilles . . . See Dr Gibsone's Edition of Cambden, page 1075." The family of Heron were for long in Chipchase. Sir Harry, the last of the Herons, sold the castle and the estate about the end of the 17th century. Chipchase was bought in 1732 by John Reed, High Sheriff of Northumberland, who died in 1754. See Rev. J. Wallis, *History and Description of Northumberland* (1769), ii 48.

On the west side of North Tyne over against Chip Chase lies Simonburn, the church and parsonage of a very large parish, for I was informed that from the border it stretches along North Tyne for 30 miles and has 3 chapels or curacies of 40 lib stn each under it. The benefice is between 5 or 600 lib stn and the house is a very fine spacious building. Newbrugh is about 2 miles from Simonburn. We passed the famous Roman Wall and Hadrian's Vallum with the military way, which were pretty remarkable on the height about a mile and a half north of Newbrugh. Here I have been once before with Alex. Gordon the antiquary, and with great delight viewed it again as I had done in several other places. Nothing ever gave me a more magnificent idea of the Romans than this wall and the towers and castles belonging thereto. At the same time I must acknowledge that our forefathers the Caledonians in Scotland received very great honour by the pains which the Romans took to defend this part of Britain against them. At this place where I passed the Wall the hewen stones are all removed. I observed some of them near Simonburn and took notice that all the neighbouring farms and inclosures are built out of them, but the middle part of the Wall is almost entire. Near this village of Newbrugh there is a chalibeat spring of water to which a great many deseased persons resort. I tasted of the water and find it neither better nor worse than these I have in my own grounds at Pennycuik viz: one in my inclosure in the way from the house to the laigh garden at Ravenshaugh, one at Hurley on the south bank of Esk under a stone quarry or brae, one in the middle of the Hare Moss, one of the north side of Esk at the beer haugh of Pennycuik and a great many more. All these came from free stone quarries vained with iron oar as most of my quarries are.

From Newbrugh²¹ where we staid all night we pro-

²¹ MS. 2110/7. "From Newbrugh on Saturday the 21 of Agust we set out northward . . ."

ceeded westward in the morning to Shewenshall²² on the Roman Wall. Here the vestiges of the said wall and of Hadrian's aggers and ditches are very conspicuous. We found some heath game amongst the shrubs which grow in these ditches and killed two. I took a narrow view of the castle or tower of Shewenshall and found it either Roman or built out of the square stones of Severus's Wall. It is pretty large and the architecture is much of the nature of these which Bellifasius in the Emperor Justian's time built on the walls of Rome.

From Shewenshall we rode to Housesteads, agreed to be the old *Burcovicus*. When I was last here 18 years ago I counted about 36 or 38 pieces of sculpture which lay scattered about the ruins of this Roman city. I observed likeways at that time several Roman altars with inscriptions but now these pieces of sculpture are either broken or buried amongst heaps of other stones or are carried away, for I observed only 3 or 4 of them much defaced with two altars upon a little sheep fold which is made out of the ruins of a temple. I know that several curious stones found here were within these few years removed to the library of Durham by the care and advice of a learned antiquarian there, Doctor Hunter, but I am persuaded that on a search a vast many curious stones and inscriptions might be found here.

From Castlesteads²³ we rode to Thirlewall Castle, probably erected by the Romans near the famous wall. I thought that the last time I visited this place the stone wall of Severus appeared almost at its full height, viz 12 feet as Bede makes it above the ground, but now I think most of it is thrown down and the stones removed, as they are everywhere, for the building of country houses and enclosures .

From Thirlewall we rode to Brampton, a pretty little market town where we lodged Saturday and Sunday night

²² In MS. 2110/7 spelt "Sewenshild". The modernised spelling is Sewing-shields.

²³ Read "Housesteads".

the 22 and 23 of August. On Sunday in the forenoon we heard sermon at the dissenting meeting house, and in the afternoon we rode to visite Corby, the house of my deceased friend Esquire Howard, 4 miles from Brampton.

As I had seen the beuties of this place frequently before, I rode out only to see the wood and fish ponds. The wood is but small in extent, covering only about 8 or 10 acres of ground, but the oak trees are very large and fine, tho' many on the decay.

The fish ponds are not large, the largest about 3 acres of ground, lying very high and having clay bottoms. No water or spring runs through them but meerly collections from winter rains and summer showers. Two of these ponds do not contain each the eght part of an acre. They are meer dams or receptacles for rain water that serve sometimes to play a cascade lying far below them on the side of the Water of Iden or Eden. I notice these ponds chiefly on account of the carp and tench in them, for they produce great numbers of large ones from 20 to 24 inches. Mr Howard, the maker of these ponds, was the first that brought carp and tench to the north of England, for till he made the experiment it was believed that they wou'd not thrive on the north side of the Humber. He was so good as to send me some of them in the year 1735, but they being not above an inch in length were all devoured by the elles in Ravenshaugh pond where they were put. One carp, however, remained for 4 years and grew about 16 inches long but was afterwards, I suppose, killed by a heron or water rat, yet from his thriving I perceived very well that such kind of fish wou'd thrive. I got therefor some tench in 1738 but there hapned to be no carp then taken at Corby. These prospered very well. 7 of them were sent down to the bason in the garden of Mavisbank²⁴ and as many more were put in my great pond at Pennicuik. These that were put in the garden pond at Mavisbank bred this year 1741 so that I have

²⁴ Mavisbank, in the parish of Lasswade near Edinburgh, was another residence of Sir John.

great numbers of them. Some carp I got in the year 1740 and some this year which are all in Hurley pond and I belive will do well.

After I had visited Mr Warwick of Warwick Hall, tutor^{24a} to my deseased friend Mr Howard's children, I returned to Brampton.

On Munday the 24 of Agust we returned homewards, taking our rout over a large moor which lyes on the north side of the Roman Wall. Here we saw some grey game and I shot a black cock. As we were strangers in the country we did not take much pains to discover game in this moor, but I was told afterwards that we might have had fine shooting of the grey or black game amongst the small woods on the east of the moor about 6 miles north of Brampton from whence we set out in the morning. We dined at Bewcastle.

This was a Roman station and I know not but it may be the Voreda in the *Itinerarium Antonii*, see Horsley's *Britannia Romana*, page 407, but he calls Voreda Old Penrith. There is a large castle here ex lapide quadrato and might pass for a Roman building but that Cambden says it was built by one Bews since the Conquest.²⁵ If it has, I am positive the stones of it have belonged to the walls of this station.

Here several Roman coins have been found. One of them I saw in the hands of Mr Corie, the curate. It was a brass coine of Hadrian. Cambden tells of a stone found here with this inscription.

LEG II AVG
FECIT

Legio Secunda Augusta fecit. Such another stone and inscription I have at Pennicuik, so that the Legio Secunda Augusta has been employed in many works in Britain as will appear from other inscriptions.

^{24a} Tutor here means guardian.

²⁵ Derived from "that Bueth, who about Henry the first's time had almost got the entire government of those parts." Camden's *Britannia* (1722 edition), ii 1027.

This stone at Bewcastle I did not see, for it is supposed to be removed to Naworth Castle, a seat belonging to the Earl of Carlyle about 2 miles from Brampton. I saw it in the first trip I made to see the Roman Wall, but at Bewcastle there is still another Roman inscription on a stone found in a grave and now set up as a head-stone. The inscription is at present perfectly legible but Mr Horseley supposes it to have been this.

IMP: CAES: TRAIAN
HADRIANO AVG
LEG . II . AVG ET XX . V . V .
OB . VIC : NO : PR . LIC =
= IN . L. AVG : PR . PR.

The reading of which he or one Mr Ward supposes to be Imperatori Caesari Trajano Hadriano Augusto Legio Secunda *Augusta et Legio vicesima valens victrix, ob victoriam nobilem*, prisio licencio legato Augustuli propulsore.

They did not seem to advert²⁶ to the reading thay gave of this inscription, for if there was a nobilis victoria, it shews that the Caledonians rather than the Britains fought the Romans at this place, wheras if we will belive some authors, particularly Spartacus in the life of Severus, the Caledonians never appeared openly to oppose the Romans after the famouse battle at the Grampian Mount (See Tacitus in Vita Agricola.); and by the by I think it probable that from this place the Caledonians marched to attaque the Wall some years after, it being on the streight road from Anandale to Thirlewall.

Mr Horseley thinks that the old name of Bewcastle was Apiatorium, mentioned in his *Britannia Romana*, page 233.

This antient station is now converted into a church yard and there is a church or chapel in it which belongs to a pretty large parish.

²⁶ Advert, to mind, take heed.

Near this church stands a noble Danish monument of one stone about 18 or 20 feet high. It contains a Runick inscription and has many figures on it after the Danish fashion. There is an essay on it made by Bishop Nicolson, see Dr Gibsone's Edition of Cambden, page 1027. Of these stones there are a great many in Scotland, in Fife and Perthshire, and one about 2 miles under Drumlanrig, near the river of Nith.

On the north side of Bewcastle I had very fine moor game, for I hunted there in the afternoon and lodged in a sorry house at Bewcastle all night.

On the 25 we took journey through the moors to Langholm about 10 miles from Bewcastle and had tollerable sport tho' the day was bad. About 4 miles from Langholm we passed the water of Lid which divides England and Scotland at this place. Then we passed the Ewes and afterwards came down to Esk on the banks of which is Langholm, a pretty little market town. The several countries on the sides of these 3 rivers are Lidsdale, Ewsdale and Eskdale.

Langholm is situated in strait ground but is a most delightful place for wood and water. Our landlord, one Brown, shewed us some lead oar found about 3 or 4 miles from the place, and says that no body minded it which I thought very extraordinary. This man was tenant of the coaliery at Canaby, belonging to the Duke of Balclugh, as most of this country does, and on that account understood a little of mining, tho' he said he had never made any trials at the lead mine.

Through all the roads I passed in Northumberland and Cumberland I observed several coal seams and saw several coaleries, but I belive except what passes the above place, Canaby, there are no coal seams in the south of Scotland, for all of them direct their courses to Solway Frith, and are not to be found in Anandale. From Langholm next morning we rode to Drumcrief, a house belonging to my son George, the distance being only 18

or 20 miles [of] very good way. We dined at Boreland about 12 miles from Langholm and by the way saw Westraw belonging to Sir James Johnstone.²⁷ It lies on the side of Esk, strait ground but retired and pleasant enough.

As I went into England to see some of the improvements of that country which I always observe with some edification, I took notice of their manner of cultivating potatoes which is as follows.

An acre, two or 3 designed for potatoes, is tyled in November or December to be exposed to the winter frost. It is tilled again in March and a third time about the beginning of Aprile. Then a fourth tilling accompanies the seting of the potatoes which is done in this way. A small plugh drawn with one horse or two, led by a man, goes before. One with a basket and potatoes follows and sets them at a foot distance. A third persone follows with dung and lays it on the potatoes. The plugh returns and covers the potatoes. A third furrow is drawn and nothing put in it. A fourth furrow covers the last furrow and in this fourth furrow potatoes are set as before. A fifth furrow covers the potatoes, a sixth furrow is drawn, but nothing put in it. A seventh furrow covers the sixth furrow and a third roe of potatoes is set, and so on.

Large potatoes about 3 inches diameter may be cut in 4 pieces at the eyes and always thrive as well or better than the small potatoes set intire.

About the end of May when weeds grow up, the plugh is set to till again between the roes of the potatoes, and as this plughing destroys the weeds it raises ground upon the young potatoes, sprung, as is to be supposed, 3 inches or thereby.

In Agust about the 20th day the potatoes are fit to be raised for present use and the farmers feed their shearers²⁸ with them instead of bread. They are boiled amongst

²⁷ Sir James Johnstone of Westerhall who succeeded to the baronetcy in 1727. He died in 1772 at Westerhall.

²⁸ Shearer, one employed in cutting down corn.

broath with a little piece of meat or eaten with milk. In October the remaining potatoes are raised commonly with a grape with 4 teeth and kept for use. The way of keeping them is often in a sandy hole covered about with straw, or they are laid in a barn or outhouse, covered with sand and straw, for 'tis to be observed that the least frost kills them.

The people in Scotland must be brought in to the cultivating of potatoes in order to save meal, for an acre of potatoes will go a greater way with the poor than 3 acres of ground employed on any grain whatsoever. Besides, a crop of potatoes prepares ground exceedingly for a crop of wheat or barley. Note I am to see this work set about next spring by some of the tennants in Penny-cuik.

The next improvement I learned in England was to make a right use of ponds according to the following memorandums.

Ponds must be made from 6 to 10 feet deep in some places but shallow at the sides and if grassy so much the better. The depth of the water preserves the fish from being killed in time of frost but it is always safer to break the ice.

Ponds with fat clay bottoms are the best. Standing water is best for carp and tench, running water for trouts, but all ponds are best that have the greatest part of the year a small stream of water running into them, such a stream as wou'd fill an inch pipe and no more.

Of all collected waters that is the best which every new shower forms, for the fat of the neighbouring grounds is washed into it. On this account Hurley pond near Penny-cuik house is a great deal better than any of these I saw at Corby, for a right carp pond ought to be environed with rising grounds that may throw in all the fat showers into it.

Be sure to have a little stew pond for the table. That in the garden at Corby is little above 20 feet long but

can maintain a good number of fishes, especially if they are fed.

These are two considerable lessons for improvement and deserve to be followed.

J.C.

APPENDIX. By ERIC BIRLEY, F.S.A.

(1) The Carlisle inscription in "one Kilaker's garden in the town" is CIL VII 916, there assigned incorrectly (following Hutchinson ii 578) to Stanwix. Its record is as follows:

(a) Reginald Bainbrigg, 1599 (CW2 xi 364): "I fond also this inscription at Carlisle in a stone brought from the pict's wall by John Myddleton, and is set in his garden."

(b) Camden, 1600 ed., p. 706: "extat in hortis T. Midletoni", cf. 1607 ed., p. 642, and Holland's 1610 translation, p. 780: "it standeth in the garden of *Thomas Middleton*."

(c) Gordon, 1726, p. 96 and pl. 43, 3: "In Brigadier *Stanwix's* Garden at *Carlisle*."

(d) Horsley, 1732, p. 266 and Cumb. xlii: "in the late Brigadier *Stanwix's* garden."

No later writer shows signs of having seen it (Hutchinson's drawing, ii, on his plate facing p. 577, is manifestly copied from Horsley); Huebner in CIL VII notes "Videtur periisse", and Bruce in *Lap. Sep.*, no. 499, specifically calls it "lost". Sir John Clerk in 1734 is therefore the latest witness to it — and he is the only one to refer to its sides exhibiting the *patera* and *praefericulum*. Brigadier Stanwix's house and garden were in Fisher Street, as Mr Hudleston has pointed out to me; it may be that further research will one day make it possible to identify the precise place in that street. Kilaker as yet defies identification, but he is evidently the occupier of the same house — and it is no doubt the one occupied in Camden's day by a Middleton; though it remains to be investigated whether Camden's Thomas Middleton is (for example) the son of Bainbrigg's John Myddleton, or whether Camden has made a mere mistake in the christian name — as he seems to have done in the case of his Fletcher informant about an inscription found at Moresby shortly after 1600 (CW2 xlviii 44), who was presumably Henry Fletcher and not "J.", as given by him.

In view of Bainbrigg's note, it will be seen that the inscription comes from the Wall — whether east or west of Carlisle does not appear — and not from Carlisle itself.

(2) The Bewcastle inscriptions likewise include one of which Sir John Clerk furnishes the most recent record:

(a) The one re-used as a tombstone is CIL VII 978, recorded by no other writer except Horsley, p. 270 and Cumb. xlv; it is a pity that Sir John does not give his own reading, which by implication differed from Horsley's, for it might have made it easier for us to identify the names of the Hadrianic governor under whom detachments of the Second and Twentieth Legions were working there.

(b) That of the Second Legion alone is CIL VII 979, first seen by Bainbrigg (CW2 xi 355) who noted that "the stone lyes in the church"; Horsley, p. 270 and Cumb. xlv, notices what he took to be the same stone "in Naworth garden" and supposes it to have been taken there from Bewcastle. Sir John's account implies that he had seen the stone at Naworth on his tour of 1724.

(3) The Bewcastle brass coin of Hadrian in the possession of "Mr Corie the curate" seems to be otherwise unrecorded; it may be remembered that Horsley notes that

"Many *Roman* coins have also been found here, one of which I now have in my possession, which I take to be *Philip*, though the head is obscure."

For more recent coin-finds from Bewcastle, cf. CW2 xxxviii 232 ff. (13 from the late 3rd century destruction level in the *sacellum*) and liv 267 (one of Constantine the Great from the bath-house).