

A Brief Abstract of the Proceedings of the Society.

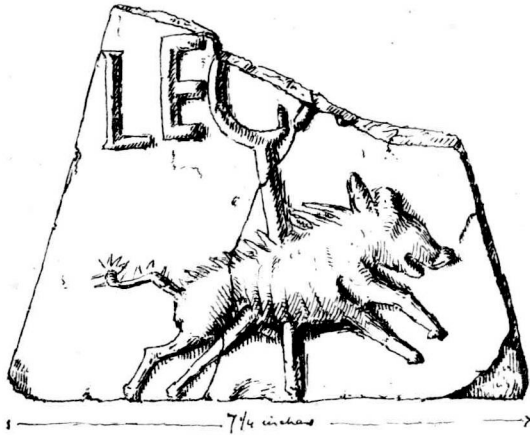
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 358.)

FROM JANUARY, 1853, TO DECEMBER, 1855.

1853.

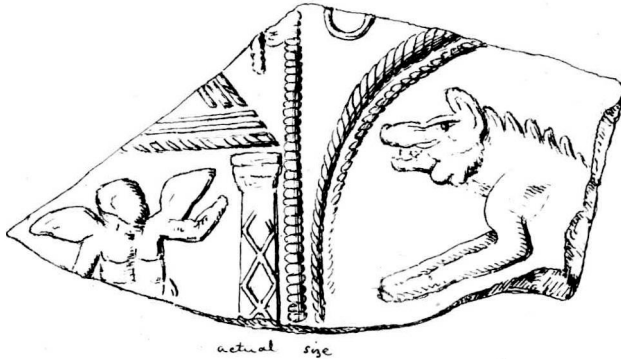
IN Monday evening, January 3rd, the ordinary monthly meeting was held at the Commercial Rooms, the Rev. Chancellor Raikes presiding, who opened the proceedings with an earnest appeal to the members at large not to leave the whole burden on the Secretaries, and especially on the Clergy, whose more direct duties could only allow them to set the first example, in hopes that the laity would carry on the work. It was with this object and expectation that he had from the first, after some scruples, assisted in establishing and promoting the ends of the Society; and now he feared he should again have to call upon one of the Secretaries, whose time was greatly taken up in higher matters, to supply the place of a layman, who had been prevented from attending on that occasion.

The translation of the remarkable deed, discovered among the archives of Lord Westminster, and referred to by Dr. Ormerod as the Foundation Charter of St. Werburgh's, was then continued by the Rev. W. H. Massie. In it were mentioned, by the names they bore within fifty years after the Conquest, almost all the places around Chester,—Christleton, Littleton, Bache, Backford, Waverton, Coddington, Boughton, Bebington, the Churches of St. Olave, St. John, and St. Mary "de Castello," the midsummer fair, called the "St. Werburgh's holiday," the establishment of the market and shambles before the Abbey Gate, the fisheries and mills near the Dee Bridge, and other points too numerous to particularize. It was witnessed by Cadwalader, King of North Wales, among other nobles and great men in the court of the Earl of Chester. The confirmations of Anselm, and afterwards of Theobald, Archbishops of Canterbury, were appended also. (For a free translation of this remarkable document, as well as of the confirmation charters by Anselm and Theobald, the reader is referred to pages 291—297 of this volume. The correction, by Dr. Ormerod, the veteran historian of Cheshire, of an erroneous statement made by the Reverend lecturer in describing this deed, will be found in the Appendix.)



INSCRIBED TILE, OR ANTEFIX

DUG UP AT CHESTER CASTLE



FRAGMENT OF SAMIAN WARE.

FOUND IN EXCAVATING AT THE MUSIC HALL, CHESTER.

Worsfold 1857.

Numerous Roman remains, discovered in excavating for the foundations of the new almshouses at St. John's Hospital, were exhibited, with illustrations drawn on a large scale, one of the most remarkable of which was the fragment of a tile, with a boar, and the letters LEG. for "legion," stamped upon it. (See plate opposite page 153 of present volume.) This was proved by many examples from the Great Northern Wall, and another from Ribchester, to be the peculiar badge of the 20th Legion, stationed so long at Chester, as the pegasus was the badge of another legion, and *as the "goat" might be fairly called the badge of the 23rd Fusiliers then (1853) in garrison at Chester.* Another still more perfect tile of the same kind, discovered some years ago at Chester Castle, was sent by Mr. Gardner, and was much admired. It was manufactured of the ordinary red baked clay, the ornamentation being in unusually high relief. It bore a striking resemblance to the much smaller tile dug up at St. John's Hospital, especially in the standard-like termination of the G in LEG. The boar itself, as also the letters forming the inscription on the Castle tile, were exceedingly sharp and brilliant.* Mr. Gardner also exhibited a few fragments of Samian ware, found some feet beneath the surface while excavating at the Music Hall, Chester. On one of these fragments the figure of a boar, the favourite mark of the legion, was easily distinguishable. Equally deserving of notice was the head and shoulders of a hog, in stone, life size, dug up under the City Walls, near Pemberton's Parlour, on the premises of Mr. Wigginer, stonemason, and which was, no doubt, a relic of the same mighty legion.

The whole history and constitution of St. John's Hospital and its site, together with the Institution of the Blue School, were elucidated, and formed the subject of lengthened discussion, it being objected, however, that the report of the Charity Commissioners gave a view more unfavourable to the Corporation than the real facts would warrant. It was lamented that the instructions of the Court of Chancery had left so little scope to the architect, whose own choice (could he have exercised it) would have led him to record the date and character of the original Institution, as formed by Randal Blondeville (about A.D. 1200), by adopting a style of architecture accordant with that Earl's era. But the architect, Mr. Morris, as well as the Trustees of the School, could only make the best of the limited means and range allowed by the centralizing system.

Mr. Bradford exhibited some documents from the collection of the late Mr. Crane. Mr. Edwards explained some details connected with the site of the Blue School: and the meaning of the word "Eye"—in Rood Eye,

* The illustrations adorning this page we owe to the amateur pencil of Mr. T. N. Brushfield, whose artistic powers are equally well displayed in more instances than one in our present volume. In thus laudably coming forward to the assistance of the Council, Mr. Brushfield has shewn, to those of our Members who have a taste for drawing, an example which we trust they will not be slow to imitate.

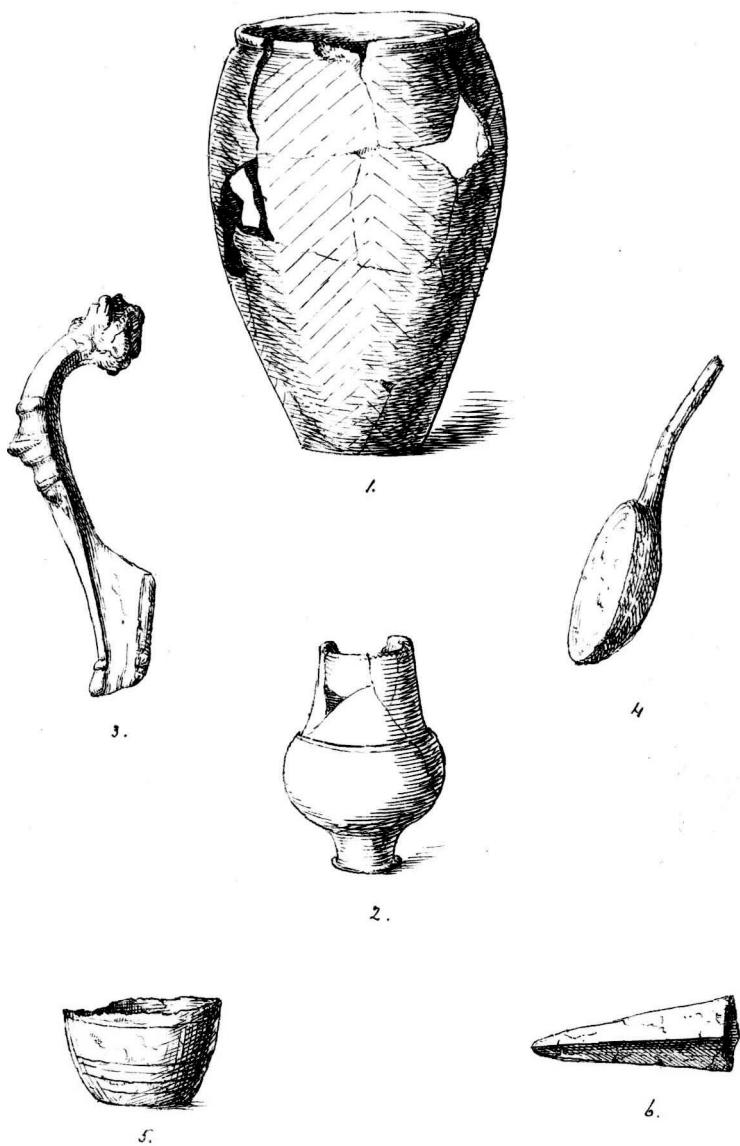
Earl's Eye, Arnold's Eye, Salten Eye, King's Eye, Angle's Eye, Peover Eye—(many of them occurring in the deed read at the meeting)—was variously explained, Mr. Ayrton and Mr. Frith identifying Arnold's Eye with the "Point of Ayr," the word in general applying to a meadow, or island, or any place subject to the overflowing of water.

A large quantity of Samian and other pottery, found on the site of St. John's Hospital,—a few bronze relics of interest, likewise, brought to light during the same excavations, were exhibited at this meeting. Among these we may notice a neat *fibula*, or brooch, of the usual Roman type; a somewhat roughly made instrument, apparently the end of a small standard or staff; and a curious little vessel, supposed to be a *thuribulum*, or incense cup, with a diminutive spoon found close to the latter. These are all now in the possession of Mr. J. Edwards, Master of the Blue Coat Hospital, a Member of our Society, who has kindly permitted the accompanying drawings to be made of them. Some spurious articles were further brought forward, by way of exemplifying the features of obvious distinction between genuine and false examples.

Mr. Frederick Potts sent two curious specimens of sepulchral urns, lately discovered in Queen's Park. One was composed of the ordinary red pottery, while the other, which was of a much larger size, was of black ware, and indented with a pattern very similar to the Norman chevron ornament. They lay beside a stone coffin found, in 1852, a little below the surface of the present road into the Park from Handbridge, and not far from the gate leading to Chivas' Nursery. The urns bear a strong resemblance to two others engraved in Akerman's *Archæological Index*, plate 10, Nos. 23 and 24, discovered several years ago in the Roman cemetery at Littleington, Cambridgeshire.

A donation of "Grose's Antiquities of England," in eight volumes, from Mr. Pownall, was thankfully acknowledged, as well as the *Journal* of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society, and other gifts. The proceedings were kept up with animation and with interest to the last; and hopes were held out that Mr. Morris, the architect of the almshouses, would be able at the next meeting to fulfil his promise of following up the subject of St. John's Hospital further, with drawings of coffins and urns found among the ruins.

On Monday evening, February 7th, a considerable assemblage met, as usual, at the Commercial Rooms, Dr. McEwen in the chair. It was expected that Mr. Morris, the architect of St. John's Hospital, would have fulfilled his promise to illustrate and explain the sepulchral and other remains lately found upon the site. After a considerable delay, the members were obliged again to fall back upon their own resources, and fill up the gap left by the lecturer's absence with a conversational discussion, which



ROMANO-BRITISH ANTIQUITIES.

1. Large urn of black pottery
2. Small d° of paler red d°.
3. Bronze fibula
4. d° spoon
5. d° vessel (thuribulum?)
6. d° end of staff (?)

7 inches high	} from Queen's Park Chester.
3 3/4 ————	
actual size	} from the site of St John's Hospital Chester.
d°	
2 inches diameter	
2 1/2 ——— long	

perhaps is as generally interesting (so far as the immediate occasion goes) as a more formal recital. The drawings prepared for Mr. Morris furnished a groundwork for the subject, and the presence of Mr. T. N. Brushfield, Medical Superintendent of the Cheshire County Lunatic Asylum, who has given particular attention to the various forms of burial practised in our country during the Celtic, Roman, and Saxon periods, supplied a place of appeal in any case where information was required. The evidence to be derived from the opening of barrows, as to the habits, civil, religious, and military, of our British forefathers, and of the various tribes who have been mingled with the race from the earliest ages, and the details peculiar to each, with the articles of dress, furniture, war, &c., were shewn by actual examples in the museum. The position of the "barrows" in Cheshire, at Twenlow, Chelford, Coddington, and of the few which still remain near Chester, on the ancient road through Eccleston, and the propriety of recording their contents with accuracy, whenever opened, were dwelt upon in turn.

The stone cist, enclosing a lead coffin, recently found in Queen's Park, together with the broken jars, &c. lying near it, and carefully preserved and put together by Mr. F. Potts, were proved by comparison with others found at Colchester, and elsewhere, to be of the Romano-British period. The cist, which measures 47 by 24 inches outside, and 42 by 14 inches inside, is still preserved in a garden attached to one of the houses in Queen's Park, having been deposited there at the time by Mr. Hitchen, one of our members. The urns were found, one at the head and the other at the foot of the stone coffin. The latter contained a skull, and a few inferior bones, the whole being covered over with a strong stone slab. From instances adduced from the catacombs, and so on to the mediæval times, the marks and emblems incised on tombstones were shewn to denote the office, sex, or trade of the persons buried, and to correspond often with similar articles deposited within the grave itself. A pewter chalice from a priest's tomb at Durham (sent for exhibition), and the pastoral staff so often found by the side of abbots, in their coffins, were proofs of a more recent date. A singular stone fragment, having formed part of a Roman monument (with a reclining figure, and the hollow for receiving libations at the parentalia,) discovered in 1852, and accurately corresponding to an entire one in the museum at Tivoli, was exhibited, all of which examples supplied ample material for the evening's instruction. (Of this last-named monument an engraving will be found a few pages farther on in our present volume.)

Letters from Mr. Morris (of Shrewsbury), Mr. Wynne (of Sion), Sir P. Egerton, Mr. Ormerod, Mr. Crofton Croker, and other antiquaries, were afterwards referred to. A discussion followed on the selection of a place wherein to deposit the increasing stock of curiosities and books, regret being expressed that the suggestion of Mr. Trevor, Mr. Potts, and other parties,

as to the establishment of a Public Museum, under Ewart's Act, had not been adopted by the Council, as it had been at Manchester, Warrington, and other places less prolific in local remains, which, after all, bring more visitors and travellers to Chester, for the benefit of the city, than almost anything else. The Society was far from exclusive, and only wished the general good of the community, and would gladly add their stores to any public place of deposit, so long as they could conveniently refer to them for the purpose of their lectures.

Some drawings by Mr. S. Brown for the restoration of sculpture on the Exchange, were considerably forwarded to the meeting by the City Surveyor, together with some slight but spirited sketches, procured from the College of Heralds, through the Marquess of Westminster. On the whole, the designs of Mr. Brown, in all their leading features, were thought judicious, as being probably accurate resemblances of the almost obliterated originals. The fabric of the Exchange was finished in 1699, under William and Mary, but the ornamentation had evidently followed presently afterwards, so that the arms would be those of the Realm under Queen Anne, whose image (in the absence of proof to the contrary) may fairly be presumed to have been erected on her accession in 1702. In this case, the arms would be the same as those of James I., with the garter round (and, if any motto underneath,) "*Semper eadem.*" (?) It would be hard, though not impossible, to suppose such a thing deferred till after the Union, in 1707, when a considerable difference was made in the coat, as appears from the front of Pemberton's Parlour. Accordingly, Mr. Brown's drawing would be probably correct; indeed, the absence of the shamrock in the appendages may be said to prove it.

With respect to the other coat of arms, on the south side, it was a mistake to suppose they were those of Earl Blondville, who had been dead 500 years before;—they were rather those of the *then* existing representative of the Earldom, who also held the Principality,—the banner of Wales and that of Cornwall appearing at the corners, as well as the supporters of the Prince of Wales upon each side,—so that Mr. Brown was right in intending them for the coat of the Earldom as held by the Prince, or (since *he* died in 1700) by the Sovereign herself, *pro. tem.* On this account it was also quite right to omit the label of primogeniture, which would otherwise have been introduced. The Dukedom of Cornwall always goes along with the Principality of Wales and Earldom of Chester in the Royal family.

The coat upon the north side was also in the main correctly taken for that of the city of Chester, granted under Flower, the herald, in Queen Elizabeth's reign; and the sketches now furnished by the Herald's College ought to be kept with that charter, as justifying the improved dimidiation, coming, as it did, from equal authority. A small alteration in the lions

was recommended to Mr. Brown, as suggested by the herald's sketch. As to minor points of mere artistical or minute detail, time would not allow hypercriticism; nor could the Society pretend to interfere with what belonged more peculiarly to the province of the artist and the architect. With regard to such points, and the figure of Queen Anne, the sculptor had better carefully copy the original, and every ornament on the crown and coronets, with as much accuracy as possible. It is still to be hoped that the balustrade, &c. of which portions are preserved within the building, may be placed around the parapet, as it originally was, instead of the present ugly wall.—(This has since been carried out as here suggested.)

After a few words from the Chairman, the meeting broke up.

The Archæological Society held their usual monthly meeting on Monday evening, March 7th, the Right Worshipful the Mayor in the chair.

Mr. Ayrton read a paper on "The River Dee and its Fisheries," (see pp. 234—250 of this Volume), in which he traced the various phases of the river from the time of the Conquest up to the present day. He commenced by contrasting the appearance of the river now from what it must have been in former centuries, when from the immense tracts of uncultivated ground through which it then flowed, its floods were so continual and so overwhelming; and the different aspect it bore under the rule of the Earls of Chester, when not a boat could be launched on its waters or a net thrown without their permission. He illustrated this part of his paper by producing some records belonging to the Marquess of Westminster; in particular a voluminous deed of confirmation from Edward III. to the Monks of Dieulacresse, near Leek, which recited several deeds of gift to those monks from different Earls of Chester, when they resided at Pulton, before they were translated to Leek by Ranulph, sixth Earl of Chester. He also produced one original deed (mentioned in Edward III.'s *Inspeimus*) from the said Ranulph, by which he gave to the Monks of Pulton, to have one free boat upon the river Dee to fish with by day and by night.

Mr. Ayrton next proceeded to notice a peculiarity in the jurisdiction of the river from time immemorial, by which it claimed exemption from the authority to which the rivers of England generally were subject, (viz. the "Commission of Sewers,") and asserted its right to exert powers of scrutiny, punishment, fine, and forfeiture, for offences done within its waters, by virtue of an office called the "Serjeanty of the Waters of Dee." This office was claimed by the predecessors of the Grosvenor family, and exercised by them as early as the reign of Edward III.; and Mr. Ayrton produced the original claim of Robert de Eaton of that date, which he read. He then followed their assertion of this right through succeeding centuries up to the last exercise of it in 1705, when Robert Brerewood, as Sir Richard Grosvenor's deputy (Sir Richard being a minor), proceeded with several boats

from Dee Bridge to Hilbre Island, in order to remove all stake nets and obstructions to the course of the river. Mr. Brerewood's account of the voyage, which was a very stormy one, and their adventures,—staving two of the boats,—putting into Parkgate for shelter,—and not getting back to Chester until the fifth day of their excursion, was very interesting, and an amusing contrast to the present railway times. It appears that the right to this office was claimed at various times by the Mayor and Corporation of Chester; and on this very occasion of Mr. Brerewood's exercise of it, they denied his right, and refused to sign the warrant he applied for, calling on certain citizens to assist him. They asserted that it belonged to them, by right of a charter from Henry VII.; which charter Mr. Ayrton alluded to as having been recently brought to light by Mr. Black, and as still existing in the muniment rooms at Chester Castle. He also produced a deed from the Lord High Admiral of England, dated 20th year of the reign of Henry VIII., confirming the authority of the Mayor and Corporation in every sense, over the very district claimed by the Grosvenor family, viz. from "Arnold's-eyre to Eaton-weyre;" and disclaiming all power of interference on the part of the Admiralty. Some discussion was elicited by the consideration of these claims, in which the Mayor, the Chancellor, Mr. Williams, Mr. Potts, and Mr. Massie took part; the general opinion appearing to be that, as nothing had ever been done to set aside the charter of Henry VII., that this power was still vested in the Mayor and Corporation of Chester.

Mr. Ayrton next alluded briefly to the *quondam* weir at Eaton, its supposed site, &c.; and to the controversies which arose in the 17th century between the owners of the Dee Mills and the citizens, whom they attempted to coerce, by obliging them to grind all their corn in those Mills. In conclusion, he noticed the obligation the Society was under to the Marquess of Westminster, who, by the very kind and liberal manner in which he had placed those valuable deeds in his hands for the purpose, had enabled him to bring them before the meeting for their consideration.

On Monday evening, the 4th of April, the usual monthly meeting of the Society was held at the City Library. The Rev. Chancellor Raikes presided; and Mr. Beamont, of Warrington, read an excellent Paper, descriptive of an ancient Altar Tomb in Warrington Church, of the same character as one which formerly stood in the Troutbeck Chapel, at St. Mary's, Chester, but which was unfortunately destroyed by the falling of the roof about 150 years ago. The paper was illustrated by several admirable drawings, and was replete with historical incidents and legendary lore of great interest; the subject was treated, in fact, with most intelligent discrimination and talent, and in a manner betokening no slight amount of antiquarian research, as will be at once apparent to those who refer back to pages 217—233 of our present Volume.

The Chancellor having expressed to Mr. Beamont the thanks of the meeting, Mr. Hicklin read Mr. Black's Report on the Rolls and Records now deposited in Chester Castle, which has been printed by order of the House of Commons, on the motion of Sir John Hanmer, M.P. for the Flintshire Boroughs. A discussion ensued; and ultimately the Report, which is most interesting and important, was referred for consideration to the Council of the Society. (See pages 312—329 of our present Volume, for full particulars of Mr. Black's useful labours in this city, in connection with these Records. The County Records have since been removed *en masse* to the Rolls Office, London.)

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Society was held on Monday, May 2nd, the Rev. Delves Broughton in the chair.

The Rev. Chancellor Raikes gave a highly interesting "Account of the opening of a Tomb at Hyampolis, in Bœotia," and produced several very elegant specimens of pottery which were found on the occasion. In tracing the manners and habits of ancient times, nothing, he observed, remained to us more significant than the forms of burial adopted by different nations, or, rather, different races of men; and it was a distinctive character of the Asiatic tribes from very remote ages, that their funereal ceremonies were performed with great pomp and at vast expense. He instanced various records of Holy Writ, and the remains of Petra, all of which, in their grandeur and costly execution, belonged to the dead; while the edifices with which the living had been content were long since swept away. These tributes of affection from those mourners who, in the ages preceding Christianity, had no sure ground for hope of a meeting again, were not to be lightly regarded.

The Greeks, though highly civilized, were less ostentatious in their funeral rites, though not less apparently mindful of the dead;—their epitaphs were often full of touching simplicity and pathos, and contrasted well with the verbose eulogiums of later times. One in particular had struck him from its mournful simplicity, merely naming the bereaved and the departed, as if all the world must needs understand the rest:—

ΕΠΙ ΧΑΡΙΚΛΕΙ
ΗΡΩΝ.

"ERON, ON CHARICLES."

One characteristic was to be noticed, as distinguishing the customs of all ancient times from those of later and present date. It was not until the superstition of mediæval ages attributed superior sanctity to the precincts of the church as places of burial* that intramural interment was ever per-

* It was Cuthbert, appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 741, who first ordered that burials should take place in cemeteries adjacent to the churches.

mitted; but so strong a hold had that habit obtained on the affections, that it required all the exertion of enlightened civilization to overcome mankind's prejudice in favour of a custom, which paid honour to the dead at the expense of the living. The Rev. Chancellor proceeded to give an extemporaneous and very interesting narrative of a visit made by himself to Hyampolis, many years ago, when comparatively very few Englishmen had visited Greece, and when the victories of Nelson had just given a prestige to the English name, which rendered his researches more practicable than they would otherwise have been. Prompted by these opportunities, and by the impossibility of making the same researches at Athens (then under French influence), he excavated at random in the vicinity of the remote town of Hyampolis, and, after one or two essays, came upon a tomb containing the vessels and figures which he now laid before them. Most of these had probably contained offerings of oil, honey, or perfume; and the figures (which were models of a cock and a dove) he supposed to have been indicative of the tastes of the person deceased. Some difference of opinion transpired among the members present on this head, and it was suggested that these emblems were either dedications to certain deities, or indicative of the pursuit and profession of the person. The vases, though not possessed of the finish belonging to later productions, and, with one exception, not ornamented with figures, were strikingly light, elegant, and of the classical form so peculiar to Grecian works of art. Our archaeological meetings have seldom been gratified with a discourse which combined learning and research with so happy an extemporaneous and unstudied delivery. It was this, indeed, that relieved the subject from the appearance of too abstruse science, and made it interesting to all.

The Rev. Thomas Gleadowe, of Wroxeter, presented a sketch of a Roman altar existing in his parish, with the inscription

DEABVS
 NYMPHIS
 BRITANNIÆ
 L. CARACTACVS
 CORNAVTVS
 V. S. L. M.

After a vote of thanks from the Chairman to the Rev. Chancellor Raikes, seconded by the Rev. W. Clarke, the meeting broke up.

The Society's usual monthly meeting was held on Monday evening, the 6th of June, the Rev. Chancellor Raikes in the chair.

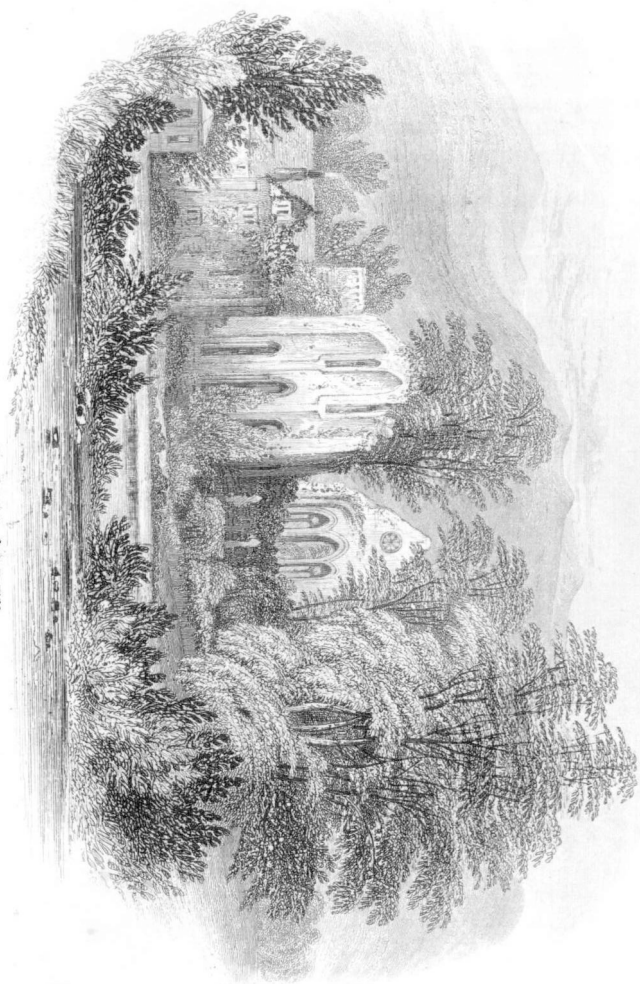
Mr. Edgar Garston (author of "Greece Revisited") read a Paper on "The Cyclopeian Remains of Greece," in which he gave a forcible picture of their present state and appearance, and entered very fully into their reputed origin and purposes. Mr. Garston prefaced his remarks on these

remains by a short sketch of the traditions existing respecting the people to whom they are attributed ; observing that, after connecting all the links which differing historians supply to us, their distinct character and origin must still ever remain a matter of surmise, though no doubt can be entertained (divesting them of their fabulous attributes) that they were a powerful and energetic race. He remarked it as singular that, though Homer alludes to their works, and particularly to the "well-walled Tirynthus," he nowhere speaks of the "Cyclops," but of the "Pelasgi," who were supposed by later writers to have succeeded them ; five hundred years later, Sophocles and Euripides both mentioned these remains as the works of the Cyclops. The most ancient of these remains, Tirynthus, was first examined and described by Mr. Garston, assisted by ground plans and illustrations, and he dwelt at some length upon the celebrated intermural galleries, which were no doubt intended as a means of defence, and belonged to the Citadel. The immense masses of which these galleries are built, have preserved them from the ravages of time or war ; and they still present to spectators the same appearance which, according to Pausanias, they wore in the second century. They may safely be supposed to date from about the time when Joseph was appointed ruler over Egypt. From Tiryns, Mr. Garston conducted his audience to Mycenæ, and gave sketches of the Acropolis and its entrances, especially dwelling upon the far-famed "Gate of the Lions." The emblems on this gate appear to assimilate with many on the temples of Egypt, where the sun and the elements of fire and water are represented by the same hieroglyphics. Turning from the Gate of the Lions to the neighbouring (so called) Treasury of Atreus, Mr. Garston minutely described the peculiarities of its construction, and discussed the arguments on which certain writers separately ascribe its original intention to have been that of a tomb or a treasury. He himself was disposed rather to associate with it a religious character, and supposed it to have been a temple dedicated to purposes of worship, either to Isis, Osiris, or Baal. After noticing the city of Argos and the remains in its neighbourhood, Mr. Garston concluded his very interesting paper by a general survey of buildings possessed of Cyclopean character, both in Greece, Italy, and Sardinia ; and noticed a supposed similarity in the Celtic remains in this country, but only to dissent from any attributed identity of origin. We understand Mr. Garston purposes favouring the Society with a paper on the later and more finished remains of Grecian architecture at no very distant period.

Mr. Edwards (Master of the Blue School) presented to the Society a stone, about eighteen inches high, lately found built into the wall of a cellar in White Friars, having a figure sculptured in bas-relief, undoubtedly Roman. It is indeed evidently a companion to one found some months since in the same street, a sketch of which was given opposite page 203 of the Society's present Volume.

The Annual Excursion of this Society was taken on Thursday, June 30, when a party of thirty-six ladies and gentlemen left Chester at nine o'clock, a.m. by the Shrewsbury and Chester Railway for the Llangollen Station, passing through a most lovely and verdant district, which the fineness of the day and the peculiar clearness of the atmosphere developed with more than ordinary beauty. At Llangollen Road, the excursionists embarked in one of the swift passenger boats of the Shropshire Union Company, specially provided for their accommodation, and enjoyed a delightful sail along the Ellesmere Canal, which runs through a succession of charming scenery over the Pont-y-Cysyllty aqueduct,—a noble triumph of engineering skill, which carries the canal across the Vale of Llangollen and the River Dee, at the height of 120 feet above the surface of the brawling streams below. From this elevation, landscapes of varying beauty and grandeur are seen to advantage; and fine views are obtained of the magnificent viaduct which spans the luxuriant valley, and carries the Shrewsbury and Chester Railway across that picturesque ravine on nineteen arches, at an elevation of 147 feet. These and other objects of striking interest having been passed, the canal meanders between groves of stately trees, through which constantly changing glimpses of the surrounding country are obtained, and, towering above those tranquil scenes of Arcadian loveliness, rise the rugged sides of the eagle crags, and the rocky steep on which frown the castellated remains of Dinas Bran. The course of the water then flows past the town of Llangollen, which lies below, nestling in the romantic shelter of an amphitheatre of verdant hills on the banks of its renowned river. A further sail to the Slate Quarry took the visitors to the appointed landing place, whence a gentle walk through a rural district led them to the ancient ruins of Valle Crucis Abbey; which, like the place of Lord Byron's poetic devotion, "lies sequestered in a happy valley," admirably adapted to shut out the world's excitements, to promote a calm spirit of holy contemplation, and to refresh the mind with those evidences of Almighty goodness, of which the Psalmist sings, "He hath so done His marvellous works that they ought to be had in remembrance." The Abbey was founded about the year 1200, and in conformity with the rule of the Cistercian fraternity, was dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it was dissolved in the year 1535, and is said to have been the first of the Welsh monasteries which underwent the doom of abolition. Its architectural remains, which sufficiently denote the great beauty of the original edifice, were examined with lively interest, and the more so, as by the intelligent zeal of Lórd Dungannon, who has devoted much time and energy to the work, parts long hidden from view are now developed, and such restorations have been effected as enable the patient archæologist not only to comprehend the real character and style of the noble edifice, but also to illustrate some of the historic records with which its existence is connected. Several antique monuments have been dis-

VALE GRUGIS ABBEY,
NEAR LLANCOLLEN.



covered ; and are placed in that portion of the chancel where they originally lay, when the bodies of those whom they commemorated were committed to the dust of death. The relics of the Abbey, which were built into an adjoining farm-house, were also inspected with much care and curiosity ; and having made themselves familiar with the various parts of the venerable fabric, the excursionists were joined by Lord Dungannon and a party of his friends : when his Lordship kindly explained the result of his restorative labours and his antiquarian researches. Mr. Caton, who accompanied Lord Dungannon, also read a series of interesting notes with reference to the old monuments, and the genealogy of the departed whose tombs they had once covered.

Mr. Hicklin, at the request of the Members, expressed to Lord Dungannon the sincere thanks of the Chester Archæological Society for his kindness in meeting them on that occasion, and their warm appreciation of the manner in which the restorations of the Abbey have been carried out under his Lordship's personal superintendence.

Lord Dungannon, in reply, thanked the Society for this gratifying acknowledgment of his services in promoting archæological investigations ; and assured them of the pleasure it always afforded him to contribute to the advancement of antiquarian knowledge, and to elucidate those important historical records which appertain to such buildings as that which they were then examining.

Lord Dungannon's friend was also thanked for his interesting explanations ; and a due record of this visit having been entered in the journal of the intelligent custodian of the Abbey, the party separated into various detachments for rambles in the immediate vicinity. Among other memorials of olden time, the celebrated Pillar of Eliseg was visited ; it stands about a quarter of a mile from Valle Crucis, on an ancient tumulus, in a beautifully secluded glen. It was erected by Cyngen ab Cadell Deyrullug, in memory of his great grandfather Eliseg, whose son Brochmail Yscythrog, grandfather of the founder of this rude monument of filial affection, was engaged in the memorable border wars at the close of the sixth century, and was defeated at the battle of Chester, A.D. 603. During the great Rebellion, this pillar was thrown down by Oliver Cromwell's " Reformers," who in their fiery zeal for destruction mistook it for a " Popish Cross ;" and it remained for more than a century in its broken recumbent condition, when it was restored and replaced upon a pedestal. It now forms an interesting relic of antiquity, and is probably the oldest British Cross, bearing a carved inscription, which exists in these islands,—that said inscription having long been a puzzle to the learned investigator of archæological remains.

Lord Dungannon is anxious to carry out still further the restorations at Valle Crucis ; but we are sorry to hear that his Lordship's proposal to put up a proper abbatial door, and to develop the architectural character of

the entrance, has met with a positive repulse from the proprietors of the Abbey; and he is forbidden to do more in the way of improvement! We had thought that such prejudices against archæological researches had died away; but we must "wait a little longer." The excursionists having re-assembled at the Canal, where they had disembarked, again took boat, and full of pleasant chat about what they had seen, soon reached Llangollen, where the Church, which contains the finely carved roof from Vale Crucis Abbey,* and the Old Bridge, were examined with some interest. An adjournment then took place to the Hand Hotel, where a cold collation, served up with excellent taste and liberality, was enjoyed; after which rambles in the pleasant garden by the river side, and an occasional run to Plas Newydd, the far-famed domicile of "The Ladies of Llangollen," whiled away the time till the departure of the boat, which conveyed the party by canal to the Llangollen Station, whence the railway carriages, reserved for their use, brought them back to Chester at nine o'clock, p.m., evidently delighted with an excursion which will, no doubt, form a subject for future discussion at the usual meetings of the Society.

We must not close our narrative without a grateful acknowledgment of the facilities afforded on the occasion by the Railway and Canal Companies.

A meeting of the Members of this Society was held on Monday, November 7th, at the Board Room of the New Savings' Bank, Mr. Williams (Old Bank) in the chair.

The programme for the evening contained no new paper on any particular subject; but in consequence of its being the opening meeting for the session of 1853-54, it had been determined to pass in review the papers of the past session, thus affording opportunity to their authors for a brief recapitulation of their opinions, and to the members of addressing such queries and remarks on the different subjects as might in the interim have occurred to them. Accordingly, the walls of the very handsome and appropriate room in which the meeting was for the first time held, were covered with illustrations of the various papers read during the last twelve months, and the number of subjects announced on the programme as relating to them promised a very prolonged, if not adjourned debate. Unfortunately, many of those who had taken the lead in the past meetings were unavoidably absent,—some from indisposition, and others from pressing engagements of a public official nature; so that the entire burthen of supplying matter for the evening fell upon two of the Secretaries,—the Rev. W. H. Massie

* Since this report was written, Mr. E. A. Freeman, than whom we can quote no higher living architectural authority, has expressed his doubts about the truth of this statement. He says of Llangollen Church roof, that "it is clear from its whole design and proportion, that it was originally intended for the place which it now occupies."

and Mr. Ayrton,—who certainly exerted themselves most manfully to sustain the task thus thrown upon them.

Mr. Massie gave a brief sketch of his paper “On the Monasteries and Nunneries of Chester,” accompanied by a plan of the city, and pointing out the different localities, to which he assigned their site. In doing so, he dwelt upon the interest communicated to the “highways and byeways” of our old city by some acquaintance with its former history, and urged a study of local archaeology as in every sense both useful and attractive. He noticed the two figures (one of which is represented at page 203 of our *Journal*.) lately found in White Friars, at different ends of the street, as being undoubtedly identical in date and origin, though differing in attitude, both being Roman. He called attention to the monument lately found in Trinity Church, of which a very interesting illustration was exhibited, and which was the remains of what had, no doubt, been a very magnificent altar-tomb, closely resembling that of Sir Hugh Calveley, in Bunbury Church; the date of that in Trinity Church being 1374, the one at Bunbury 1390. This was a tomb of one of the Whitmores, who were great benefactors to the city in their day. An illustration of this tomb will be found opposite page 357 of the present Volume. Mr. Massie next alluded to the Roman Bath, and its present state, expressing the obligation the public were under to Mr. Royle for the care which he had taken to preserve its remains intact, during the alterations he had been making over it. (See plate opposite page 356.)

Mr. Ayrton was called upon for some remarks on “The River Dee and its Fisheries,” which he gave, describing the laws by which the supervision and conservation of rivers generally throughout the kingdom had been governed, and comparing with them the special rights which different members of the Eaton family had exercised over the Dee, and which were derived originally from the Earls of Chester, as appertaining to “the dignity of the Sword of Chester.” These rights, he conceived, still existed, though now vested in the Mayor and Corporation of the city, by right of a charter of Henry the Seventh, then among the records of Chester Castle. He read a summary of Mr. Garston’s paper “On the Cyclopeian Remains of Greece,” accompanied by some remarks on their peculiar style of architecture.

Some desultory conversation on the “Sinaitic Inscriptions” took place, on referring to the illustrations of the Rev. Chancellor Raikes’ paper on the subject, in which the Rev. D. Broughton, Mr. Williams, the Rev. W. H. Massie, &c. engaged; but the Chancellor being unavoidably absent, it was determined to postpone a fuller discussion of the matter to a future opportunity.

The Rev. W. H. Massie exhibited a small folio M.S. volume of the 16th century, in the autograph of Robert Rogers, B.D., Archdeacon of Chester between 1580-95. It had been considerably forwarded for the inspection

of the Society by George Fortescue Wilbraham, Esq. of Delamere Lodge, Cheshire, with permission to use it in any way which might seem desirable to the Council. It was placed for examination in the hands of Mr. Hughes, who, a short time afterwards, reported it to contain a complete list of the Mayors and Sheriffs of Chester, a history of the Palatinate Earldom, and various other Cheshire matters of high interest. It was, in fact, just such a work as should be published, without abridgment, and with illustrative notes, by the Chetham Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Wilbraham for his courtesy in forwarding the volume for exhibition.

The entertainment of the evening, though desultory, and not possessed of much novelty, was on the whole extremely agreeable; the "table talk" being, after all, perhaps less formidable and more acceptable generally than the delivery of a dry and abstruse paper. At the same time, we should remember that mere diversion is not the principal object of these meetings, and that solid information cannot always be dressed in the garb of amusement.

The last monthly meeting for the year was held on Tuesday evening, December 6th, in the Albion Assembly Room, when Mr. T. C. Archer delivered a lecture "On the new Crystal Palace at Sydenham," during which most interesting information was communicated on the locality and then state of the building,—the architectural improvements and novel additions,—the terrace gardens,—the extraordinary hydraulic works, and grandeur of the fountains,—the temple of roses, and general design of the gardens. The objects of the Crystal Palace—in an educational point of view—as a means for advancing the various branches of natural history and applied sciences, were clearly described; the magnificent projects for illustrating ethnology, zoology, botany, and geology, were also explained; and complete illustrations of the useful applications of science were exemplified. The unexampled comprehensiveness of the fine arts collection in the sculpture department, and the arrangements for the illustration of architectural eras, were ably delineated.

The lecture was listened to with much attention by a numerous and highly intelligent audience, and was illustrated by Mr. P. H. Delamotte's splendid series of large photographs and maps of the Sydenham Palace, with its adjacent grounds. At the close of his observations, a vote of thanks, on the motion of the Rev. Chancellor Raikes, was heartily awarded to Mr. Archer for his interesting and instructive lecture. It only remains for us to record here, that the Crystal Palace was opened in becoming form by Her Majesty the Queen in person, on Saturday, the 10th of June, 1854, in the presence of an immense concourse of distinguished visitors.

The monthly meeting was held on the second Monday evening in January, and the chair having been taken by the Rev. Canon Blomfield, the Rev. F. Grosvenor read an intelligent and interesting paper on "The Annexation of the Principality of Wales to the English Crown." It was a lucid and comprehensive abstract of all the historical events bearing upon the subject, from the time of the Norman conquest till the reign of Edward the First, when the territory of the ancient Cambrian sovereigns became subject to the English sceptre. It is printed *in extenso* at pp. 263—278 of this Volume. Mr. Blomfield, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Grosvenor, warmly commended the paper, and made a few remarks on the subject which it so well illustrated. Mr. Williams (of the Old Bank) in seconding the proposition, also added some pertinent and amusing observations; and Mr. Hicklin addressed the meeting in further elucidation of some historical points which had been alluded to by Mr. Grosvenor.

Mr. Blomfield then vacated the chair (to which Mr. Williams succeeded) for the purpose of reading a paper "On St. Nicholas Chapel," better known then as the Chester Theatre. The various vicissitudes through which the old building had passed were described with lively and graphic effect, and enlivened by incidental allusions to the manners and customs of the Cestrians at the various periods in which it was successively used a Chapel, a Town Hall, a Wool Mart, and a Theatre. This paper, forming a welcome contribution to our local history, will be found printed at large at pp. 251—262 of the present volume of our *Journal*. Mr. Blomfield concluded by stating the particulars of the scheme for converting the Theatre into a Music Hall; and Mr. Harrison produced and explained the plans of the intended alterations. A vote of thanks to the Rev. Canon Blomfield for his able and interesting paper was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Hicklin, both of whom addressed the meeting on various topics, suggested by the history of the Theatre. A most agreeable evening of intellectual recreation was enjoyed.

At the monthly meeting, on Monday evening, February 9th, Dr. Richard Phillips Jones in the chair,

The Rev. Delves Broughton delivered an eloquent, interesting, and remarkably clever lecture "On the Sinaitic Inscriptions," which the publication of the Rev. Mr. Forster's book, entitled "The Voice of Israel from the Rocks of Sinai," has brought into so much discussion among the literary and scientific circles of England and other countries. Mr. Broughton disputed, with great ability, the conclusions at which Mr. Forster had arrived; and, in the course of his arguments, exhibited an extent of antiquarian investigation and learned research of the most varied and intelligent

character. The lecture was illustrated by a number of drawings. At the close a rather animated discussion arose, in which several of the leading members of the Society took part; and a wish was expressed for some further opportunity of examining the statements, which so thoroughly contravened not only the inferences of Mr. Forster, but the tenour of a paper formerly read on the same subject by the Rev. Chancellor Raikes.

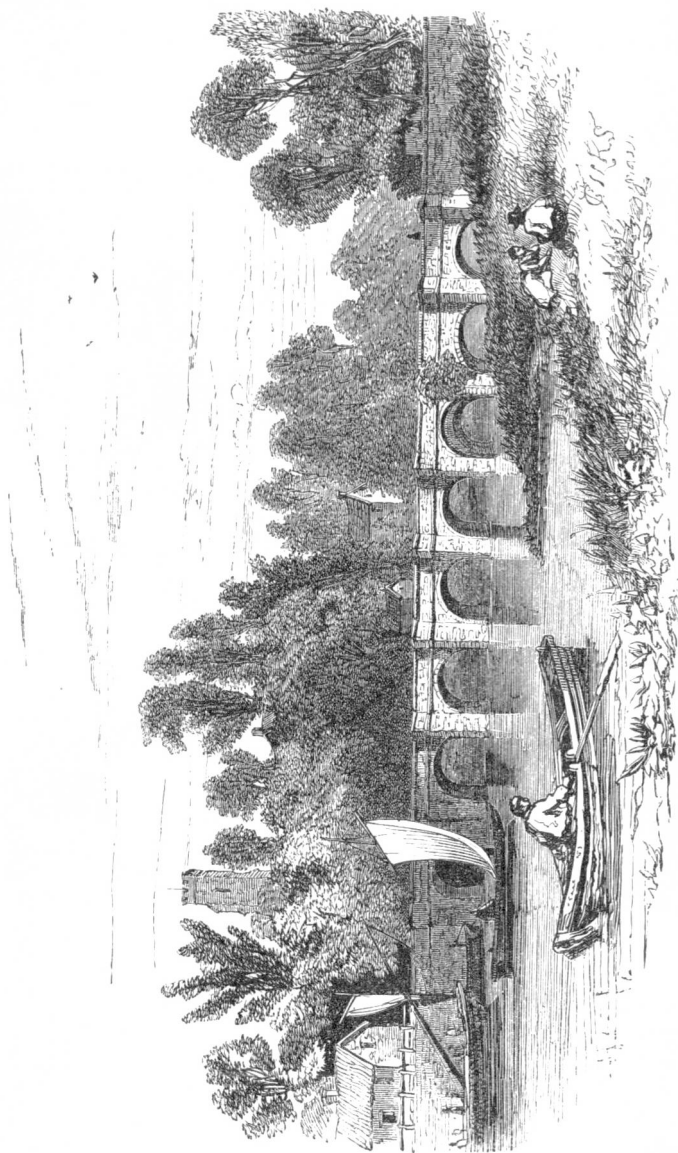
The Rev. Canon Blomfield then introduced some additional notes to his recent lecture on the history of St. Nicholas' Chapel, better known as the Chester Theatre; the most remarkable of which were the description of an old theatre, which formerly stood at the end of an obscure entry in Foregate Street, where the celebrated Garrick once performed,—the production of an old play-bill of the night's performance at the Puppet Show on November 5th, 1772, when seventy persons were killed while attending the entertainment, by an explosion of gunpowder from some premises underneath,—and a copy of an extract from the Harleian manuscripts, which Mr. Blomfield had obtained from the British Museum, in illustration of the history of St. Nicholas' Chapel, and which proves, what is a very unusual case, that an error has been committed by Dr. Ormerod, in his *History of Cheshire*, as to the nature of a contract between the Corporation of Chester and the Abbot of St. Werburgh. This document appears at length in the Appendix to the present Volume.

Thanks were voted to Mr. Broughton and Mr. Blomfield for the instruction and entertainment they had so kindly afforded; and thus closed a pleasant evening of intellectual enjoyment.

On Friday, July 14th, the annual excursion of this Society was taken, the places selected for visiting being Farndon, Holt, Aldford, Eaton Hall, and Eccleston. At 10 30 a.m. a party of fifty ladies and gentlemen embarked on board the convenient steam-boat which plies upon the Dee above the Causeway, under the command of "Captain" Kemp, and proceeded most pleasantly along the softly flowing river, which develops a charming succession of scenes of rural beauty, to the Iron Bridge of Eaton Park, when rain set in; and the voyage to Farndon was continued amidst heavy showers, which prevented the enjoyment of the picturesque prospects in the neighbourhood.

About one o'clock, the steamer was moored near the fine old Bridge of that village, which, with the tower of Farndon Church on the one hand and Holt Church on the other, and its ivy-clad rocks in the back ground, form a rich and charming picture of historic interest. * The Bridge was

* The accompanying illustration of Holt Bridge is a present to the Society from Thomas Baines, Esq. of Liverpool, who is about shortly to publish a serial work on the History of Lancashire and Cheshire, with engravings similar to that which embellishes the present notice.



Engraved from an original Sketch

HOLT BRIDGE, CHESHIRE.

by Thomas Gills.

built in the reign of Edward the Third ; and in the centre are the remains of the gateway and tower, which formerly divided England and Wales. Pennant says that " the date 1345 was preserved till very lately on a stone over what is called the Lady's Arch." Farndon and Holt being built on the opposite banks of the River Dee, which is there but a narrow stream, present the appearance to the spectator of being the same town. John Speed, the historian, was a native of Farndon, where he was born in 1552.

The manor of Farndon belonged at the period of the Domesday survey to the Bishoprick of Lichfield, which diocese then included Cheshire ; and it is now held under lease from that See by the family of Barnston of Churton, now represented by Major Roger H. Barnston, of Crewe Hill, one of the heroes of the Crimea. A younger brother of this gentleman, Captain William Barnston, also fought and bled for his country in the same arduous campaign.

Farndon Church was first visited ; it is of very old foundation, being mentioned in Domesday, under the name of Forentone, as existing prior to the Conquest. The tower is good, and the eastern basement of the north chancel, together with some of the internal arches of the nave, are probably of Edward the Third's reign, at which time the Bridge was also built. None of the original Norman structure remains in view, and most of the outer walls and windows are subsequent even to the Reformation. There are, however, no galleries to obstruct improvements, and the lofty arches of the nave would ensure a general good effect, if the Church were to be thoroughly restored.

The Church yet contains some of those modern abominations—high enclosed pews, fitted up with tables, lounging seats, and curtains,—as if to screen off the occupants from " the people," and destroy the very notion of " common prayer." We were glad, however, to observe that a good work of restoration had commenced ; a large pulpit had been removed from its unsightly position in front of the east window ; the chancel was undergoing repairs and improvement, an open oak roof had been constructed, an appropriate new pulpit of good design had been placed on the south side of the arch, and a reading desk at the opposite corner ; and several stalls of good ecclesiastical pattern were to be introduced. These improvements in the chancel have been effected at the cost of the Marquis of Westminster, who is lay Rector of the parish. The Church was burned by the Parliamentary army during the siege of Holt Castle, and re-built after the calamities of the " Great Rebellion,"—a fact confirmed by an old written paper found in the Church in an excellent state of preservation, which was handed to us for transcribing, and which runs thus :—" This Church being ruined by fire, 1645, was repaired, and the bells all cast 1658, and was beautified by George Clubb and Hugh Maddock, Church Wardens, 1681." In a small gallery at the west end there is an organ, which was once a barrel organ,

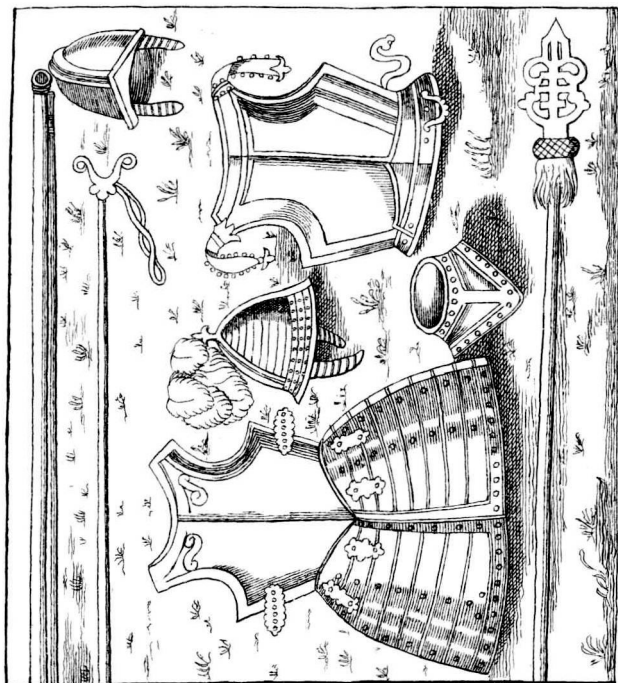
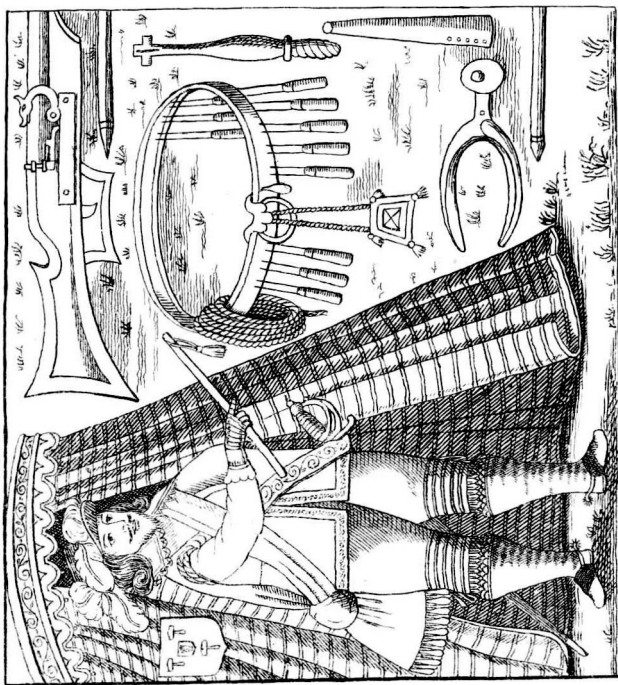
but keys have been ingeniously introduced by the village blacksmith, who plays upon it during Divine service,—an observation which immediately induced from one of the party the appropriate witticism, that the skilful mechanic must be “*The Harmonious Blacksmith.*”

A south chapel has always belonged to the Barnstons, who now also occupy the northern chapel, having received it from the Massies, of Coddington, with an exchange of certain lands. In a window of this chapel is an interesting little frame of stained glass, representing men at arms, and various officers of the time of Charles the First; Sir Francis Gamul (whose tomb is in St. Mary's, Chester,) occupying the chief compartment. Sir Francis was one of the three who stood by the side of King Charles on the leads of the Phoenix Tower, Chester, to watch the mortifying conflict on Rowton Moor. Charles created him a Baronet for his loyalty; but owing to the perilous times, the patent was never registered. The shields also indicate one figure as a Grosvenor, another as a Mainwaring, a third as a Barnston, and a fourth, hitherto unknown, but which is certainly Berrington, the standard bearer, whose shield of three greyhounds is carved on an oak above a mantel-piece in Castle-street, Chester.

We must not omit to mention also that there is an ancient monument, recently recovered from its interment under ground, and now placed erect at the west end of the Church; it is a figure in chain armour and *chapeau de fer*, of about the date of Edward III., though many might take it to be more antique from its workmanship. The inscription round the heater-shaped shield is “*Hic jacet Patriceius de Bartun—O'P'EO.*” i. e. “*Orate pro eo.*”—pray for him.

On leaving Farndon, the visitors passed from Cheshire into Denbighshire, by walking over the Bridge to the ancient town of Holt, which in days of yore was a place of considerable celebrity and importance, though now wearing the aspect of a dilapidated municipality.

Holt Church is capacious, on much the same ground plan and general character externally as Gresford, though the tower is older, and the ornamentation not near so rich. The internal arches of the nave are very highly pointed, and apparently of much older date than those at Farndon. The tracery of the windows is perpendicular, of the four-centred Tudor style, to which most of the other features have originally corresponded, but appear to have been renewed far more recently, much of the parapet and other parts betraying the good intention of what is called “the debased period.” Still the Church is substantial, and is capable, like Farndon, of being made a noble edifice for congregational purposes, under favourable auspices and a judicious hand. The columns of the chancel have been restored in the fluted style, and the capital of the eastern half-pillar set, not above it, but on one side, has been *said* to indicate that the Bishop of the diocese died, or was translated during the progress of the work. There



H. J. Salter's lith.

SIR FRANCIS GAMUL, BART.

MAYOR OF CHESTER, 1634.

From the centre compartment of a Painted Window in Farndon Church, Cheshire.

is a very curious old brass in this Church, of the date A.D. 1666, fixed in the northern wall near the east end; it records the following inscription, which is of a better purport than many of that period of epitaphic puffery:—

“ The life of man, imperfect from the wombe,
 Hasteneth both day and night unto the tombe;
 Of mortal life when once the thread is spunne,
 Man has a life immortal then begunne;
 A wise man dying lives and living dies;
 Such was ye man yt here entombed lies:
 Carefull he lived God’s sacred lawes to keepe
 Religiously, until yt death or sleepe
 Vnto a happy life his soul did bring,
 Ending this life to live with Xt. our King.”
“ Stipendium Peccati Mors.”

Under the inscription is a recumbent skeleton, with the motto—

“ Hodie Mihi, Cras Tibi.”

and a record of the date of the death of the deceased, but not his name, which is indicated, after the fashion of those times, by an acrostic of the verse above, “ Thomas Crve,”—Thomas Crewe. The tablet is surmounted by armorial bearings, supported by pedestals, at the top of which is engraved “ *Fugit Hora.*”

During the troubles of the civil wars in the reign of Charles the First, the troops of Brereton’s army are said to have stabled their horses in Holt Church; and some curious traditions are extant in the town as to the capricious excesses by which they signalized their contempt for consecrated edifices. The windows were originally filled with stained glass, some fragments of which are still discernible. From the Church the party proceeded to the remains of Holt Castle, which are very scanty, and but of slight interest now, for modern spoilers have completed what desolating conquerors began; and a few stone walls of an old tower are all that is left of the departed strength and glory of this ancient fortress. Pennant, in his “ *Tours in Wales,*” gives a curious old picture and ground plan of the building, which he thus describes:—

“ The poor reliques of the Castle are seated close to the river; and are insulated by a vast foss cut through a deep bed of soft red stone; which seems originally to have been thus quarried for the building of the Castle. This fortress consisted of five bastions, and the work cut into that form, to serve as a base to as many towers. An antient survey I met with in the Museum, among the Harleian MSS. taken in 1620 by John Norden, when it was entire, will give a true idea of this curious structure. It had been defended in three parts by the great chasm formed by the quarry; on the fourth by the Dee, into which jutted a great quay, still to be seen in very dry seasons; for it has long since been covered by the encroachment of the river.”

"Originally, this place had been a small outpost to Deva. Slopes, and other now almost obsolete works, may be seen near the Castle, and on the opposite side of the water; and coins have been found here, that put the matter out of doubt. I have seen some of Antoninus, Gallienus, Constantinus, and Constantius. I conjecture that the Roman name had been *Castra Legionis*, and the Welsh, *Castell Lleon*, or the castle of the legion; because it was garrisoned by a detachment of the legion stationed at Chester. The English borderers might easily mistake *Lleon* for the plural of *Llew*, which signifies a lion, and so call it the Castle of Lions; as we find it styled when it came into possession of Earl Warren and his successors.

"This country formed part of Powysland; which, when entire, reached in a straight line from Broxton hills in Cheshire, southerly to Pengwern Powys, or Shrewsbury, including a large tract in both these counties; from thence through the eastern limits of Montgomeryshire, comprehending all that county, part of Radnorshire and Brecknockshire; then turning northward, included the cwmwds of Mowddwy, Edeirnion, and Glyndyfrdwy, Merionethshire, and (circuiting part of Denbighshire) came along part of the Clwydian hills, to the summit of Moel-famma, including all Denbighshire, excepting those parts which at present constitute the lordships of Denbigh and Ruthin; from hence, taking a south-easterly direction to Broxton hills, asserted its right to Molesdale, Hopedale, and Maelor, in Flintshire. I have before taken notice, that Offa's encroachment was but temporary, and of short duration. I must farther observe, that in our articles of pacification between Henry III. and our last prince Llewellyn, the limits of the principality experienced but a very small diminution from what it was in Offa's time, when it was agreed that the Dee should be the boundary from Wirral to *Castrum Leonum*, or Holt; and from thence in a direct line to Pengwern Powys."

"It was, perhaps, of much greater extent under the reign of Brochwel Ysgythrog, who was defeated by the Saxons at the battle of Chester." 1963

Poor as was Holt Castle in Pennant's days, it is poorer now, for no care seems to have been taken to protect the ruins, portions of which are visible as forming boundary walls and outbuildings in different parts of the town; still these memorials of former days are not without their interest, as suggestive of important historical associations, and may serve in many respects to "point a moral" for the reflective patriot, if not to "adorn a tale" for the lover of romance.

The Rev. R. W. Bagot and Mr. Owen of Farndon, and the Mayor of Holt kindly joined the excursionists to point out objects of interest, and to communicate local information.

The appointed time for leaving Holt having arrived, the party re-embarked, and the boat steamed on her homeward trip; the rain, however,

which had occasionally abated, now set in with most persevering earnestness, and continued to fall so heavily that the intended visit to Aldford Church was abandoned. On reaching the Iron Bridge, therefore, where it had been intended ("weather permitting") to enjoy a collation at the pretty cottage on the banks of the river, the excursionists landed and walked to Eaton Hall, in one of the newly-finished coach-houses of which mansion Mr. Allen, Lord Westminster's superintendent, had kindly arranged that the dinner might be served. Here, accordingly, under comfortable shelter from the pelting showers, the tables were set, and an excellent repast was provided for a party of fifty-three by Mr. Bolland, of Eastgate Row, with his usual good taste and liberality as a purveyor. The Mayor of Chester (Mr. J. Smith) presided, Mr. Hicklin officiating as vice-president. During the collation the toasts of "The Queen and the Ladies," "The Prince and the Gentlemen," and "The Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster," were duly proposed and honoured; and thanks were gratefully tendered to Mr. Allen for the kind consideration with which he had promoted the comfort of the party. Dinner having been discussed, the visitors proceeded to the interior of Eaton Hall, and the various alterations and embellishments of that princely mansion, with its splendid architecture, its fine pictures, its noble statuary, and elegant adornments, were examined with lively interest and admiration.

Unfortunately the weather continued too wet for the party to promenade the gardens, or to examine the peculiar alterations and marked improvements in the exterior of the Hall, which would properly fall within the investigations of a Society claiming to be "Architectural," as well as "Archæological and Historic." After leaving the Hall, the pitiless rain forbade the intended walk to Eccleston Church; and so the party adjourned to the steamer, which brought them safely back to Chester about half-past eight o'clock.

A more friendly and happy meeting was never enjoyed, so far as relates to the character and disposition of the party; but no archæologists, though as old as King Canute, can control the elements. The weather was sadly unfortunate, for with a balmy breeze and a bright sun, a more agreeable excursion could not be devised; but the prevailing temper was one of unalloyed kindness and goodwill, and served to illustrate the truth of somebody's observation that the light of woman's smiles can cheer the gloomiest day, for the good humour with which the ladies braved all the disappointments and discomforts of the weather, rendered even a wet day on the river enjoyable. The unavoidable absence of Mr. Massie, the Ecclesiastical Secretary, from ill health, was a subject of general regret.

A Supplemental Excursion was afterwards made, August 2, to the same localities, and a pleasant trip enjoyed by many Members and friends of the Society, who were unable to be present at the original gathering.

1855.

On Friday, January 19th, two remarkably intelligent and interesting lectures were delivered by the Rev. J. G. Cumming, M.A., F.G.S., formerly Vice-Principal of King William's College, in the Isle of Man, but now Head Master of the Lichfield Grammar School. The meetings were held in the Assembly Room of the Savings' Bank, and were attended by a numerous audience.

The subject in the morning was "The History of the Northmen of the Isles;" and in the evening, "The Runic Monumental Remains in the Isle of Man." After a short introduction, Mr. Cumming observed that

There must have been something truly great and grand in the character of the nation which has left behind it in the Isle of Man such enduring memorials of itself. Strange it may seem, but it is nevertheless true, that after nearly six hundred years of connection with England, the form of government in the Island should be Scandinavian, and not British; and almost stranger still is it, that the "the last remains (as Professor Worsaae has noticed) of the old Scandinavian *Thing*, which for the protection of public liberty was held in the open air in the presence of the assembled people, should be met with, not in the North itself, but in the little Isle of Man, far in the West, and in the midst of the British kingdom." That race must have been great, too, and have exercised a mighty influence there, which could impress itself, as it were, upon the mountains, rocks, bays, towns, and villages of the Island. The names of pretty nearly all those which are not the original Celtic, are again Scandinavian, and not British. Take but a short survey, and we have in the Isle of Man, Port Soderic and Saltric, Ronaldsway, Dreswick, Sandwick, Perwick, Aldrick, and Fleshwick. We have Langness, the Calf, the Eye, Kitterland, the Mull, Brada, Grammr. We have Colby, Scolaby, and Grenaby, all certainly Scandinavian. Two or three names of places ending in *by* occur in the neighbourhood of Chester,—Helsby, West Kirkby, Pensby, Irby, &c. These are clearly Danish.

The lecturer then proceeded to bring down the history of the Northmen as connected with the Isle of Man, commencing with the period at which—the close of the 8th century—the Danish Vikings commenced ravaging Great Britain, and took possession of the Isle of Man, in the year 888, a Welsh line of kings having held it from the middle of the 7th century. The memorials of the two first Scandinavian kings were the House of Keys and Castle Rushen; of their followers—Rushen Abbey and Peel Castle. Barrows and Runic crosses, which were once very numerous, are still to be found. With reference to the barrows, the lecturer observed that when these barrows and stone circles have been examined, they have turned

out to be merely places of sepulture, and it seems strange people should continue to assign them as places of worship and sacrifice belonging to the Druids. He would not say that none of these mounds may be the burial ground of the ancient Celts or aborigines, at a time when Druidism prevailed here, but that they are undoubtedly places of heathen and not Christian *burial*; the entire absence of ornaments and weapons, of the stone or of the bronze period, in the barrows, as far as they have hitherto been examined, would lead to the belief that they can hardly be referred back to the period of the Druids, though probably some of the stone circles may, and the occurrence of square stone chests and cinerary urns in these barrows wherever they have been opened, indicate that the bodies buried did not belong to men who professed Christianity.

Mr. Cumming then gave a brief abstract of the history of Scandinavian Viceroy in Man down to the Scottish conquest in 1270, at the same time connecting their history with that of their brethren in the surrounding countries. Of the Runic Monuments or Crosses there are, in the Isle of Man, a fine collection of examples, some almost as entire as when they first came out of the graver's hands; others in a very fragmentary and dilapidated condition, yet bearing traces of rich ingenuity of device, and considerable artistic skill. There are at least thirty-four of these relics known to be connected with the Island, and there are eight other crosses, which are probably the work of the Northmen. The different ages and characters of these Runic monuments were detailed by the lecturer at some length;—the origin and introduction into Europe, from Asia Minor, of the Runic character, having first been described.

The language of the Manx inscriptions was Icelandic, or ancient Scandinavian. On examining closely these Runic monuments, we soon perceive that they are truly *sui generis*; they are not exact copies of others elsewhere existing, but the artists have followed their own rich, peculiar, and fantastic ideas in the execution of these designs. When we recur to the fact before mentioned, of the close connection, during the 11th century, between the Danes in Ireland and Man,—remembering that the same, or closely connected, kings reigned in Man and Dublin,—it is readily perceived that there may well be, as there undoubtedly is, a general resemblance between the Manx and Irish Crosses, which have the Runic pattern. The peculiar ornament called the Runic knot, which he would rather name cable-work—occurs on Saxon, Scotch, and Irish monuments, but the Manx Crosses approach nearest to the Scotch. He could not help tracing them all up to a Scandinavian or Danish origin. It is just such an adornment as would readily suggest itself to a seafaring people, and he would class them all under the head of Barbaric, and disconnect them entirely from the Byzantine. All the Manx Runic crosses appear to be simply obituary memorials, recording merely the fact that “A. B. erected this cross to C. D., his

father, mother, brother, sister," &c. &c., and in two or three cases adding the name of the engraver of the cross.

In the Vestry of Kirk Michael, Isle of Man, is the fragment of the upper portion of what must have been a very beautiful Runic Cross. It was formerly built in the Church-yard wall, whence it was stolen, but afterwards recovered by the parish officers. The devices on this fragment are somewhat remarkable. We have on one side the figure of our Blessed Lord, with a glory on His head, and arms *extended* (the body not *depending*), indicating that "*oblatus est quia ipse voluit*." He is girt about the loins, the legs and feet being nude. This is almost characteristic of the 10th and 11th centuries. In earlier examples the figure is more fully draped, and generally, though not always, in later examples the body depends.

The pelleted ribbon is fastened with rings at the extremities of the arms and head of the cross. This is a peculiar mode of ornamenting the Manx Crosses, and occurs on all of Gaut's workmanship, of which this is most likely an example. A circle, or glory unites the arms of the cross, which is the case with nearly all the Manx examples. In the left hand corner we have the ornament of a cock, the symbol of repentance; in the right hand an angel, underneath, which is the *triquetra*, the symbol of the Trinity.

The opposite face of this fragment contains a rich arrangement of two pairs of interlacing pelleted ribbons, fastened with pelleted rings both at the centre and the extremities of the arms. A glory, as before, encircles the arms, and in the left hand upper corner we have a knot work of pelleted ribbon, which has much the appearance of one of the scale covered monsters on the Braddan Crosses, and the tall cross of Joalf, at Kirk Michael. On the right hand top corner is a kilted figure, apparently in the act of ascending towards a cloud overhead. The fragment of the inscription, which is along the edge, reads "*Grims ins suarta*," *i. e.* Grims the Black.

Many of the Crosses contain no inscription whatever; but their character is too closely allied to others which have inscriptions, to allow us to doubt that they present the true Scandinavian type. Whether the various figures frequently portrayed on them—weapons of war and musical instruments, animals of the chase and for domestic use,—indicated the trade or occupation of the person buried, or were merely intended as ornament, is a contested question. He was inclined to the latter view, from finding these figures occurring singly as terminal ornaments on the top of cable-work, or intermingled with it. In almost all of the Manx monuments the figure of the cross is surrounded by a circle of glory, or, at least, its place indicated by four holes. In two cases a cross itself forms the termination of a piece of cable-work. On the head of one cross also (at Kirk Conchan) occur the words "*Jesu Christ*," in Runes. In most cases the Runes are read from the bottom upwards, and in all but five



Inscription on upper edge of Cross.

YRIFY:IN:INIR11

FRAGMENT OF A RUNIC CROSS
ERECTED TO GRIMS THE BLACK
AT KIRK MICHAEL, ISLE OF MAN.

W. H. Woodfield. 1897.

cases, as far as observed, the writing is on the edge of the stone. An inscription on a Cross at Kirk Michael, on the south side of the gate, enables us to point out with some degree of probability which were the earliest of these Runic monuments in the Isle of Man. On that cross it is stated that "Gaut made this (cross) and all in Man." "Gaut girthi thana auk ala i Maun." And on another at Kirk Andreas is written "Gautr Bjornson made this cross." "Gautr girthi sunr Biarnar." By comparing the style of these two crosses with some others we find great similarity, and may thus class them under one period. The cross with the harper, on the north side of the gate of Kirk Michael, from its workmanship and Runic character, belongs probably to a later date. The names contained in it are all Celtic, not Scandinavian, and the Runes are on the back, not on the side. The Cross at Kirk Andreas, erected by Sandulf the Swarthy to his wife Arinbjorg, seems to stand alone. But we may class together the dragon cross (Thurlaf Neaki's) in Braddan, and another, once in the church tower, but now removed, and placed alongside of the other dragon cross in the centre of the churchyard, with the large Kirk Michael (or Joalf's) Cross. There is a similarity in style again between the Braddan round cross, the Kirk Conchan dog cross, and cat cross, and one at Lonan of great size. The Thurith Cross at Conchan is evidently the work of a very ordinary country mason, who wrought without rule or plummet, and scrawled and spelt badly. This cross is, however, most interesting from its containing the name Jesu Christ.

The Cross, of which both sides are shewn on next page, is one of the most perfect remaining in the Isle of Man. It was probably the work of Gaut Bjornson. His normal idea of two pairs of ribbons interlacing and filling up the arms of the Cross, but fastened also with rings at their extremities, is here carried out on one face (the inscribed face); but instead of the central ring, which generally is found in his work, we have a boss surrounded by the ribbons, and the rings, four in number and pelleted, are carried along the shaft of the Cross, tying up the ribbons, which are split and pelleted, thus giving a great richness to the general appearance. On the other face the central ribbons, also ornamented, are deficient in rings, but surround a boss; whilst on one side of the shaft we have, terminated by a cross, an ornament of chain work, singularly beautiful, and not found on any Irish or Scotch Crosses. On the other side of the shaft is a modification of the T ornament, or guilloche, a great favourite with Gaut, and very effective.

It will be observed that one face of this Cross is deficient in the encircling glory, which would have interfered with the knot work, but it occurs on the other face. The inscription is in pretty fair preservation. It is in earlier Manx Runes. The first word is somewhat indistinct, but the reading seems to be—"Loulaibr : Thorjulb : sunr : raisti : crs : thona : aifir : Ub : sun :

sin :” *i.e.*, “Lovleif, the son of Thorjolf, erected this cross to his son Ub,” (or perhaps “Ulb,” *i.e.*, Olaf).*

Upon a general review of these Runic remains, we can hardly but be struck with the evidence they afford that these Northmen, whose names we associate only with everything that is barbarous and bloody, were anything but an uncivilized and uncultivated people. There was in them a great deal of natural refinement, a taste for the beautiful in art, and an originality of design. They were poets and musicians too, as well as sculptors. On one of these monuments we have the representation of a man playing on a harp; and the poems of one of their number, who flourished shortly after these monuments were erected, (Snorro Sturlson), have come down to our own day, and abound with fine descriptive and heart-stirring passages. That they were legislators, as well as warriors, the persistency of much of their legal code in the island at the present day abundantly proves; and that they earnestly embraced Christianity, even when offered to them by a conquered people, is evidenced by the munificent gifts for religious purposes which were made from time to time by the Scandinavian kings in Man, as well as by the very numerous memorials which even the common people have left behind them, of their affectionate remembrance of their friends who died in the faith of Christ.

The lectures were profusely illustrated by a number of drawings, casts, and rubbings, from remarkable examples of antiquity; and as an exposition of an early and comparatively unknown period of British history, they were marked by a patient research, a clearness of statement, and a fulness of antiquarian lore, which excited the interest and largely contributed to the information of the meetings.

The evening lecture (which is now in the press, and will be shortly published by Mr. Cumming, illustrated with about 60 original plates,†) elicited some pertinent remarks from several gentlemen present. The Runic Crosses of the Isle of Man naturally enough suggested enquiries respecting the beautiful Crosses at Sandbach, in Cheshire, which, however, the lecturer considered to be of later date than those of the which he had been treating. It is to be hoped that some Member of our Society in the

* Since this lecture was delivered, Mr. Cumming has more closely examined the inscription on this Cross, and proposes the following amended reading:—“Thorlaibr: Thorjulb: sunr: raisti: crs: thona: aftir: Ulb: sun: sin:” *i.e.*, “Thorlaf, Thorjolf’s son, erected this cross to his son Olave.” There is apparently a small additional stroke in the first letter, which will convert the “l” into “th”; the “u” or “v” are so very like “r” that they may readily be mistaken; and there is a faint stroke between the “U” and “b” of the word Ub, which was probably intended for “l,” and would make it Ulb or Ulv, *i.e.*, Olv or Olave, as Mr. Cumming conjectures in the text.

† Subscribers’ names may be sent to Mr. Lomax, Bookseller, Lichfield.



$\frac{1}{10}$ th the natural size.

(INSCRIPTION. LOVLAF THE SON OF THOROLF
ERECTED THIS CROSS TO HIS SON UB.)

RUNIC MONUMENT

IN THE CHURCHYARD OF KIRK MICHAEL
ISLE OF MAN.

neighbourhood of Sandbach will give his attention to these Crosses, with the view to a Paper upon the subject at an early period.

At the close of the evening's proceedings, the Rev. Canon Blomfield expressed to Mr. Cumming the thanks of the Society for his very able and instructive addresses ; and we trust that the anticipations of another similar visit from the learned lecturer will soon be realized.

The monthly meeting was held at the City Library, on Monday, March 5th, the Rev. J. Williams (Duke-street) in the chair.

Mr. T. Hughes read a paper "On the Inns and Taverns of Chester" in the olden time, confining himself at present to those on the north side of the city. He had been allowed access to the books of the Innkeepers' Company, containing special contributions to the Whitsun and other civic pageants once annually performed in the streets of the ancient city. Some of the entries read were most curious and interesting ; but as the paper itself may possibly appear in the next volume of the *Journal*, we refrain from anticipatory extracts here.

Commencing from the Cross, Mr. Hughes then proceeded on his antiquarian tour of the Taverns in Northgate-street, and the streets adjoining. Where the City Library now stands was previously an ancient Tavern, called the "Three Crowns;" the origin of which sign was satisfactorily explained. The "Legs of Man," with its curious old kitchen, and open gallery, and the derivation of the sign from the ancient arms of the Isle of Man, next engaged attention. Then came the ecclesiastical sign of the "Cross Keys," on the confines of St. Werburgh's Abbey ; and the "Cross Foxes," the crest, as the house itself was once the property, of the Williams Wynns, of Wynnstay. The "White Lion," a celebrated hotel in the old stage coach days, received its share of attention ; as did also the "Saracen's Head," "Coach and Horses," &c., some tale or legend accompanying the description of each of these houses. The "Pied Bull," an ancient hostelry, was clearly traced to be the same with the "Bull tenement," named in the deed of 1533, from the Prioress of St. Mary's Nunnery ; of which document a transcript is given at page 145 of our present Volume. The "Bull and Stirrup" was one of those signs which almost defied explanation, and might be ranked with "The Pig and Whistle," "Goat and Compasses," and "The Devil and Bag of Nails"—all well known, but ridiculously absurd corruptions. Most likely "The Bull and Stirrup" was a corruption of "The *Bowl* and *Stirrup*,"—the "stirrup cup," or "last glass," being a term still in use among the votaries of Bacchus. The house and brewery of Mr. Peter Eaton, our present Mayor, was formerly the principal hotel of Chester, "The Golden Falcon," and the scene of many anecdotes characteristic of the times related by Mr. Hughes. The old buildings he described were illustrated by several bold and able sketches from the pencil

of Mr. A. Sumners, a rising Chester artist. The lecturer proposed to continue what he was pleased to call "the *dry* portion of the subject" at some future time, with the Society's approval: this was put to the meeting by the Chairman, and unanimously carried, with thanks for the paper of the evening.

In reference to a natural allusion in the paper to the gradual increase in the number of public-houses, the Rev. W. H. Massie observed that we had only ourselves to blame for not supplying recreations of a less dangerous tendency in due place and season. He had noticed lately, at Boulogne, how the soldiers from the camp crowded to the free museums with the utmost order and interest; and it had struck him that this Society would be only carrying out its objects, by forwarding any movement in favour of such open exhibitions in our own locality: he felt sure, too, that any effort of the kind would be supported by the Members at their next general meeting. He had attended in order to give notice of his intention to propose this, as well as to support a Member who had kindly come forward to relieve the "worn out lecturers," and take some portion of burden from the Secretaries.

A very rich and talented design, by Messrs. Gibbs, from the military life of David, for the obituary window at St. Mary's Church, Chester, in honour of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was exhibited by Mr. Massie; though a preference has generally been expressed for the subject, by another artist, of "Aaron and Hur holding up the hands of Moses," as expressing dependence on God in battle, and the duty of intercession for our armies in the field.

A lecture on "The History of Ornamental Art—Ancient, Mediæval, and Modern," was delivered before the Members on Tuesday evening, the 17th April, by Mr. Ellis A. Davidson, Head Master of the Government School of Art, in this city. The chair was taken by the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Rev. Canon Thurlow, and the room was crowded by an attentive audience.

Mr. Davidson introduced his subject by stating that Mr. Pugin had said that the history of architecture was the history of the world. If this was true, and he firmly believed it was, then the history of ornamental art assumed a more important position than appeared at first sight. Nor would this, on investigation, seem strange; even the people of the present day, who lived in an age of manufactures, of commerce, and of utilitarianism, were much more guided by ornament than they generally admitted; and they judged with some degree of precision of a person's tendency of mind and feeling, not only by the manner in which he furnished or embellished the interior or exterior of his house, but also by the ornaments or absence of them in his attire, as showy or sober, tawdry or tasteful; even the very

carpet on the floor of the room told its tale of the taste and habits of mind of the occupant. He defined "ornament," as the handmaid of architecture. The longing after the beautiful and the ornamental was and had been, he believed, to a great degree inherent in every mind; in all ages, and in every climate, had the members of the human family used some means of making that which was at first only useful become ornamental as well. The various circumstances of the great family of mankind, each individual thus feeling the same desire for the beautiful, each section having different means of gratifying that desire, working in different climates, and under various influences, led to many styles of ornamentation. Although it was impossible in one lecture to give anything like a complete description of each, he trusted to be able to illustrate the broad distinctions of the leading styles which had had any influence upon, or had been influenced by, the progress of European civilization. The whole number of styles might thus be comprised in nine ornamental developments,—three ancient, Egyptian, Grecian, Roman; three middle age, Byzantine, Saracenic, Gothic; and three modern, Renaissance, Cinque Cento, and Louis Quatorze.

The intelligent lecturer then pointed out and explained the leading characteristics of each of these styles, their varieties, similarities, and distinctions, by illustrations from the casts and polychromatic ornaments which were hung over the platform, by numerous drawings on the black board, and also by modelling in clay, which was done on the spot before the audience. As illustrations of English Gothic, Mr. Davidson presented an exceedingly fine pencil drawing executed by himself, containing a series of representations of the best types of that style existing in the country, arranged chronologically. It was intended for the exhibition of the Department of Science and Art, in London. His lecture was richly and copiously illustrated by reference to this drawing, and by specimens of ornaments in the various styles, most of which were engraved by students in London, but some of them were the work of Mr. Davidson's lady pupils in Chester. He went on to say that Nature showed us plainly what to do in the use and adaptation of ornament. The greater the weight, the thicker should be the stem that bore it; "the unwedgeable and gnarled oak," strong and massive where the thick branches required support from the parent trunk, tapered towards the end of each branch; and whilst its huge stem long resisted the mighty wind, and towered like a magnificent column amidst the storm, its upper twigs and tinier leaves bent beneath the weight of the smallest creature whose song enlivened the garden of Nature, or whose beautifully-tinted clothing blended so harmoniously with the foliage amongst which it luxuriated. After reviewing generally the whole subject, Mr. Davidson concluded by saying, they had seen that in all ages, and under all circumstances, men had striven to adorn and beautify not only their public buildings but also their homes, and they must hope

that the endeavour now being made to revive public taste in all classes of society, would at no distant time have the effect of increasing the love of the Arts and Sciences, ornamental and industrial; "and," said he, "as 'a thing of beauty is a joy for ever,' may such joys be liberally spread, not only among the high, but also among the lowly of our land!"

The Rev. Chairman expressed the satisfaction he had felt at listening to the lecture, and proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Davidson, which was seconded by Mr. Sheriff Hicklin (who referred to the more salient and suggestive topics of the lecture,) and carried with applause.

Mr. Davidson acknowledged the compliment.

The Rev. W. H. Massie, Rector of St. Mary's, informed the audience where they might see, in Chester, ornaments on the public buildings which would illustrate several of the technical terms they had heard in the course of the evening. He proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Ayrton, after passing which the assembly separated.

Many of the audience advanced to the table to examine Mr. Davidson's and the other drawings, &c., closely. We also noticed a series of high-class line engravings, lying there for exhibition, being artists' proof copies of the pictures in the Royal Gallery. Engravings more exquisitely wrought, or more highly finished, it would be difficult to imagine, even in this improving age of ornamental art.

At a Council Meeting, assembled May 31st, to revise the accounts as passed by the Auditors, it appeared that the receipts up to this date, including a balance forward of £70 16s. 5d. amount to £169 12s. 8d.; and that the expenditure for the same period amounts to the sum of £133 12s. 11d., leaving a balance of £35 19s. 9d. in Messrs. Williams and Co.'s Bank.

At the Annual Meeting of the Members, duly convened at the City Library, at noon of the same day, the Rev. Canon Slade in the chair, the accounts, as passed by the Council, were formally confirmed. The following gentlemen were then appointed Officers for the ensuing year:—

COUNCIL.—Sir P. de M. G. Egerton, Bart., Dr. Ll. Jones, Dr. McEwen, Messrs. F. Potts, W. Beamont, J. Morris, T. Hughes, and C. Barnard; Revs. W. B. Marsden, D. Broughton, R. Temple, J. Watson, J. Folliott, and T. France; and Messrs. E. Hodgkinson and T. R. P. Royle, Architectural Members, *ex-officio*. Other officers as before.

The Annual Excursion of this Society, on the 18th July, was one of the most interesting holidays which the Association has enjoyed. The party left Chester by the 9 15 a.m. train for the Hope Station, where carriages were in attendance for their conveyance to the various places denoted in the programme.

St. John's Church, at Pen-y-mynydd, in the parish of Hawarden, was first visited. It is a modern building, in the early English style of architecture, consisting of a nave and chancel, the principal entrance being at the west end, under a tower which is surmounted by a pretty spire ("like Wisdom's finger pointing up to heaven"); and is a very good example of a village church. It was consecrated in the summer of 1843. The interior is most beautifully decorated in a really magnificent style of ecclesiastical adornment, illustrative of the instructive symbolism of Christian art; all the windows are of stained glass, representing successively some affecting incident in our Saviour's Passion, and the triumph of His glorious Resurrection; under each an appropriate text from Scripture is inscribed, and all the explanatory details are carried out with remarkable taste and intelligent reverence. The very walls are made the vehicles of instruction, and the recipients of highly elaborate decoration; the prayer desk and pulpit are embellished with significant designs; while over the chancel arch is a sublime representation of the Last Judgment. The whole of these splendid ornaments, including the painted windows and beautiful walls, are the amateur work of the resident minister, the Rev. J. Ellis Troughton, who received the party at the Church, and explained the full meaning of every artistic illustration with a clearness and earnestness which reminded us of Bunyan's "Interpreter" in the good man's house.

Leaving this elegant little Church,—which is unquestionably in its interior decorations, one of the most beautiful examples of ecclesiastical adornment which the country contains, and, as the work of an amateur, entirely unique,—the party drove towards Hope, within a mile of which the excursionists alighted from their carriages, and walked through the fields to explore the remains of that remarkable work of antiquity called "~~Offa's~~ *Watts* Dyke." The path which was taken overlooks the lovely Vale of Hope, its Church, about half a mile off, the hill called *Caer Estyn* (the extended camp) on the left, *Brynyorkin* mountain on the right, and the ruins of *Caergwrle* Castle on a rocky eminence in the centre, forming a beautifully romantic picture. In walking through the fields they traversed one of the great dykes formed in the 8th century as a line of demarcation between the kingdom of Mercia and the Welsh, who (in Harold's time) forfeited their right hand if they dared to cross it. One of these great divisions was dug by *Offa*, the Saxon king, with a high embankment and broad ditch, and appears at broken intervals from the River *Wye*, in South Wales, nearly up to *Mold*. The other, called "*Watts' Dyke*," is first seen in *Oswestry* parish, and ends below *Basingwerk*, running parallel with the former until it also approaches the valley of *Mold*. But, as the Vicar and others stated that a farm on the edge of "*Watts' Dyke*," a little beyond *Hope*, is still called "*Clawdd Offa*," or *Offa's Ditch*, it was thought probable that the

two had combined for the same end about that point, and so pursued one single course to the estuary of the Dee.

Following this ridge (portions of which are here very plainly marked) they soon reached Hope Church, which has recently been much improved by the substitution of Gothic for *Hanoverian* windows, and by the removal of a plaster ceiling, so as to expose an oak roof of good and simple pattern in the aisles. It is, however, poor encouragement to the Vicar, who has paid for several improvements, and to those who would contribute money and effort for the adornment of Churches, to find the fabric left by the parishioners (or by the authorities who should enforce the rates when granted) to fall to decay, the internal arches and pillars dripping with wet, and covered with unwholesome vegetation. Our noble fathers raised these temples at vast cost, and bequeathed them to posterity only on condition of their maintenance. The violation of so sacred a trust must lie at the door of some who ought to be ashamed, if not to tremble. In the east window are considerable fragments of a fine subject for stained glass, viz. the "Te Deum;" the angels of "Tibi Cherubim and Seraphim" remain tolerably distinct. There is also a singular little window at the west end of the north aisle, of rather uncommon form, and perhaps older than any other in the Church.

? —→
SOUTH!

The Rev. Vaughan Lloyd, Vicar of Hope, met the party at the Church for the purpose of explanation, and kindly invited them to gather fruit in the very pretty garden of the comfortable Parsonage. He afterwards accompanied the visitors to Caergwrle Castle.

The ruins of this ancient fortress crown the summit of a rocky steep, which commands a vast and magnificent prospect of surpassing loveliness; and the day being beautifully fine, the glorious landscape was seen to the greatest advantage. After the first raptures of delight which this natural panorama excited had subsided, the excursionists betook themselves to a critical examination of the ruins, and the historic records with which they are associated. Pennant, writing of Caergwrle in A.D. 1773, says:—

"The form of the village speaks it to have been a Roman station, which appears very evident to the antiquarian eye, from the summit of the adjacent Rock, the site of the Castle. In Camden's time (1636) a hypocaust was discovered near the place five ells long, four broad, and half an ell high, cut out of the live rock. The floor was of brick, set in mortar; the roof supported by brick pillars, and consisted of polished tiles perforated; on these were laid certain brick tubes, which conveyed the heat to the room above. On some of those tiles were inscribed the letters LEGIO xx., which point out the founders.

"Mr. Edwards makes a happy conjecture respecting the etymology of the name of this place. *Caer Gawr Lle*, or the Camp of the Giant Legion, *Lleon Gawr*; for the Britons bestowed that title on the twentieth legion, to imply its power; a turn analogous to *Victrix*, giving it the strength of a giant.

"The Castle of Caergwrle stood on the summit of a great rock, precipitous on one side, and of steep ascent on the others. Some of the walls and part of a round tower still remain, sufficient to shew that its size was never great. Close to it, on the accessible parts, it was protected by very deep fosses cut through the rock. On the north-east side, there is a pretty extensive area; and round its verge the vestiges of a rampart of earth and stones, and a fosse, such as is usual in the British posts; it may be therefore supposed, that it had been possessed by the Britons in early times; and that it served to defend, in conjunction with Caer Estyn, (a British post of one rampart and ditch, on the opposite side of the dale above the village,) the entrance through this pass into Wales. The vale almost closes in this place, leaving only room enough for the Alun to flow through the picturesque dingles, till it gains the open country near the Church of Gresford. In the reign of Owen Gwynedd I find it part of the estates of Gryffydd Maelor.

"David, brother to Llewellyn, last Prince of Wales, held it from Edward I. David made great complaints of the injurious treatment he met with from Roger de Clifford, the Justiciary of Chester, who cut down his woods about Hope, and endeavoured to dispossess him of his rights. When David took up arms in defence of his brother, he left a garrison in this Castle; but in June, 1282, it surrendered to the English monarch. As soon as it came into his possession he bestowed it, with all its appurtenances, on his beloved consort Eleanor; from which it acquired the name of Queen Hope. The Queen lodged here on her way to Caernarvon, where her husband sent her to give the Welsh a ruler born among them. Either at this time, or soon after, the Castle was burnt by a casual fire."

Considerable amusement was occasioned by an announcement from Mr. Hicklin that he had been favoured with a note from Mr. Williams, of the Old Bank, at Chester, disputing the "happy conjecture" adopted by Pennant as to the etymology of Caergwrle, which he read as follows:—

MY DEAR SIR,—I am sorry that I have no prospect of being able to attend you on the 18th to Caergwrle.

The derivation of its name has long been a hobby with me, and Saxon though you be, I must trouble you with it. All the world knows that *Caer* is a fortification, *Gwr* means a man, perhaps a brave man, and *lle* or *le* a place. Hence the ordinary meaning assigned to this name—a Castle, the place of men. I dissent from this, and you shall judge for yourself whether I am right when you ascend the hill, and see it covered in a remarkable manner with a plant which I do not know in dry ground anywhere else. It is the *bog myrtle*, called in Welsh, Gwrli. My theory is, that before the Castle was built the hill was Bryn Gwrli, and afterwards Caer Gwrli.

Dyn has nearly the same meaning with Gwr, and a learned antiquary told me the other day that Caer-dyn (Carden) is twin brother to Caergwrle. I have not yet examined the locality, but when I do I shall try hard to find a plant whose name shall form the second syllable, as in Caer Gwrli. This you will admit is the true spirit of carrying out a theory.

Very sincerely yours, J. WILLIAMS.

The ingenious suggestion of Mr. Williams, like all other innovations upon a long received mode of interpretation, was rejected by several of the

party, and especially those of strong Welsh predilections; while others argued that there was "something in it," and produced a gathering of the plant referred to, which antiquarian ladies, however, of botanical knowledge declared to be, *not* the bog myrtle, but "bilberry!" and so the discussion was adjourned for further elucidation. (Bilberry is a species of myrtle.)

From Caergwrle the route was by the turnpike road to Mold, the beautiful Church of that town being the chief point of attraction. The style of the building is late Tudor, which has many advantages in the way of congregational convenience, light, and ornament. The surface of the walls has been elaborately carved with quatrefoils and panellings in the stone. The north aisle has a rich oak roof in Tudor character, highly floriated, though not massive, which we understood was to be imitated in the roof of the central nave, under the eye of Mr. Scott, the eminent architect, of London. The tower is a modern but solid structure of white stone. The Rev. Jenkin Davies, Vicar of Mold, received the party at the Church.

From the summit of the "Bailey Hill," (where stood the old Norman Castle, wall within wall, but of which not a trace remains,) a view was taken of the battle field, where the "Alleluiah Victory" is reported to have been gained in the 5th century over the savage Picts by the Welsh Christians, as described by the venerable Bede, quoting from Constantius, a cotemporary Latin historian. A vast number of bodies were found interred on the central tumulus of the Bailey Hill a few years ago; but without some distinguishing token it would be impossible to assign their date, as they may have been only the bones of those who fell when the garrison was put to the sword and the Castle destroyed; or it may have been a British barrow of the usual character, previous to the erection of the Norman Keep, which could only be decided by the nature of the relics found with them.

Many curious and ghostly tales are related of the discovery of a breast-plate of golden mail in one of the fields to the east of Mold, a great portion of which is deposited in the British Museum; but those interesting facts have already received special treatment in our present Volume. The view from the mound is exceedingly picturesque; the circumjacent vale stretches below in all the verdure of fertility; and the mountains form a finely developed back-ground to the landscape. On leaving Bailey Hill, the excursionists were kindly conducted by the Rev. Jenkin Davies to the pretty garden of the Vicarage, whence there is a charming view of the adjacent country.

From Mold the route was to Hawarden, where the party were received at the Parish Church by the Rev. Waldegrave Brewster, Curate, in the unavoidable absence of the Rector. Improvements have recently been made in the chancel of Hawarden Church, under the direction of Mr. James Harrison, of Chester, by the substitution of open stalls in solid oak,

for the wretched boxes which before blocked up the way, and which still sadly impede the services in the nave, to the hindrance of congregational feeling at the daily worship in the Church. Several windows have also been restored and filled with stained glass ; but the extensive and costly repairs which were made about a century ago, and since, have obliterated almost every internal trace of what the Church was in the time of the Stanleys, who so long held Hawarden and other strongholds along the confines between Cheshire and North Wales, when the original Norman barons of Mountalt had passed away. There are still, however, in the external mouldings of the Church, traces of an early decorated period.

On leaving the Church, a delightful stroll through the beautiful gardens of the Rectory was enjoyed. From thence the visitors walked through the sylvan glades of Hawarden Park to the selected spot for dinner, where a spacious tent was pitched on the lawn of the pleasure grounds, under the grateful shadows of the "tall ancestral trees" which adorn that noble domain. Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart. (like his Reverend brother, the Rector) was prevented from receiving the party by engagements which required his prolonged absence from Hawarden ; but he had kindly given every facility for their enjoyment, and had placed the Castle, the Park, and the Gardens at the disposal of the Society for the day. An excellent collation was served up in the tent under the personal direction of Mr. Bolland, of Chester ; and about 50 ladies and gentlemen sat down to the repast, which included a fine present of melons and strawberries from Sir S. R. Glynne.

After dinner, the picturesque remains of the ancient Castle were examined with much interest ; and from the lofty summit of its broken towers the party enjoyed the remarkably fine and extensive prospect which it commands—comprehending a wide sweep of country, from the majestic mountains of Flintshire and Denbighshire, the Vale Royal of Cheshire, the bold rock of Beeston Castle, Peckforton Castle and Hills, Frodsham Cliffs, and the venerable City of Chester, round to the estuaries of the Mersey and the Dee, stretching far into ocean's "dim immensity." The various historic incidents of which the Castle has been the scene, were related and discussed, and the more remarkable features of the hoary ruins noticed. Dating from a period soon after the Norman Conquest, this feudal fortress has passed through the various vicissitudes and fortunes of war, sometimes defaced and at others restored, till the time of the Commonwealth ; when, after sustaining several sieges, and being alternately in the hands of the Royalists and the Rebels, it was finally dismantled by order of Parliament in 1645. The modern Castle of Hawarden, the seat of Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart. Lord Lieutenant of Flintshire, is a stately structure, erected by Sir John Glynne in 1752. In 1809 it received some important additions, and then assumed its present form of a castellated edifice, with antique-looking windows and turrets. The spacious and handsome apartments of the

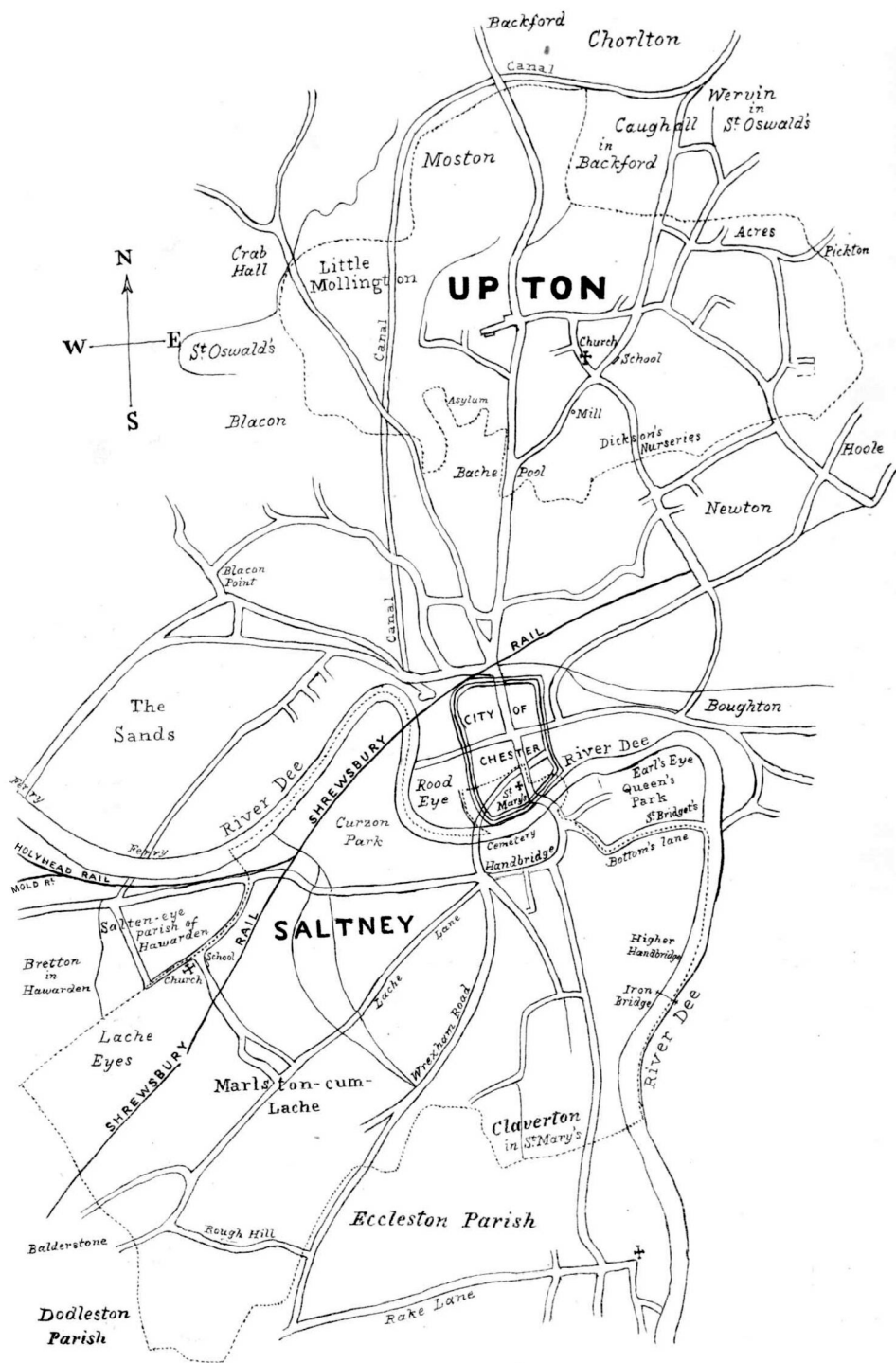
mansion were thrown open to the visitors ; and the many pictures and other objects of interest which they contain, were examined with admiration. Pleasant rambles, during the cool of the evening, in the charming gardens or the calm solitudes of the verdant glades and woodland glens, closed the day's proceedings ; and about half-past seven o'clock the excursionists drove through the Park to Chester, where they separated for their homes with warm expressions of delight and mutual congratulations.

The First Meeting for the Session of 1855-6, was held on Monday evening, Nov. 5, in the City Library, the Rev. Canon Hillyard in the chair.

A lecture "On the Ancient History of St. Mary's Parish, Chester," with more particular reference to Roman remains discovered therein, was delivered by the late Rev. W. H. Massie, Rector of the parish, who traced, in a most lucid and graphic style of extemporaneous address, the vestiges of those once mighty masters of the world in this city. It was the desire of the Council, as well as, we may add, the declared intention of Mr. Massie himself, to have printed in this *Journal* a lengthened digest, from his own able pen, of this truly interesting archæological discourse. But, alas ! while so many ardent friends and admirers listened to his animated address on that evening with wrapt attention and delight, and hailed with acclamation his promise to continue that address at no very distant a period,—the days of the talented lecturer himself were already numbered ; and a brief abstract, written chiefly from memory, is therefore all we are now enabled to give of, perhaps, the most practically instructive and valuable lecture ever delivered before the Society.

Mr. Massie commenced by expressing his great regret that so few gentlemen of the city and neighbourhood devoted their intervals of leisure to antiquarian pursuits, especially when it might be done without any interference with more important studies. He instanced his own case as one in point, having picked up his information in his daily walks, along the street or by the wayside ; undesignedly, even when a boy, gathering and storing up in his memory facts and occurrences which twenty or thirty years afterwards came back to his recollection with all the freshness and force of recent events. His clerical brethren had especial opportunities for cultivating this intellectual taste in their respective parishes ; knowing, as they might do, all the "ins and outs" of their particular districts, gaining access to all classes of persons, and to historical records which were closed to the great mass of ordinary students.

He would now give them, as an example of what might be done by individual exertion, the results of his personal investigations into the primeval history of his own parish, St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, in which, to use his own words, he "always felt himself at home." Taking the remains of the old Cross on the Roodeye as the starting point, the original boundary



MAP OF SAINT MARY'S PARISH,
UPTON North of Chester, and MARLSTON-CUM-LACHE South.

of St. Mary's parish, he said, stretched across to the City Walls at that particular spot where a break, or rather declension in the fortifications was so distinctly visible. Thence it went, in almost a direct line, through Cuppin Street to the east end of the White Bear yard, down the middle of Lower Bridge Street, along the left side of Duke Street to the City Walls at the Wishing Steps. The boundary line then crossed the River Dee by the Causeway, taking in the Salmon Cage and part of the Snuff Mills; back again and over the Bridge into Handbridge; then by the side of "The Rock," along the Bottoms Lane, behind Queen's Park (the latter being in St. Bridget's parish) to the banks of the Dee at Boughton Fords. Here it took the centre of that river to the extremity of Claverton, and thence by a circuitous south-westerly route past Eccleston to near the Belgrave Lodge. Leaving Dodleston and Balderton on the left hand, it formed an angle at the Lache Eyes; whence it proceeded, in nearly a straight line, past Saltney Church to the River Dee: following the course of that stream until opposite the Cemetery, it then finally struck away to its starting point, the Roodeye Cross.

Setting aside altogether the traditionary statements of ancient historians, Mr. Massie maintained that Chester was essentially a Roman, not a British foundation. This position, as he considered, was established by the fact that British remains were never by any chance discovered within the walls of the city; while inscribed tiles, fragments of pottery, instruments of military and domestic use, coins, &c., all palpably Roman, were continually turned up in the progress of excavations.

The form of the city was undoubtedly Roman, the four main streets intersecting each other at right angles. The principle of straight roads, so universally adopted by the Romans, was not departed from by the founders of Chester. At first sight, this assertion might seem to be a gratuitous one, but it was nevertheless strictly true. Bridge Street, from below St. Michael's Church to the Cross, was part of the old Roman road; and it originally passed northward, in an undeviating straight line, through the space now occupied by St. Peter's Church and Shoemakers' Row, and thence behind the Exchange and Markets, until it fell into Northgate Street, not far from the present Northgate. Whatever may have been the reason, there could be no doubt that the present course of Northgate Street was a complete diversion from the original plan of the Roman city.

Returning from the Cross, and still keeping the line, we should come in contact with the houses on the west side of Lower Bridge-street; passing through which, we should find ourselves opposite to where the old Shipgate stood until April, 1831. This Gateway* was *undoubtedly* Roman; and was no doubt the chief means of egress from the city upon the south side.

* Its exact site is still indicated by a blank archway, purposely left by the late Mr. Harrison, the architect, in the masonry, when the gateway was filled up.

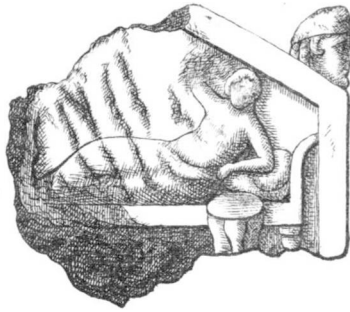
Thence went a ford across the Dee to the Handbridge side of the river, close to the projecting rock, called Edgar's Cave.* It was clear that the level of the ground had here been reduced by cutting through the rock. To the present day there remained, at this spot, a record alike of the genius and idolatry of that mighty people. On the side of the rock so excavated, the Roman craftsmen had sculptured a figure of Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, and her symbol the owl; and these figures were still discernible, although 1800 years had rolled away since they were first graven on the enduring rock! From this spot the road ran, still in a straight line into the Eccleston Lane, which latter, for a considerable distance, maintained its original Roman course. In proof of this, if any person had chanced to be walking towards Chester after dark, as he had often done from Eccleston, they would see, right before them, the lights on each side of the higher end of Bridge-street, with the illuminated clock of St. Peter's in the centre. There, then, was the straight Roman road in its integrity, as laid down by the industrious 20th Legion; and on almost every yard of its entire length Roman remains had, from time to time, been discovered in great quantities.

It was on the direct line of this road, viz.: at the Saracen's Head tavern, behind the Exchange, that the Roman Altar with the Æsculapian inscription was so recently discovered. Along the Roman portion of Eccleston Road, in his own parish, St. Mary's, almost numberless relics of that people had only lately been dug up. Mr. Massie exhibited to the meeting at least a score of specimens all found in that locality. Amongst these, the figure of a lion finely sculptured in stone, the massive capital of a column,† several curious urns, fifteen or sixteen Roman coins, from Vespasian to Constantine I., and the fragment of a monumental stone, deserve especial notice here. In reference to the last named, Mr. Massie remarked that, from the number of urns and funeral relics found almost solely in this neighbourhood, it was clear that Handbridge was the chief Cemetery of the Roman colonists so long settled at Chester.

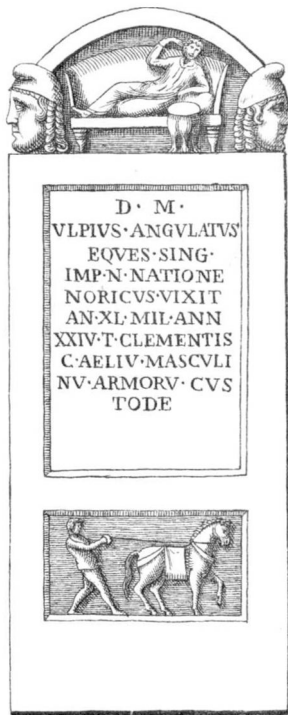
The monumental fragment dug up in Handbridge was more interesting from the circumstance of its strong resemblance to a very perfect tombstone at Rome, of which an engraving and description was given in the "*Memorie Sepolcrali*." Mr. Massie produced a large drawing of the latter monument, now in the Tivoli museum, by which he endeavoured to explain the details of the one found at Chester. Lucius Ulpus Angulatus, to whose memory the gravestone at Rome was erected, according to the inscription "was born at Noricum, lived to the age of forty, during twenty-four years of which he served as a soldier, in the capacity of an *eques singularis* (puissant knight)."

* Pennant's *Tour in Wales*, 4th Edition, Vol. i., pp. 117-118.

† Noticed more at length at page 199 of the present volume.



PART OF THE TOMB-STONE OF A ROMAN KNIGHT, CHESTER.



TOMB-STONE OF A ROMAN KNIGHT, ROME.

[From "Memorie Sepolcrali."]

Over the inscription was an arch (in the Chester example it partook more of an angular form), on each side of which appeared a head in full relief, wearing the hair in broad ringlets, and covered with the peculiar Phrygian bonnet or cap. The deceased knight was shewn as reclining on a couch, his left arm resting on a pillow, and the right arm slightly raised above the head. In front of the couch was a tripod, having probable reference to the libations at the Parentalia, or sacrifices performed at the sepulchre by the parents of the deceased, with the view of conciliating the infernal gods. The inference Mr. Massie drew from all this was, that the Handbridge fragment was, in its perfect state, the obituary record of an *equus singularis*, or matchless knight of imperial Rome,—that he was attached in some high military capacity, to the glorious 20th Legion, so long settled at Chester, and was, in his day, a man of no little consideration in our venerable city.

Reverting to the boundary of St. Mary's parish, Mr. Massie observed that the Roodeye Cross, which was alike the limitation, at that point, of Trinity parish and his own, and which had been removed from its position to accommodate the Cheshire Cavalry, had, after lying for some years almost forgotten beneath the Walls, been restored, at his instigation, to its ancient site. Between the Watergate and the spot where his parish boundary intersected the Walls, it seemed clear to him that the original plans of the Roman masons had been in later years departed from; for it would appear from the massive foundations, which were, to his mind, unequivocally Roman, that the present Walls had been built up some yards within the old gate walls, and farther to the east than they stood in the first instance. He believed, too, that the Roman Walls went in reality no further southward than that spot; but that they took thence a direction due east to near the Wishing Steps, leaving the Castle and St. Mary's Hill *outside* the Walls. This would account, to a great extent, for the present inequality in the plan of the Walls; and inasmuch as old chroniclers asserted that Ethelfleda, the Mercian princess, had enlarged the Walls upon the south side by taking in the Castle, he was the more convinced that his position was a sound one.

He believed it was a fact, and one worth noting in such a lecture as he was delivering, that the boundaries of St. Mary's parish, within the Walls, took, almost without exception, the course of original Roman roads. Recent excavations for improving the sewerage of the city had proved the existence of a continuous road, some ten or twelve feet below the present surface, cut down into the rock, wide enough for two men to walk abreast, and with apertures at intervals to prevent loiterers from needlessly obstructing the passage.* This road had, during the operations Mr. Massie referred to, been frequently come in contact with; and he had himself been present, more

* A circumstantial account of these peculiar excavations appears in the *Journal of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, Vol. i. pp. 79-83.

than once, when Roman remains of great interest had been dug up in this passage by the labourers employed. He exhibited to the meeting a small earthenware vessel, of decidedly Roman manufacture, which he had seen exhumed on one of those occasions. This underground road followed to some extent the boundary line of his own parish ; but it was noticed also in Pepper-street, which was no doubt an original Roman way. Its name, he conceived, was a corruption of *Pebble-street*, so called from having been paved with smaller stones than those used in the principal highways. It was a curious fact that a *Pepper-street* was found in conjunction with almost every Roman road in Britain. The Causeway across the Dee, in St. Mary's parish, was also, in the first instance, the work of the Romans.

The representation in stone of a Roman citizen, found in White Friars, and described at page 431 of our present volume, afforded the lecturer an opportunity for referring to a military figure, also in stone, which stood between the arches of the old Roman Eastgate. It was, he said, the custom of Roman soldiers to wear the sword upon the right side ; but the artist who had preserved to us a drawing of that gate, had taken the unwarrantable liberty of correcting what he thought to be a blunder of the ancient sculptor, and had placed the sword of the warrior upon his left side, in accordance with the usage of the present day. In proof of his statement as to the right position of the sword, Mr. Massie had obtained a large tracing paper rubbing of a similar piece of sculpture from another locality ; but some amusement was caused on turning to examine the tracing, which, from being accidentally hung up the reverse side of the paper, seemed rather to refute than to confirm his observations.

The usual hour for separating having now arrived, Mr. Massie was obliged to bring his remarks to a close, promising, however, amid the applause of all present, to continue the subject at the monthly meeting in December. The lecture was illustrated by an extensive series of drawings, and a rich collection of antiquarian remains lately discovered within St. Mary's parish, and the adjoining district. The Rev. Canon Hillyard expressed, from the chair, the delight with which he, in common with those around him, had listened to the able discourse of that evening ; and it was evident that all looked pleasurably forward to a renewal of the subject at the next monthly meeting. Ere that time arrived, however, the voice that so often had charmed them was dumb,—that form, once so active, was stretched on the bed of death ; and the Society he had founded sustained, in his premature decease, a loss it will be difficult indeed to supply.

We have thus brought down the Abstract of Proceedings to the end of 1855. Our next Volume, which is in course of preparation, will appear in due season, and will see us clear through the Sessions of 1856-7.