



* To Willie of the Boats, see Map of site of
 Battle of Solway Moss, opp. p. 257.

Adapted from SMITH'S MAP of CARLISLE,
 1745, "shewing the Route of the Rebels with their
 principal Fords over ye River Eden." The Route is
 marked in dotted lines.

ART. XXXIV.—*The Beaumont Hoard, with some remarks on a pre-Roman road near Carlisle.* By R. S. FERGUSON, F.S.A., and C. F. KEARY, F.S.A.*

Read at Carlisle, July 23rd, 1885.

A large hoard of coins has recently been discovered near the village of Beaumont, in Cumberland. Mr. R. S. Ferguson supplies the accompanying account of the locality of the circumstances of the find which has been examined in detail and classified by Mr. C. F. Keary. The skeleton map given with this paper, to show the waths, or fords, over the river Eden, and the chief features of the district, is adapted from Smith's map of Carlisle, 1745, "showing the route of the rebels, with their principal fords over y^e river Eden."

The interesting village of Beaumont is situated about four miles north-west of Carlisle, and is on the left bank of the river Eden, at the point where the river and the Roman wall separate, after having run together for part of the way from Carlisle. At Beaumont the river runs directly to the north for more than a mile before turning again to the west, while from Beaumont the Roman wall runs directly west for a mile and a half to the Roman camp at the church of Burgh-by-Sands. The church of Beaumont occupies the site of one of the mile castles on the Roman wall, which was afterwards made into a Saxon or Danish camp. From the churchyard no less than nine churches can be seen, and the view around justifies the Norman name of the Beaumont, the fair hill, which is now locally pronounced *Beemunt*. Its church, so far as can be seen, is interesting, Norman originally, and built of Roman

* Also printed in *The Numismatic Chronicle*, under the title, *A find of Coins at Beaumont, near Carlisle.*

material

materials; but the chancel arch is gone, and a coat of rough-cast covers many features of interest. In the churchyard are some fine fourteenth century sepulchral slabs; one to the memory of a harper; another to a deacon, as it bears the clasped book, which is believed to represent the *textus* of the Gospels.

From the village of Beaumont field roads lead north to ancient waths, or fords, across the river Eden; one, the "Stoneywath," is at Sandsfield, not far from king Edward's monument; another, the "Peat Wath," is opposite to Castletown House; a third, or "Rockcliffe Wath," is a little below Rockcliffe Church. The traveller who crosses the Eden from Beaumont by either the Rockcliffe Wath or the Peat Wath, comes at once upon a road which is believed to be the oldest in the district—to have been a road long ere the Romans came into this country. From Rockcliffe this road runs in a north-west direction to the wath over the Esk at Greenbed, as the ordnance map calls the place, but which is better known as "Willie-of-the-Boats." From the Esk this road fords the Sark, and goes to Gretna, and into the west of Scotland.* Until 1816, this was actually the main road from England to Glasgow, to the western parts of Scotland, and to Ireland. Southwards of Rockcliffe, this old road ran to Carlisle, following some field roads near the river rather than the present high road, and crossing the Eden at Etterby Wath; thence it ran up the Willow Holme, by lanes now existing, crossed the river Caldew, and it now exists as Collier Lane, and thence it ran by Upperby and Wreay, and on the west side of the river Patteril to Penrith, and probably to York or London. That it is older than the Romans is easily proved. The Romans had a bridge across the Eden near where the Caldew falls into the

* This road, between Greenbed and Gretna, is very well shown on the map given with Mr. Nanson's paper on the Battle of Solway Moss, *ante*, p. 257.

larger

larger stream ; had that bridge been in existence when this road or track was first made, its makers would have gone to the Roman bridge, and not to the deep and dangerous wath at Etterby. This ancient road and the ford at "Willie-of-the-Boats" were not superseded until the Glasgow and Carlisle turnpike road was made in 1816. Down this prehistoric road the wild kerns from Galloway swarmed to the invasion of England. When they got nigh to Carlisle, cross they the river by the Etterby Wath or by the bridges over Eden, the grim fortress which the Red King had planted on the hill of Carlisle, lay like a lion in the path. But the Scots and the Galwegians were equal to the occasion ; they were not burdened with great guns, or wheeled carriages ; they simply went lower down the river, and marched through Rockcliffe Wath or the Peat Wath, and so turned the castle hill. The leaders and the nagsmen would have no difficulty, while the bulk of the footmen, the Galwegians certainly, had no clothes beyond a pair of brogues, a breech-clout, and a cloak or plaid.*

Thus, to give a few instances :—In the latter part of the year 1322 Robert Bruce, for a second time in that year, entered Cumberland. He crossed the Eden by a wath, which the "Chronicle of Lanercost" calls the Solewath," and which was probably the Peat Wath, or perhaps one lower down the river, or over the Solway itself, and he encamped for five days at Beaumont.

In 1542, occurred the battle of Solway Moss : the Scots had then forded the Sark, and must have been making for the fords over Eden near Beaumont, when they were surprised by a force under Sir Thomas Wharton, and driven northwards into the Moss.

In 1715, the Highlanders intended to pay the Bishop of Carlisle a visit at Rose Castle ; but one of Marlborough's

* See "Notes on the Initial Letter of a Charter of Edward II. to the City of Carlisle," by R. S. Ferguson. *Archaeological Journal*, vol. xxxix. p. 291, and *these Transactions*, vol. vi. p. 319.

colonels,

colonels, a Carlisle man, Brigadier Thomas Stanwix, with a small force held Carlisle and blocked their passage over the bridges. Let us see what the Bishop says:—

The rebels had fully purposed (as they acknowledged at Penrith), to have given me a visit, and to that end hovered a whole day on the banks of the Eden, five miles below Carlisle. But as providence ordered the matter, the rains had then so swelled the waters there, that they were not fordable. This preserved my beef and mutton, for the present.*

An anxious time it must have been for Beaumont while these wild Highlanders were hovering up and down at Rockcliffe and sounding the waths to see if they could get across. Ultimately they made their way into England by Brampton. The floods barred the way by the Peat Wath or by Rockcliffe Wath, and Brigadier Stanwix held Carlisle and guarded Eden Bridges.

The waters were more friendly to the Highlanders in 1745. The main body, under Prince Charlie himself, marched down to Rockcliffe, crossed by the Peat Wath, and marched by Beaumont and Moorhouse to a position on the south of Carlisle. The Prince slept at Moorhouse on the 9th of November, 1745. Other detachments forded the Eden at Cargo, and at Grinsdale.†

But Beaumont stood upon another road in addition to those leading southwards from the waths or fords across the river Eden. It stood upon the Roman road which accompanied the Roman wall. From Beaumont church almost to Burgh church it yet remains as a field road. Following this road, Edward I. passed through Beaumont *en route* for Burgh, where he died on July 7, 1307. And through Beaumont, a few days later, his funeral passed.

* *Ellis's Original Letters*, vol. iii. p. 360, cited in these Transactions, vol. ii. p. 161, where "Caldew" has erroneously been substituted for "Eden" by a hasty correction of the press, and the error has been followed by the present writer in some local guide books.

† See a map to *Mounsey's Carlisle in 1745*.

He clearly intended to have invaded Scotland by the Peat Wath or some lower wath.

These facts are of importance because they show that in the fourteenth century Beaumont was not the secluded village it is now, but a place of strategic importance, the point of intersection of the road (the Roman road) from Carlisle to the then important ports of Sandsfield and Skinburness on the upper waters of the Solway, with well-known communications with the great road from the west of Scotland, which was in use from times long anterior to the advent of the Roman down to the days of Telford and Macadam.* A place, such as Beaumont was in the fourteenth century, was likely to have wealthy inhabitants. The fourteenth-century sepulchral slabs in its churchyard show it had. A place, such as Beaumont was then, was very likely to have had, not only wealthy inhabitants, but also those who were uneasy about the safe custody of their money, and who would do, what men in all ages prior to the invention of banking have done,—bury their wealth in some spot known only to themselves. One such hoard has just been found under the following circumstances:—

On Friday, December 26, 1884, two labourers were engaged in cutting a main drain through a field, the property of Mr. Oliphant-Ferguson, of Broadfield, situated in the parish of Beaumont. They came upon a stone about nine inches below the surface of the ground, and below this they found a mass of silver coin, which is stated to have weighed 10 lbs., and to have filled two hats. A pikehead was said to have been found with the coins, but on inquiry it has been ascertained that this object (whatever it may be, probably a bronze celt) was found at a considerable

* They also show why Orton (*ante* p. 248), protected itself with a hedge all round, and account for the Dalston Barras Gate, (*ante*, vol. vii. p. 271). The waths over Eden are now almost forgotten, and we fall into the mistake of thinking the Eden protected these places.

distance

distance from the coins. The place where the coins were found is forty-three yards west of one of the roads from the village of Beaumont to the waths over Eden, and four yards north of a little runner which flows down a little slack to that river. It is three-quarters of a mile north of the village of Beaumont, exactly at the sinister lower corner of the capital M in the name of that parish on the six-inch ordnance map. The coins were not contained in any existing vessel, but a discolouration of the soil existed round them and seemed to indicate the decomposition of a bag or box. As many of the coins were thickly coated with iron rust, and as small and much corroded fragments of iron were found with the coins, it seems that they must have been contained in a small coffer of iron, or of wood with iron mounts. The coins were at first supposed by the finders to be co-operative store checks, but the fact of their being silver was soon ascertained, and on the two following days, Saturday and Sunday, the place was visited by crowds of people who scooped out a vast hole, and a few stray coins were found. Mr. Oliphant-Ferguson secured two parcels of together about 1,800 coins, which he placed in the hands of his relative Mr. R. S. Ferguson, pending instructions from the Treasury, with whom he at once communicated. Others were placed in Mr. Ferguson's hands by the police, acting under instructions from the Treasury. These were all transmitted to the Treasury.

The coins which came into the hands of the classifier (including a certain number which had apparently been sent direct to the Treasury, and had not passed through Mr. Ferguson's hands) consisted in all of 2,000 pieces, of which 1,890 were English, Anglo-Irish, or Anglo-Gallic, 87 Scottish, and 23 foreign coins. Of the English, one piece was a penny of Henry III., while all the rest belonged to the first three Edwards. As among the Scottish groats of David II., a large number—they are too much defaced to allow us to ascertain the exact number—have heads of the
type

type of Robert II., which Mr. Burns thinks were struck subsequently to 1364, while the find contains no coin of Robert II., himself, the date of the deposit would seem to be 1364—1370, or a year or two later. There were no rarities in the find, unless we include the Dublin penny of the English type, and the coins were in very poor condition. It has been, however, as will be seen, found possible to identify and classify nearly all. Every find has some numismatic and historical importance, and therefore it has been thought advisable to give a classified list of this one. Among the things which it illustrates is the currency of Scottish coins and foreign sterlings in England. Until one has been through such a find as this, many of which were considerably worn by circulation, it is impossible fully to realise what shamefully good imitations of English pennies were the imitation sterlings made in the Low Countries. Among the pieces in this find are coins of the Counts of Hainault, Flanders, Porcien, and Looz. One does not like to think of the chivalrous John of Bohemia countenancing what are in reality forgeries; but the coins of this king are among the closest imitations of the English money. They were apparently made in Luxembourg, a district which in the Middle Ages had a bad reputation as the home of counterfeiters. The coins described in the accompanying list do not, it is believed, constitute the whole of the Beaumont treasure. Mr. Ferguson estimates the total number at about two thousand four hundred. It never happens that the whole of a hoard comes into the hands of the Treasury; and the number described is perhaps beyond the average proportion.

It will be seen that the coins are classified according to the method adopted by Hawkins, and continued by Mr. Kenyon in his new edition of the *Silver Coins of England*. It is generally acknowledged that this principle (founded chiefly upon the spelling of the King's name) does not afford

afford us an absolute criterion. It has been criticised by Mr. Sainthill, Mr. Bryne, and Mr. A. J. Evans, and the latter has shown good reason to believe not only that many coins with the spellings, Edwa. Edwar. and Edward. must be placed in the reign of Edward III., but that some pieces with the shorter form Edw. are undoubtedly later than others with the name less abbreviated. In the case of the find under consideration, the pieces were on the whole too much worn to allow us to draw any conclusions from their weight, and it would have been impossible to draw up a table at all if some rough method of classification—such as that given by Hawkins—were not adopted.

The neighbourhood of Beaumont has yielded up other hoards of coins, but no particulars have been preserved.

Between 1819 and 1823, in cutting the canal from Carlisle to the Solway (now the Carlisle and Silloth Railway), a large hoard of Roman coins was found either in the parish of Beaumont or the adjoining one of Kirkandrews-on-Eden (these two small parishes are held together and have only one church, that of Beaumont).

In 1855, according to Whelan's *History of Cumberland*, p. 170, at Kirksteads in Kirkandrews, there was found "an earthenware vase containing about 1,100 Roman denarii (?). The coins were of bronze (?), and principally of the reigns of Constantine and Diocletian."

About forty years ago a hoard of silver coins was found at Sandsfield, near Beaumont; Sandsfield is close to the place where Edward I. died. A silversmith in Carlisle, long ago dead, purchased the find, of which he melted 4 lbs. weight; others he gilt and sold for shirt-links, watch charms, &c. His son has recently given the Carlisle Museum nine coins, all that now remain of this hoard. They consist of—

3 Pennies, London, of Edward I.
 1 Penny, York, ,,
 1 ,, London, of Edward III.

1 Penny

	London.	Berwick.	Bristol.	Canterbury.	Chester.	Durham.	Kingston (Hull).	Lincoln.	Newcastle.	St. Edmundbury.	York.	Various and Uncertain.
Henry III. (1216—1272) Penny	ἠΕΡΙ ON LVNDE 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Robert de Hadleie. 3
Class of Edward I. (1272—1307) Pennies. Hawkins. Type 1 } ✠ EDW. R. ANGL. DNS. hYB. (DNS. hYB.) Pennies	LONDON 274	2	VILLA BRISTOLLIE 46	CANTOR 93	..	DVREME 10	..	19	VILLA NOVICASTRIE 3	VILLA SEDMVNDI 1	No quatrefoil in centre of cross 22	Dublin (head in triangle) 7
	no mm. on obv. 1	VVILLA 1	..	..	..	DVRELM 1	..	..	..	..	Quat. in C. of cross 5	English type 1
(var: annulets in leg.)	LONDON 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Qu. in cross and on breast 2	Waterford 2
✠ EDW. REX ANGL. DNS. hYB Pennies	LONDON 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Uncertain mint 14
✠ EDW. R. ANGL. DNS. hYB (or DNS. hYB) Pennies. Hawkins. Type 2 }	.. 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Id. Type 3	LONDON 22	..	..	..	..	DVREME 16	..	..	VILL NOVICASTRI 6	VILLA SCIEDMVNDI 4	No quatrefoil 5	..
Id. Type 2 or 3	.. 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Quatrefoil 3	..
Class of Edward I. or II?	LONDON 6	..	VILL BRISTOLIE 12	.. 8	SESTRIE? 1	..	VILLA KYNGESTON 4	..	VIL NOVICASTRI 8	..	..	..
Class of Edward II. (1307—1327) Pennies	LONDON 340	19	..	..	..	DVREME 20	..	..	..	VILL SCIEDMVNDI 32	..	..
no mm. on obv. 2	..	..	..	..	..	.. mm cross moline 5	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	DVNELM. One limb of cross a pastoral staff 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
✠ EDWAR. R. &c. annulets in leg. 39	..	..	..	..	..	DVREME 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
.. 5	..	..	..	..	..	DVNELM 3	..	..	..	..	..	..
✠ EDWARD R. &c. 11	..	..	..	..	..	DVREME 3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Edward II. or III. ? Groats 92	..	..	..	..	..	.. 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Class of Edward III. (1327—1377) } (mm. Obv. and Rev. ✠) in one angle 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(mm. Obv. crown. Rev. ✠) FRACI 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(mm. Obv. crown. Rev. ✠) 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(mm. Obv. and Rev. ✠) Half-groats 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(mm. Obv. crown. Rev. ✠) 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(mm. Obv. ✠ Rev. crown) 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
.. Pennies LONDON 12	..	..	..	..	..	DVREME 21	..	..	..	..	..	..
.. LONDON 1	..	..	..	..	..	DVNELMIE 32	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	DVNELM 1	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	DVRELMIE 1	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	VILLA DVRRON 1	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	in each angle	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	DVREME 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
(mm. Obv. crown. Rev. ✠) 4	..	..	..	..	..	.. 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1009	28	58	371	1	135	4	19	18	58	143	38

SCOTTISH.

Alexander III. (1249—1290). Pennies	✠ ALEXANDER DEI GRÆ—+ REX SCOTORVM. Single Cross	{ 4 mullets 6 pts. 31 2 mullets 2 stars 3 4 mullets 3 pts. 1
John Baliol (1292—1296)	✠ IOHANNES DEI GRÆ	4 mullets of 6 pts. 1
Robert Bruce (1306—1329)	✠ ROBERTVS DEI GRÆ	4 mullets of 5 pts. 1
David II. (1329—1370). Groats	✠ DAVID DEI GRÆ REX SCOTORVM—✠ DNS PTECTOR, &c.—VILLA EDINBVRG ^h	18 (Robert II. Head?)
..	(var O in one angle of rev.)	9
..	VILLA ABERDOR	1
..	Defaced and fragmentary (Edinburgh)	3
.. Half Groats	VILLA EDINBVRG ^h	10
.. Pennies	✠ DAVID DEI GRÆ—SCOTORVM REX. (4 mullets of 6 pts.)	4
..	✠ DAVID REX SCOTORVM—VILLA EDINBVRG ^h	3

FOREIGN (Sterlings).

John d'Avesnes, Count of Hainault (1280—1304)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Arnold VIII. ,, ,, Looz (1280—1328)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gaucher de Chatillon, ,, ,, Porcien (1303—1325)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Robert de Bethune, ,, ,, Flanders (1305—1322)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
John, King of Bohemia (for Luxemburg) (1309—1325)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Louis V. (of Bavaria), Emperor (1314—1347)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Uncertain	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

Uncertain King (Edward I. II. or III.) Pennies 8

1 Penny,	Durham,	„
2 Groats,	London,	„
1 Half-Groat	„	„

All in a most miserable condition.

A singular find of silver coins was made twelve months ago,—January 1884—on a road between Bowness-on-Solway and Wigton, about a mile and a half from Bowness. A farmer saw what he thought was a sixpence on the road. and picked it up; a yard further he saw another, and at intervals of about a yard he picked up twenty-one or twenty-two coins. Mr. Ferguson was able only to see five of these coins.

Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were pennies of Edward I.

Obv.—MM. cross patee.  EDW R ANGL' DNS HYB.
One has two small pellets on the King's breast.

Rev.—CIVITAS LONDON. The one with the pellets on the King's breast has a small pellet before London.

4. *Obv.*—Head in profile with sceptre. MM. a cross patee  ALEXANDER DEI GRA.

Rev.—REX SCOTORVM , long cross type with a mullet in each angle. The top of the sceptre on the obverse is on a line with the nose of the bust.

5. Same, except that on the obverse, the top of the sceptre is on a line with the crown, and on the reverse two of the mullets are replaced by six pointed stars.

It has been ascertained that a cart laden with soil from the foreshore had passed along the road about half an hour before the coins were found. It is probable they were dug up with the soil and had jolted out of the cart.