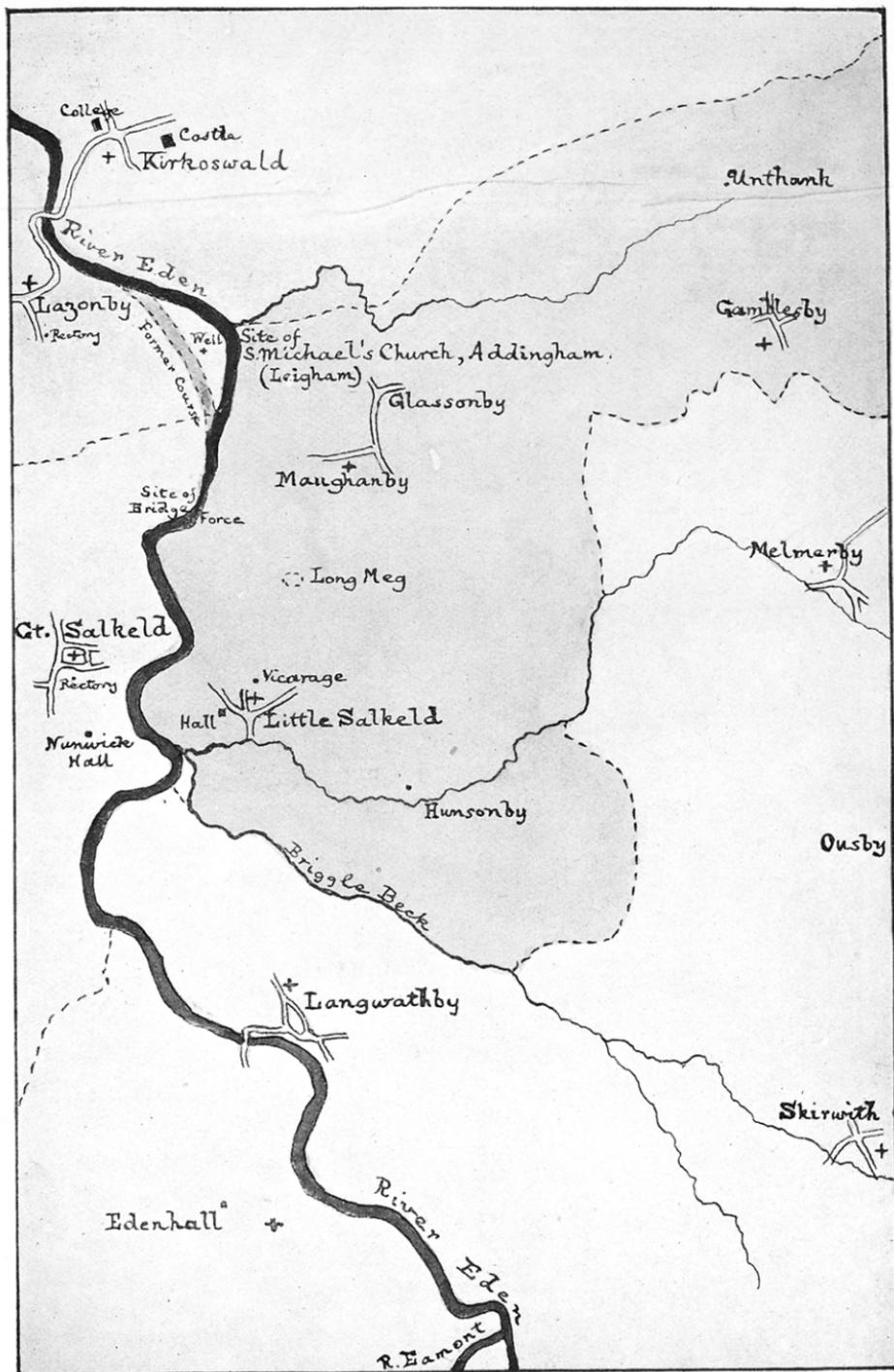


ART. XIX.—*A Submerged Church in the River Eden.* By
the REV. C. J. GORDON, M.A.

Read at Windermere, 11th September, 1913.

THE parish of Addingham extends over 10,000 acres in the Leath Ward of Cumberland, between Hartside Fell and the river Eden, bounded on the south by the parishes of Melmerby and Langwathby, and on the north by Renwick and Kirkoswald; and contains four townships—Little Salkeld, Hunsonby with Winskill and Robberby, Gamblesby with Unthank, and Glassonby with Maughanby. On the occasion of the Society's visit to the neighbourhood in 1912, information collected on the subject of the old Eden bridges led to attention being directed to the tradition of a church having formerly existed on a high bank on the east side of the river, about a mile below the ruins of the ancient bridge at the Force Mill. The position indicated is almost at the extreme north-western corner of the parish, and of the township of Glassonby, and only just over a mile distant from two other churches—those of Lazonby and Kirkoswald—each of them placed also, according to a favourite plan, close to the margin of its own far-scattered parish. It was mentioned by Hutchinson (*Cumberland*, i., 282, note; Parish of Salkeld), writing in 1794, that only a small part of the churchyard remained, the building having been washed away by the river; human bones appeared in the bank; and all the information he could obtain of the place was that they brought the dead out of Alston Moor, in the days of yore, to be interred there—perhaps in the great mortality in 1594. No further particulars appear to have been recorded, but memory of the site has been



SKETCH-MAP; PARISH OF ADDINGHAM.

Scale, 1 in. to a mile.

TO FACE P. 328.

preserved in traditional names of adjoining fields—"Row Bank," "Kirk Bank," "Kirk Meadows," "Chapel Flatt." On the other side of the river, about three hundred yards to westward, and fringed with a few low alder and other trees, may be seen a little circular pond. This is always kept full from beneath its surface by an unfailing spring, and known as St. Michael's Well. On higher ground, in an almost opposite direction, not quite a mile away to the south east, stands the existing parish church of St. Michael. Of churches with this dedication there are twenty-seven in the present diocese of Carlisle, all probably dating their foundations between the end of the seventh century and the coming of the Normans in 1092 (Chancellor Ferguson's *History of the Diocese of Carlisle*, p. 53). There is no township of Addingham, nor any village or group of houses known by that name; but in another part of his *History*, without indicating any particular spot, and evidently relying on the report of another observer, Hutchinson remarked that by the side of the Eden there were remains of houses, and a tradition of a village called Addingham which had given name to the parish (*Cumberland*, i., 255).

A personal inspection of the ground leads inevitably to the conclusion that the vanished village and submerged church stood side by side. An evident alteration in the course of the Eden can be traced near the spot, and from the form of the channel above and below the Force it is evident that immense volumes of water may at any time have descended so violently as to have carried away considerable portions of a bank sixty feet high, with all that stood upon it, and to set up a permanent barrier of separation between the site of the old village church and its consecrated well. It is to this ancient church, and not to the existing one, that the following description by earlier historians of Cumberland (Nicolson and Burn, 1777, ii., 450) must be deemed to apply:—

The Church of Addingham is dedicated to St. Michael. . . . It was anciently in the patronage of the lord of the manor, as appears from a fine levied in the year 1245, whereby Thomas de Lascells and Christian his wife and Eva widow of Robert Avenal settle the manor of Gamelsby and Glassenby on William de Ireby for life, and the presentation to the church of Glassenby (as it is there called) to go by turns between the said Christian and Eva. Afterwards, the said Christian being then a widow, granted the said church to the prior and convent of Carlisle. And having married again to the lord Robert de Brus, she and the said Robert in the year 1282 petition Bishop Irton to confirm the said church and rectory, with the chapel of Salkeld, to the said prior and convent, which the said bishop confirms accordingly; and ordains, that after the death of the then rector Eustachius de Trewick, they provide sufficiently for the supply of the cure. . . . And finally, King Edward the first, on the part of the Crown, upon the grievous complaint of the prior and convent of their sufferings by the Scots, confirms the same unto them.

Towards the close of the thirteenth century the same church is found in the *Valor* of Pope Nicholas described as "Ecclesia de Leigham—hodie Adynam," from which it may be gathered that the village was commonly known as Leigham in earlier times.

The next date to be noticed is 1360,* when, the chapel at Little Salkeld being polluted by bloodshed, the vicar was given permission to officiate in his own house, on account of the great distance of the mother church, till the desecration should be removed. There is no record of this Salkeld chapel having ever been restored to use; nor is there any present knowledge of its former site, or of its dedication, though a field name at Nunwick Hall, near Great Salkeld—"St. John's Flatt"—may not improbably be connected with it, the course of the river having undergone considerable alteration in that neighbourhood, as it has further down. In Little Salkeld

* The very year in which the old bridge at the Force Mill was carried away by a violent flood. See these *Transactions*, N.S., xiii., 169.

township there is the site of an ancient castle, of the possessors of which nothing whatever is known (Lysons, *Magna Britannia: Cumberland*, 1816, p. 4). Confusion has naturally arisen from supposing the Church of Addingham to have stood always where it stands now, and the term "Capella de Salkeld" to have been intended to designate the building at Kirk Bank. The Vicarage house may very likely have always occupied its present position, not far from the seat of the ancient family of the Salkelds, who are understood to have taken their name from the place. The chapel would naturally be in proximity to both those houses; and when old St. Michael's was desecrated or damaged, the two churches might easily be abandoned for the more secure position at Maughanby, convenient of access from either direction and more accessible to dwellers in outlying parts of the parish. All through the fourteenth century the neighbourhood was visited with murderous ravages by the Scots, who entered Cumberland every few years by way of Gilsland, devastating the whole region as far south as Appleby and beyond, and more particularly from Alston Moor to Penrith. Exposed in the direct line of the enemy's advance, Leigham lay open to sudden attack in a position peculiarly defenceless. And there was yet another element of destruction which may have contributed towards hastening the change. About 1350 many townships in the district lost a quarter of their population by the plague; and the fact that the churchyard is said to have been used for interment of plague victims, with suggestion of 1598 as the latest date, may reasonably justify the conclusion that the place had been abandoned, as no longer suitable either for worship or habitation, at some period between the middle of the fourteenth century and the close of the sixteenth. Long after its immediate vicinity had become depopulated, and the former name of the village altogether forgotten, some portions of the

eastern wall of the church may possibly have been left standing, to be washed away in comparatively recent times. As there cannot have been two churches of St. Michael co-existing within a mile of one another, the surviving one must have been built with the intention of its superseding the first. There is no indication of anything very ancient about the present church or its surroundings. In 1704 Bishop Nicolson described it as being in very good order and containing no monuments. About a hundred years ago the well-known early cross* which stands on a modern base in the churchyard was brought from the river side, and the fine fragments of a still earlier cross-shaft preserved in the porch were probably brought from there at some former time.

The unusually prolonged drought of the summer of 1913 reduced the water in the Eden to the lowest level within living memory, offering a unique opportunity of inspecting the site of the old church under favourable conditions. Advantage being taken of the bright sunshine early in August, it was just possible when leaning over the side of a boat, to distinguish objects in the bed of the stream at a depth of seven to ten feet, large stones of various shapes and sizes being visible in considerable numbers. A body of men with suitable appliances was organised for the purpose of getting them out, and the labour of the greater part of five days resulted in the recovery of seven large stones and several smaller ones. By the use of grappling irons with wire ropes and pulleys and not without repeated efforts and disappointments, the stones were drawn out of the water and up the high bank, and those which seemed to be worth preserving finally carted away to the churchyard at Maughanby. In process of these operations great quantities of walling

* See Note with illustrations by Mr. W. G. Collingwood to Art. XVII. on "St. Michael's, Addingham," by the Rev. T. W. Stephenson: these *Transactions*, N.S., xiii. Also "Pre-Norman Remains," by Mr. Collingwood, in *The Victoria History of Cumberland*, I., 256, 263, etc.



SEARCHING THE SITE.



SECURING A STONE.
THE SUBMERGED CHURCH.

TO FACE P. 332.



No. 1, RUDE STANDING-STONE.

TO FACE P. 333.

stones could be seen, all lying in a wide pool within an area measuring fifty yards up and down stream, and from the bank about twenty yards away, or rather more than a third of the distance across the river. It was evident that the building had been gradually undermined and let down from its elevated position, a considerable portion of the materials lying where they had been deposited, preserved rather than injured by the water. So thorough was the search that it may be safe to hazard the opinion that most of the available objects of interest have now been brought to light.

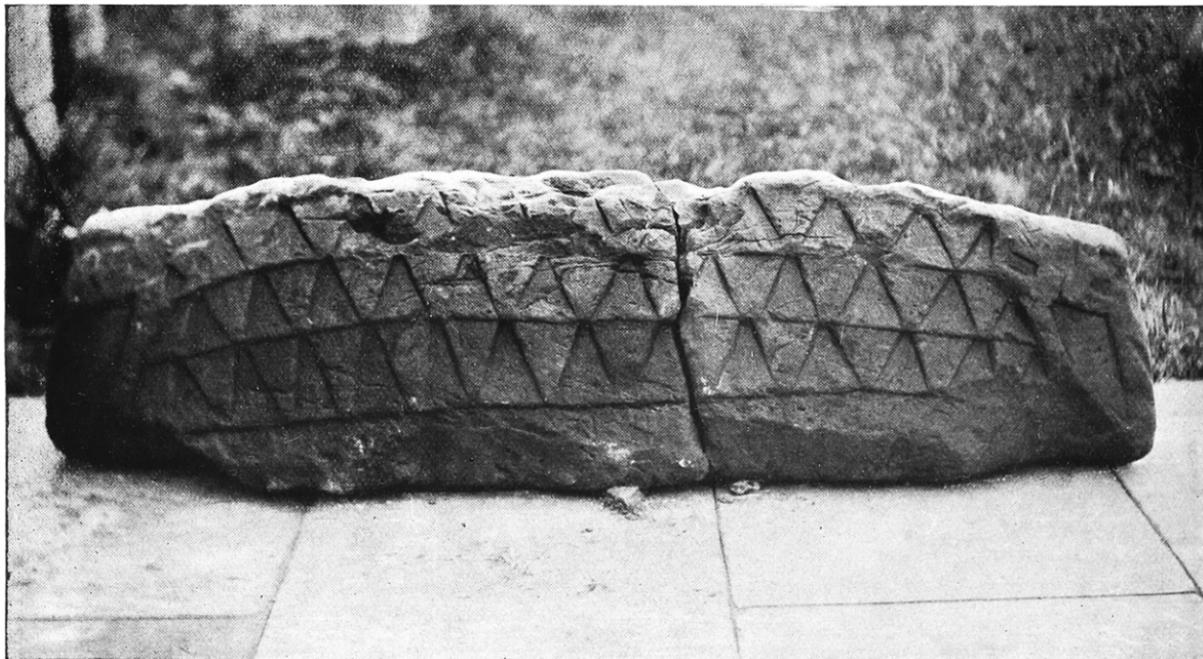
Of the fragments figured in the accompanying illustrations, the incised slabs were all found lying face downwards, the position most favourable for preservation of the markings on them. All are of red sandstone, and all but one of the kind quarried on the Addingham side of the river, dark in colour, and very close and fine in texture, and not particularly hard. The other is of the hard coarse kind found in great abundance on Lazonby Fell, varying from light red to a dull yellow colour. For this one—No. 1—the rough undressed stone with a cross marking, it is hardly possible to offer either description or comparison. It measures 4 feet 7 inches in length by 15½ inches at the head, and 11½ at foot, and is of uneven thickness of an average of about 7½ inches. It may have been placed as a standing-stone over a grave at some early period, when only a very imperfect instrument was available for hammering upon it a crude delineation of the Christian emblem, with holes at the four ends of the Cross and other shallower holes between the arms.

Nos. 2 and 3 were found at the end of the search, on September 8th, in deeper water than some of the others, lying extended just where they fell and broke hundreds of years ago, nor was it possible to see until brought to the bank that they formed together a coped shrine tomb-

stone of the Viking age. Comparison with other examples discovered in Cumberland in recent times and fully described in these *Transactions*,* shows this "Hogback" to resemble in many respects the one known as "The Warrior's Tomb" at Gosforth, though much simpler in character, and without any figures or other ornamentation in the lower part of the design. It has little resemblance to two recently unearthed at Lowther, and differs from those of "The Giant's Grave" at Penrith, only seven miles away, in being very thick in proportion to its much smaller length, measuring 5 feet 6 inches long, 20 inches across the middle of the base, tapering equally towards each end, and 23 inches high in the centre. Monuments of the kind are usually classed as belonging to the tenth century, and described as imitations of houses with tiled roofs and walls and gable ends. To the present writer this one would rather appear as intended to represent an upturned boat, with rounded keel, overlapping boards and shapely hull terminating in corresponding stems, and the tegular ornament like the pattern copied from the scales of a great fish. The customary carving of muzzled bears may possibly be distinguished at the ends. The chiselling of the stone has been remarkably clean, and, though bruised and broken at the top, the sides have suffered little from exposure to the action of the weather or the water.

No. 4 is a thick, heavy stone, 30 by 24 by 18 inches, with a rectangular opening cut down the middle, 10 inches by 4, and shallow lines cut parallel to the straight edges of the upper surface, and then diagonally from the corners of them towards the joinings of others bordering the slightly raised top of the centre opening. This stone would appear to have served for the upper part of the base of a sculptured shaft, and may have been incised for the game of "Nine-holes," or "Nine Men's Morris,"

* Especially, o.s., xv., 240-246; n.s., vii., 152-164.



Nos. 2 and 3, THE ADDINGHAM HOGBACK.

TO FACE P. 334.



No. 4, BASE OF A CROSS.

TO FACE P. 335.

in later times after removal or destruction of the column, the ninth hole in this case being the mortice hole in the centre.

Nos. 5 and 6, though found lying about thirty yards apart, one near the bank and the other well out in mid-stream, were recovered with little difficulty early in the search, the smaller immediately after the other. When placed together they were at once seen to be two separated parts of a Norman grave slab, with incised Latin cross and sword in the usual positions, as found in great numbers of similar slabs in many of the old churches throughout the county, every separate example showing some interesting variety of style and workmanship.* This one was originally about 6 inches thick, and measured 6 feet 6 inches long by 30 inches across the head, tapering elegantly to 18 inches wide at foot. The cutting of the lines has been somewhat rudely done from a bold design of extreme simplicity, drawn with no very strict regard to symmetry; all its features indicating a comparatively early date, possibly before the middle of the twelfth century. The stone is remarkably well preserved, slightly frayed and broken away in parts of its surface, to the injury of small portions of the long incisions, but nowhere so much as to interfere with a view of their direction.

Of the other fragments recovered from the site of the submerged church the only one worthy of special mention here is what appears to have been a portion of a small water stoup, possibly for water from the consecrated well. It is too small for a font. The whole of one side and the base have broken away, and the action of the water has altered the shape of the bowl both within and without.

* Compare the late Canon Bower's description of "Grave Slabs in the Diocese of Carlisle," these *Transactions*, vii., 178 (No. 28); ix., 14 (No. 67, Gt. Salkeld).

The historical argument of this paper appears to be fully substantiated by the nature of the sepulchral monuments. Though little further information seems likely to be forthcoming from the river bed, exploration of the adjoining ground may lead to positions being located of some at least of the houses of ancient Leigham, as well as of the eastern limits of the burial ground. Expert architectural examination of the present church of St. Michael might well lead to the fixing of an approximate date for its foundation and the abandonment of the older one. Whenever the story of Addingham parish comes to be written it will present an impressive record of human occupation from very remote periods of time to the present day, and it can be illustrated by a most remarkable series of venerable stones, commencing with "Long Meg and her daughters." In the meantime it is worthy of note how one ruined sanctuary has become a veritable mother of churches. To the church at Maughanby is now added the new one of St. John at Gamblesby, consecrated in 1868, in a position of still greater advantage for use of dwellers in parts of the parish at a distance of two or three miles from the river; while the place of the old chapel near the Vicarage is supplied by the conversion of a barn into a well-ordered temporary church by the present Incumbent.

Acknowledgments are due to Lady Borwick, a member of our Society, and to others in the neighbourhood, for defraying the necessary expenses of investigation and recovery; also to Messrs. James Porter, Lazonby, and T. Balfour and T. A. Wilmot, Eden Lacy, for their patience and skill in finding and handling the stones. The illustrations are from photographs taken at the river by Miss B. Gordon, and others by Mr. T. Glaister, Langwathby.



Nos. 5 and 6, NORMAN GRAVE-SLAB.

TO FACE P. 336.