

VIII.—ROBERT COLTMAN CLEPHAN, F.S.A.
 A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY:
 AN OBITUARY NOTICE.

By FREDERICK WALTER DENDY, D.C.L., F.S.A.

[Read on the 26th July, 1922.]

'But it suffices that the day will end,
 And then the end is known.'

On the 21st March, 1922, at his residence, Marine House, Tyne-mouth, in the 83rd year of his age, died Robert Coltman Clephan, F.S.A., who had joined this Society as a member in 1883, and became one of its vice-presidents in 1902. At the time of his death full accounts of his life and work appeared in the local press. There is little to add to what was there so well stated and is here summarized for preservation in our records for the use of our members.

Mr. Clephan was born on the 8th November, 1839, at Grove House, Gateshead. He was the son of Joseph Clephan of Stockton-on-Tees, who had married Mary Coltman of Leicester, and he was a nephew and the literary executor of James Clephan of Gateshead, 'journalist, poet and antiquary,' whose life is written in Welford's *Men of Mark 'twixt Tyne and Tweed*. The subject of our memoir was educated at Newcastle grammar school and began his business career with the firm of Boldemann, Borries and Co., with whom he served as cashier for five years. He then started in business for himself and founded the firm of Clephan and Wiencke, iron and mineral merchants and commission agents.

In 1869 he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Foster Spence of North Shields, a well-known and much respected member of the Society of Friends. After residing successively at Gateshead and Birtley, Mr. Clephan purchased and resided at South dene

tower, Low Fell, but moved from there to Tynemouth for the benefit of his wife's health. She died in August, 1914, leaving him four sons and six daughters. Two sons and one daughter are now in South Africa and two other daughters are unmarried.

In his youth he was an active volunteer, and held the rank of captain in one of the Durham rifle corps. He travelled extensively in Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, acquired a useful knowledge of the languages of those countries and spoke them with fluency, and in his later days he yielded to the fascination of exploration in Egypt, which he visited many times.

His literary efforts bear the impress of his travels and occupation. To the former, for example, are due his articles on the Hanseatic Confederation and Egypt, and to the latter those on armour and ordnance. A bibliography of his writings has kindly been prepared as an appendix to this paper by our senior secretary, Mr. Robert Blair, F.S.A. They show great industry, wide reading and research, and a considerable range of subjects.

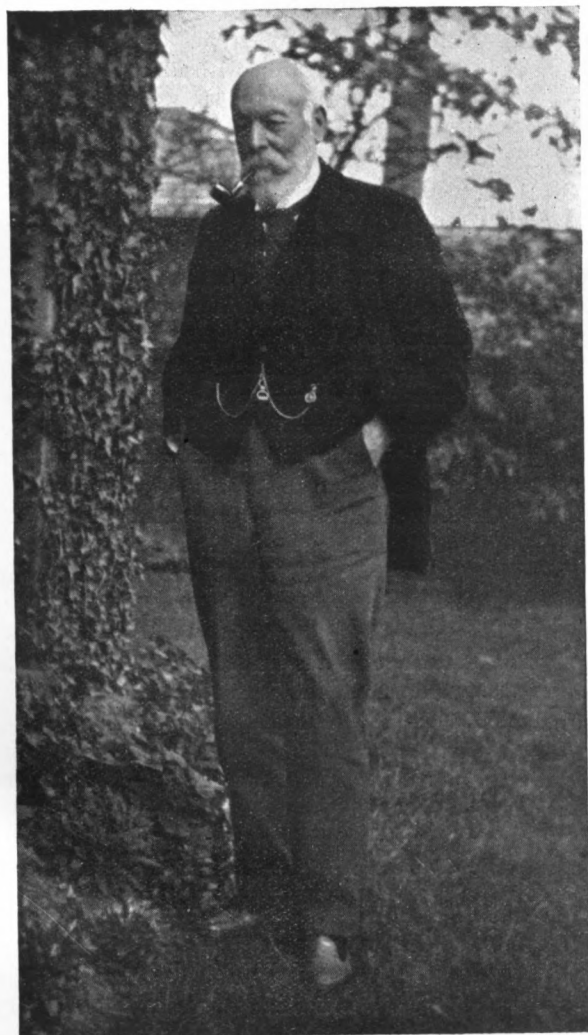
He was an ardent collector of ancient armour and Egyptian antiquities, and he prepared, for this Society, helpful catalogues of its Egyptian objects, ancient lamps and Greek pottery.

It is to the credit of any man if we can say of him that he lived long years, saw good days, did useful work and died respected. If to this we can add, as we may of Mr. Clephan, that he was gentle, courteous, hospitable, affectionate and beloved, he leaves us an example to be followed.

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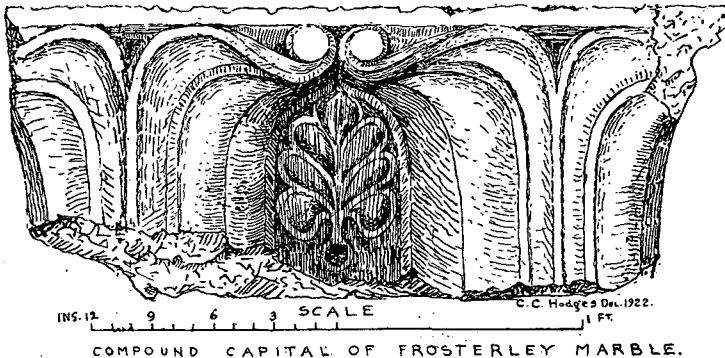
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[See p. 114].