

Archaeological Intelligence.

NORTHAMPTON CASTLE.—We expressed a hope in our last number (p. 460) that the efforts of the Northamptonshire Architectural Society for the preservation of these valuable remains might be successful. We greatly regret to have now to record that such has not been the case. The London and North Western Railway Company propose to adhere to their work of destruction, and the Postern Gate and wall connected with it are to be removed, and the gateway "carefully rebuilt" (we know the loving hands of modern masons) in the boundary wall of the new station.

It was not in this spirit that the Great Northern Railway Company treated the Castle at Berwick and the walls of York, and we can only hope that in this unfortunate case at Northampton, a gun-metal plate recording the removal will be affixed near the gateway; otherwise, possibly, the mystification of historical enquirers at Northampton may be as complete as that of future antiquaries who speculate upon the Eleanor Cross within the enclosure of Charing Cross station.

PROPOSED COUNTY HISTORY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE.—We gather from the thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society that this very important undertaking, suggested last July at the meeting of Archdeacons and Rural Deans, presided over by the Bishop of the Diocese, has since assumed a more practical form. A meeting was held last October, at which resolutions were passed forming a basis of operations. The co-operation of the clergy was invited in the preparation of the history of their own parishes, and the formation of a subscription was proposed, to furnish the funds necessary for the thorough examination, by well qualified persons, of the Records of the Realm, the Episcopal Registers and other documents, together with the transcription and arrangement of all entries relating to places in the county. Such a work will necessarily occupy a considerable time, and cannot fail to be costly, but it is felt to be absolutely essential to ensure the thoroughness and the accuracy of the history. This mass of historical and archaeological material once collected, and arranged according to parishes, the way will be open for the commencement of the actual history, which, it is suggested, should be taken according to the ancient hundreds, or wapentakes, one of these divisions being completed before the publication of another is begun. If this systematic and sensible plan is encouraged as it should be in the county, and, most of all, if the historian, or historians (for a county history is too much in these impatient days for the powers of one man) are found at the right time to direct the whole, Lincolnshire will be fortunate indeed. It is certainly not much to wish the project greater patronage than was accorded to the laborious and unrivalled historian of a neighbouring county; is it too much to hope that the Lincolnshire genealogies will be set forth as accurately as those in Baker's Northamptonshire?

A discovery of Roman coins, to the number of 685, contained in an earthen vessel, was made on the Downs, near Eastbourne, at the end of February last.

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THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME NORTHAMPTON.—Mr. W. Thompson Watkin has communicated the following: "The Rev. R. S. Baker, B.A., of Hargrave, in his interesting paper, 'The Nene Valley a Roman Frontier, and the origin of the name Northampton' (printed in the *Journal*, vol. xxxv, p. 339), contends that the line of forts erected by Publius Ostorius Scapula, the Roman governor of Britain in A.D. 48, between the rivers Antona and Sabrina, in order to cut off the southern portion of England, from the as yet unsubdued tribes of the north, commenced in the neighbourhood of the Wash on the east, and following the line of the Nene Valley, which river he claims as the Antona, crossed the country to the Severn (Sabrina), in Gloucestershire. I am not going to enter into the means by which Mr. Baker arrives at the conclusion that the Antona of the county of Northampton is the Nene, in the same manner as we have a river, yet called the Anton, in the county of Southampton. Suffice it to say that I agree with him. There are one or two extra facts which I would, however, bring forward. Mr. Baker says that he has found 'in an old county atlas' the name of 'Anton' applied to the river Test, in Hampshire. The fact is that river is generally known as bearing the former name, as well as that of Test, in much the same way as the Mersey, above Stockport, is known as the 'Mersey or Etherow.' The name of 'Anton' is given to it on the ordnance map; in all (or nearly all) county atlases, 'Anton' is applied to it, and there is (in addition to Andover, which Mr. Baker mentions) a place called 'East Anton' near its source. But bearing more immediately upon the 'North Anton,' when Mr. Baker says that 'from the westernmost edge of Northants, to the nearest point of the Severn, Tewkesbury is barely over thirty-five miles,' he has also overlooked the peculiar fact that between the Nene and the Severn, a mile or two E.N.E. of Cheltenham, there exist, buried in the soil, the remains of a large Roman town, which bears the peculiar name of 'Andoversford.' Here, over several fields, extend immense foundations of buildings, walls of vast thickness occurring. About fifty-five acres are full of them. In some slight excavations made on the site in 1863, very interesting discoveries took place. A large building, either a temple or forum, was laid bare; sculptured stones, a bronze statue, about 1,100 coins (covering the whole period of the Roman occupation of Britain), great quantities of 'Samian' ware, and other pottery; rings, fibulæ, armillæ, in bronze; weapons, in that metal and in iron; besides many other remains, which are generally found upon Roman sites, were brought to light. A large amphitheatre (of stone work) appears to be buried also. The name 'Andoversford,' when occurring at such a spot, midway between the Antona and the Sabrina, forms, I think, another link of the chain of evidence as to the correctness

of the hypothesis that it was in this neighbourhood that the line of Roman *castra* were erected. The similarity of the name with the Hampshire 'Andover,' on the present river Anton, is remarkable. It is much to be wished that excavations could be made upon these sites. Those at Irchester, during the past summer, formed a promising commencement."

SCOTTISH HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS.—We learn with much satisfaction that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have lately given their sanction to the publication, as one of the Rolls' Series of Chronicles and Memorials, of all documents connected with Scottish History in the English Public Records from the earliest period to the end of the reign of Henry VII, to be brought out under the direction of the Lord Clerk Register of Scotland. Such a work, bringing into a chronological series the varied classes of MSS. known to be preserved in the Record Office, cannot fail to be welcomed by all historical students. We understand that the work is to be edited by Mr. Joseph Bain, F.S.A., Scotland, one of the most active of our members, who has for a considerable period devoted his time to such researches.

PUBLICATION OF A NEW MONASTICON.—Messrs. Chatto and Windus announce as ready a new Monasticon by the Rev. Mackenzie Walcott, in two volumes, crown 8vo., with a map and ground plans. It consists of "Churchwork and Life in English Minsters," with essays on architecture, the daily life, external relations and history of our cathedrals, and the "English Students' Monasticon" in alphabetical form, with references to the best authorities.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL HONOURS.—The members of the Institute and the numerous friends of Mr. J. H. Parker will hear with much pleasure that the King of Italy has been pleased to confer upon him, as a token of his royal esteem for his valuable works on the archæology of Rome, the Insignia of Officer of the Order of SS. Maurice and Lazarus.

MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE IN SOMERSETSHIRE. The general arrangements for the meeting of the Institute at Taunton on August 5th, under the presidency of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, are now completed. The following are the names of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Sections:—*Antiquities*—President, Sir C. Anderson, Bart., Vice-Presidents, Sir W. V. Guise, Bart., Rev. H. M. Scarth; *History*—President, E. A. Freeman, Esq., Vice-Presidents, E. Chisholm Batten, Esq., Sir J. Maclean; *Architecture*—President, A. J. B. Beresford-Hope, Esq., M.P., Vice-Presidents, W. Burges, Esq., W. A. Sanford, Esq. The following places will be visited, amongst others, during the week:—Cleeve Abbey, Dunster Castle, Castle Neroche, Stokecourcy, Fairfield, East Quantockshead, St. Audries, Muchelney Abbey, Montacute House, Barrington Court, Wells, Glastonbury, Cothelstone, &c.

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THE RE-DISCOVERED ROMAN INSCRIPTION FROM BOWNESS.—We are indebted to Mr. W. Thompson Watkin for the following communication :

“In the second volume of Hutchinson’s *History of Cumberland* (published in 1794), p. 486, the following passage occurs :—

“‘Some time ago the following particulars were communicated to the *Cumberland Pacquet*—There was lately dug up at Bowness, in Cumberland, very near the western extremity of the Picts wall, and the most western station thereon, a red freestone, about 3 feet long, 16 inches broad, and two inches and a half in thickness, with the inscription following, in Roman capitals—

.
 ONIANVS DEPIC
 SEDDATE VITE IVRAQVARTVS
 SVPPLEAT VOTIS FIDEM
 AVREIS SACRABO CARMEN
 MOX VIRITIM LITTORIS
 VENYSI

“‘There are fragments of another line at the top ; and probably there may have been several more, as it is impossible to ascertain what length it may have been when entire.

“‘We cannot vouch for the accuracy of the above inscription, as we have not had an opportunity of examining the original.’

“The stone mentioned in this passage appears to have been lost soon afterwards. Mr. R. S. Ferguson, who has looked through the files of the *Cumberland Pacquet*, has been able to obtain a copy of the letter, which is signed ‘J. Smith,’ and dated from Carlisle, 5 January 1791. It appeared in the issue of the *Pacquet* on the 12th of that month.

“In the summer of 1879, Mr. John Jackson, of the Carlisle Scientific Society, drew Mr. Ferguson’s attention to a stone bearing an inscription existing at Bowness, which the latter gentleman soon identified as that named by Hutchinson, and which had been so long missing. It was found in the possession of a Mr. Robinson, who said that his father ploughed it up, and that he had known it for thirty years. The dimensions had been incorrectly given, for it was found to measure in length 17½ inches, width (on the right) 8½ inches, and at the left extremity 11 inches, and was a slab of red sandstone.

“The long period during which it had been hidden (or probably re-buried) had been detrimental to the inscription, which was found partially encrusted with lime. The judicious application of lemon juice soon, however, removed most of this, and then it was at once seen that it had been to some extent wrongly read.

"The first line was clearly . . . NONIANVS DEDICO ; in the second line the first two letters given by Mr. Smith as SE were obliterated, and it was doubtful whether the letters given as IT in VITE, the I in IVRA, and the R in QVARTVS were correct. In the fifth line it was evident that LITTERIS, instead of LITTORIS, was the correct reading, whilst the last line VENVSI, if it ever existed, had been removed.

"Such was the nature of the inscription when it came into the hands of epigraphists for critical treatment. Mr. Ferguson kindly favoured me with a photograph of it. The second line seemed alone difficult. Dr. Hübner after seeing the photograph, wrote to me concerning it that this "line . . . D DAT, &c., remains as uncertain as before." The first improvement in reading the text of it was by Professor E. C. Clark, who rendered it as (PR)O DATE VT FETVRA QVARTIS. When favoured with this gentleman's reading by Mr. Ferguson, I at once accepted VT FETVRA as correct and warranted by the photograph, but rejected (PR)O on the ground that D was most unmistakably the letter before DATE, and QVARTIS on the ground that the last letter but one was also unmistakably V. However, a start in emendation had been made ; but the line still remained a puzzle. It was to my friend, Dr. McCaul of Toronto, that the correct reading was at last due. From a photograph which I had sent to him, this learned epigraphist at once read the line as—

(SE)D DATE VT FETVRA QVÆSTVS,

and says in his letter announcing the fact "I govern *quæstus* by *fidem*, i.e., *sed date ut fetura suppleat fidem quæstus votis*. I suppose the object dedicated was a cow, and that the deities were Ceres and Sylvanus or Triptolemus. But, however, that is a guess. It is of more consequence to settle the reading of what remains. I understand by *viritim*—*legendis a quoque viro*, i.e., in golden letters for the use of each man."

"Beyond the reference to *viritim*, Dr. McCaul gives no translation. This we will consider immediately. In the meantime, it would seem that some pregnant animal had been made the subject of a prayer or vow, to two deities at least, probably those named by Dr. McCaul. It would almost appear that the vow was that of several persons, but why should only one dedicate? I suggest the following collocation—'Sed date fidem ut foetura suppleat quæstus votis,' the meaning being—'But (ye Gods) give us your assurance that the production of the animal in question shall crown our vows with gains.'

'Aureis sacrabo carmen mox viritim litteris.'

'I (the dedicator) will commemorate the vow in golden letters.'

"The practice of placing inscriptions in golden letters is often referred to in ancient writers. Dr. McCaul refers to one of Pindar's Olympic Odes being so placed. There is another example which I can add from the *Digest*, lib. 41, tit. x, s. i., where in a long passage extracted from the works of Caius (or Gaius) a jurist of the Antoninian age, the latter speaks of golden letters as of a fact in Roman life. Pliny also tells us of their existence in the porch of the temple at Delphi.

The name of the dedicator has in all probability been some such name as VETTONIANVS.

But the peculiar and most interesting feature of the inscription is that it is in Trochaic Septenarian verse, and though breaches of quantity occur, it is on the whole about equal to other epigraphic poetry found in

England, all of which is more or less disfigured in the same manner. The verses appear to be, in their present state,

‘ONIANVS DEDICO

SEDDATE VT FETVRA QVÆSTVS SVPPLEAT VOTIS FIDEM

AVREIS SACRABO CARMEN MOX VIRITIM LITTERIS.’

“I should have said that subsequently to receiving from me Dr. McCaul’s reading, Mr. Ferguson re-examined the stone (now in the Carlisle Museum) and confirmed the words VT FETVRA QVÆSTVS.

“To abler hands I leave the confirmation or rejection of the translation, &c., which I have thus given, in the hope that it may be received with all toleration, as at least an attempt to determine the exact meaning of the verses.”

ROMAN CASTRUM AT BECKFOOT, CUMBERLAND.—A Roman *Castrum*, long supposed to exist, has just been partially laid bare at Beckfoot, near Malbray, and a stone, supposed also to be lost, has been re-discovered built up into a house near the *Castrum*; it bears this inscription :—

LIA · PREF · COH · II PANNON · FECIT.

THE STONE BOW AT LINCOLN.—A rumour has reached us, much to our astonishment, that the removal of this interesting building has been contemplated. It is to be hoped that the displacement of Temple Bar will not be made a precedent for such an other piece of vandalism.

ROMAN REMAINS AT IRCHESTER.—A different spirit seems to prevail in the neighbouring county of Northampton, for the Roman remains found at Irchester have had a special building erected for them on the spot, so that they will be preserved as a perpetual memorial.

PUBLICATION OF A NEW ANTIQUARIAN MAGAZINE.—We gladly call attention to the publication on January 1st of the first number of *The Antiquary*, a magazine devoted to the study of the past, edited by Mr. Edward Walford, M.A. We may gather from the following appropriate adage from Lord Bacon :—“Out of monuments, names, stories, proverbs, traditions, private records, and evidences, fragments of words, passages of books, and the like, we doe save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time,”—which appears upon the prospectus, that *The Antiquary* has been projected upon no narrow lines; indeed, the following numerous subjects will fall within the scope of this new monthly publication :—

Alchemy and Witchcraft; Ancient Ballads and Dramas; Ancient Castles and Seats; Antiquities, local, etc.; Archaeology; Architecture; Arms and Armour; Art, ancient and modern; Articles of Verth; Autographs; Bibliography; Biography, eccentric and forgotten; British and Anglo-Saxon Literature; Notes on the Calendar; Campanology; Cathedrals and Abbeys; Ceramic Art; Church Furniture; Church Restoration; Curiosa; Dress and Vestments; Early Voyages and Discoveries; Early Printing and Block Books; Epitaphs and Inscriptions; Engravings and Etchings; Excavations and Explorations at home and abroad; Exhibitions of Paintings, Sculptures, etc.; Family Pedigrees; Genealogy; Heraldry; Illuminated MSS.; Inns and Hostelries; Letters and Extracts from family archives; Local Traditions and Folk-lore; Manorial and other Customs and Tenures; Meetings of Learned Societies; Monumental and other Brasses; Music and Musical Instruments; Numismatics;

Obituary Notices of Antiquaries ; Old English Poets, Travellers, etc. ; Parish Registers ; Picture and Art Sales ; Provincial Dialects and Customs ; Public Records and Muniments ; Reviews of Archaeological and Historical Books ; Seals ; Topography, English and foreign.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* having for some time ceased to fill the position which *Sylvanus Urban* once held as the organ of students of antiquities, it certainly appears that there is ample room for a publication like *The Antiquary* ; and we learn from the prospectus that "We shall not, however, allow ourselves to be so restricted in our choice of subjects as was our predecessor half a century ago. We have many other questions to discuss which were unknown to our grandfathers, or at all events unappreciated by them. The more intelligent study of history, the wide spread of art education, the increased interest felt in the study of local traditions and dialects, as shown in the establishment of societies for promoting it ; these and other causes have enlarged not only our sphere of knowledge but also our sympathies." With these extended and sensible views, the new publication has a large area of action ; and, without in any way trenching on the ground of *Notes and Queries*, a certain space will also be provided for enquiries on antiquarian subjects. We cordially wish this new magazine every success. It is published by Mr. Stock, 62, Paternoster Row.

ANCIENT WOOD AND IRON WORK IN CAMBRIDGE.—Mr. W. B. Redfarn proposes to publish a Series of Elevations and Sections drawn from examples of carved wood and wrought-iron work dating from the sixteenth century. When we add that the Rev. D. J. Stewart and Mr. J. W. Clark will contribute much of the letterpress we sufficiently indicate the valuable character that Mr. Redfarn's work will assume. This is really a kind of work that should have been done for Cambridge fifty years ago, before the twin demons of restoration and improvement had deprived the town of so many valuable examples of art in wood and stone. But there is, fortunately, still a vast quantity of beautiful work remaining, and accurate representations of such things as the organ screen in King's College Chapel, the tomb of Dr. Caius, or details of some of Wren's bookcases at Trinity will surely be welcomed by a large body of art students. We hope in this work to hear incidentally something more about "Theodorus Haveus Cleviensis, artifex egregius, et insignis architecturæ professor," who did so much at Caius College, and whose portrait, representing him with a pair of compasses, is still preserved there ; and we shall doubtless be told more than we know at present about Rudolph Simons "architectus suâ ætate peritissimus," whose portrait remains at Emanuel, and who built that college for Sir Walter Mildmay, and Sydney, and rebuilt or repaired a great part of Trinity. Mr. Redfarn's book will be published in half-crown parts, imp. 4to, by Mr. W. P. Spalding, 43 Sidney Street, Cambridge.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF RUTLAND.—We hear with much satisfaction that Mr. North is preparing for publication the Church Bells of this little county. That the new work will be as ably done as his former ones on the Bells of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire we have no kind of doubt, and hope not only that the *Bells of Rutland* will soon be issued, but also that the author will undertake the Bells of Lincolnshire, while the spirit of the county is being stirred up for a new County History.

EXHIBITION OF HELMETS, &c.—A special exhibition will be held in the Spring at the Rooms of the Institute. The Baron de Cosson will exhibit a large number of helmets, and several members have promised to send similar objects for exhibition. A circular respecting this matter will shortly be issued.

Members are informed that a new General Catalogue of the Library of the Institute has been lately compiled, and they are reminded that books can be obtained on loan from the library under certain regulations.