



OAK TROUGH FOUND IN ESKDALE.

ART. XXVIII. — *Oak Trough found in Eskdale, West Cumberland.* By C. A. PARKER, M.D.

*Read at Appleby, September 22nd, 1885.*

THOSE members of our Society who attended the meeting at Seascale in September, 1884, will remember driving along the new road lately made by Lord Muncaster from his castle to near Force Bridge in Eskdale. The cutting of this road has already brought about several finds;—(1) the remains of a Roman tilekiln, (2) traces of the Roman road which ran between Ravenglass and Hardknot, (3) an Elizabethan shilling, found about two hundred yards east of the kiln, (4) two half-crowns and three shillings of 1815, found lying together just beneath the turf, and (5) the oak trough. About a quarter of a mile east of Muncaster Head farmhouse, the road, sweeping round the base of a large rock, comes suddenly upon the river Esk, making a somewhat sharp curve in order to cross the new bridge. A considerable amount of earth has been removed, and the bank above the road sloped. The ground was boggy and full of water for about three feet in depth; below this was a gravel bed in which, six feet three inches below the surface, twenty-five yards from the river, and about twenty feet above it, a wooden trough was found, which measures five feet four inches in length, and one foot five inches in breadth, and is thirteen inches deep. It has been rudely cut out of the bole of a tree and deeply dug out, the oblong hollow being four feet one inch long, one foot two inches broad, and ten inches deep in the middle. On looking at it in profile both ends are seen to be cut away two inches below the upper surface, so as to form a projection at each end. In one corner, near the bottom of the hollow, is a hole pierced through the end of the

the trough, in which was a spigot or plug, the thick end of which was to the outside. In the centre of the upper surface at each end is a hollowed channel apparently for overflow. Traces of two stone drains were found, one leading to the trough and the other away from it. The trough has been placed in an outbuilding at Muncaster Head, but I am sorry to say it has within the last few days been very much broken.

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