

ART. VII.—*The so called “ Tumuli ” near Dalston Hall, Cumberland.* By the EDITOR.

Communicated at Kendal, Sept. 8th, 1886.

THERE are shown on the 6 inch Ordnance Map (23 Curnb.) near Dalston Hall two large mounds, each marked *tumulus* on the map.* On these more than one would-be explorer has cast longing eyes, and dreamed of great finds of British, Roman, English or Danish antiquities, which would hand his name down to posterity along with those of Belzoni or Greenwell ; and the present writer must confess to having had from Colonel Sowerby, the owner of the mounds, a full permission to excavate, but to have let the time slip away before commencing, until another more eager than he intervened, and did the work.

Under the direction and superintendance of Mrs. Hope Johnson, then of the Manor House, Dalston, a trench 5 feet deep was dug through the mound, south of Dalston Hall in May last ; it proved to be a perfectly undisturbed gravel heap on an esker or ridge of gravel, on which is also the other mound, situate west of the Hall.

This ridge as Mr. T. V. Holmes, F.G.S. writes me, “ beginning at the excavated mound south of the Hall, ends after a slight break, close to Kingrigg on the Carlisle and Thursby road. I should not have been much surprised to learn that this natural ridge had been utilised here and there, where more conspicuous, as a good site for a primitive interment. The Dalston ridge nowhere varies very much in height and breadth. The ridge, of which Torkin (in Crofton Hall Park) is a sudden expansion, is a good example of one that does.”

As the Ordnance Map calls the mound south of Dalston Hall a *tumulus*, it is desirable to record that Mrs. Hope Johnson has proved it not to be one.

* They are shewn on the plan given in vol. vii., of these Transactions, opposite p. 271.

ART. VIII.—*Coped or Hogbacked Tombstone at St. Michael's Church, Bongate, or Old Appleby.* By Rev. W. S. CALVERLEY, F.S.A., Aspatria.

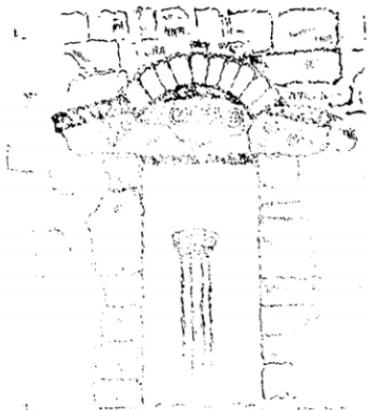
Communicated at Kendal, September 8th, 1886.

IN a paper* read by the Editor Sept. 22, 1885, on the earthworks and keep of Appleby castle, Mr. Ferguson stated his belief that the gigantic earthworks, within which the masonry work of the castle has been set, are pre-Norman, and that “we have in these earthworks the fortified dwelling of the great Thane or Franklin, Angle, Saxon, Jute or Dane (between the eight and ninth centuries and the conquest of the district by the red king) whom William Rufus found in possession, and who had to make way for the Norman baron.

A note to this paper (p. 385), draws attention to the Saxon tombstone doing duty as lintel over the north doorway of Bongate church, as being evidence that a Saxon church preceded the Norman, and confirming the notion of an early English settlement on Appleby castle hill.

On the date above-named I went, accompanied by the Rev. W. A. Mathews to St. Michael's church, which was being restored by C. J. Ferguson, Esq., F.S.A., and with a workman's tool I carefully picked away all the mortar which was plastered on the face of the lintel of the north doorway and round about it both inside and outside when I found that this lintel was a genuine hogbacked tombstone, coped and having both its sides adorned with plait work or curvilinear ornament picked out in the manner of the very old work usually known as Saxon. Nearly the whole of the stone is visible on the outside of the church, but it is much weathered.

* Transactions, vol. viii., part II., p. 382.

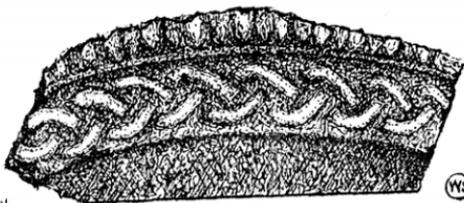


North doorway.

Out side.

St. Michael's Ch., Broughton, Appleby.

WS.



SCALE 1/16

Inside.

WS.

The mason had notched out a piece of the stone near each end on the upper part, and had sprung his relieving arch therefrom to carry the weight of the wall above the doorway, but notwithstanding this device the English gentleman's bodystone cracked beneath the weight of Norman masonry imposed. The crack in the stone will be seen in the accompanying drawing which I have prepared from a photograph taken by the Rev. J. Greenwood, when the church was still unroofed; a column of the arcade within the church is seen through the doorway; my other drawing shews the coping partly broken away and the band ornamented with a plait of three strands, with the smooth lower part of the stone as seen on the inside of the doorway; this lower unornamented part is recessed.

The underside has been cut away to form a rebate for the door to shut up against, which is perhaps the only original piece of the Norman church left in position.

The tombstone is seventy-six inches long, fifteen inches high, fourteen inches thick through the base. The crosses which stood at the head and foot of this bodystone, if there were such crosses, were probably broken up and used for walling stuff, as in later times the recumbent effigy now partly restored and lying near was broken up and built into the walls during the carrying out of some "repairs" or alterations.

Other antiquities to be noted are:

Consecration cross.

Tombstone with foliated cross, pointed shears and clasped book.

Do. „ „ „ Sword and Rose.

Do. „ calvary „ Rose.

Recumbent figure with Rose and Shield.

Small tomb block, smooth.

Small grave block, foliated cross, with pointed shears and book.

APPENDIX.

EFFIGY AT BONGATE CHURCH. BY THE REV. W. A. MATHEWS.

In the restoration of Bongate church (St. Michael's, Appleby), on removal of the plaster from the north wall (interior) of the nave, an alcoved tomb was laid bare, consisting of a boldly cusped arch, with shield in the centre, over a recumbent female figure. Both the arch and the figure were broken and mutilated, but could be distinctly made out. The figure was draped in a long robe with hanging sleeves and heavy braid or fringe round the bottom; with coif on head and a dog (recumbent) at feet: over the left shoulder on the cushion on which the head reposed, was a small triangular shield with the Veteripont annulets. The armorial bearings on the shield above (which was of soft red sandstone, that now by exposure has crumbled till nothing is distinguishable), when first exposed could be seen to consist of the arms of Clifford and Veteripont quarterly and impaling the three water budgets of Ros. These are the arms on the Countess of Pembroke's tomb in St. Lawrence's church, shown as those of Elizabeth Rosse, daughter of Thomas Lord Rosse, of Ham-lake, who married Thomas Clifford.

Thomas Clifford was born in 1366, and banished by the Parliament in 1387; dying in Germany in 1393. Owing to the minority of her son, his wife Elizabeth (Rosse) Clifford, was made sheriffess of Westmoreland in her own right, and as she outlived her son (John) who died 1423, æt. 32, the small shield over her shoulder may mark her official position as holding the sheriffwick originally granted to Robert de Veteripont and his heirs.

She died in 1424.

It was not improbably owing to the banishment of Thomas Clifford in 1387, and the absence of any lord over the castle that the great disaster befell the town of Appleby in 1388, when the Scots fell upon it and sacked it. As St. Lawrence church was burnt at that time it may account for the lady having been buried at St. Michael's; the only one of the owners of the castle who is known to have been so.