

ART. XIV.—*Report on Ancient Monuments in Cumberland and Westmorland.*

Communicated at Carlisle Sept. 13th, 1888.

THE following report was drawn up by the committee appointed for that purpose in answers to the letters printed in these Transactions, Vol. IX, p. 154, and is printed in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, Feb. 9th, 1888.

Sir,

The Local Secretaries for Cumberland and Westmorland of the Society of Antiquaries of London brought before the notice of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society, at its annual meeting, held at Kendal, on September 8th, 1886, a communication addressed to those officials by Mr. St. John Hope, on behalf of the Society of Antiquaries of London, enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to you, Sir, from the Inspector of Ancient Monuments in Great Britain.

The Cumberland and Westmorland Society appointed a Committee, consisting of the Local Secretaries of the Society of Antiquaries for Cumberland and Westmorland (Mr. R. S. Ferguson, F.S.A., and the Rev. Canon Weston), the Rev. T. Lees, F.S.A., and their own Secretary, Mr. T. Wilson, to consider the matter.

The Committee now forward to you, Sir, the results of their deliberations.

The Ancient Monuments in Cumberland and Westmorland, scheduled under the Act, are—

- 1st. The stone circle, known as Long Meg and her Daughters.
- 2nd. The stone circle on Castle Rigg, near Keswick.
- 3rd. The stone circles on Burn Moor.
- 4th. Mayborough, near Penrith.
- 5th. Arthur's Round Table, Penrith.

1. The stone circle, known as Long Meg and her Daughters, is the property of Mr. Sowerby, who resides close to the circle. During his lifetime there is no probability that the circle will be placed under the Act, as Mr. Sowerby believes he is quite able to protect the monument himself. We quite believe that, and we would add a word of caution to people wishing to inspect the circle that

—that they should first ask permission at Mr. Sowerby's house. He has a special aversion (very rightly) to geologists, many of whom, without leave, chip fragments off the stones.

2. The stone circle on Castle Rigg, near Keswick, is the property of Miss Edmondson, of Haulgh Bank, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire. An impression is current about Keswick that this circle has been placed under the protection of the Act, but we cannot ascertain that this is so. Of all the ancient monuments in the two counties this is the one that most requires protection. During the Lake season huge *chairs-à-bancs* daily discharge large numbers of tourists and trippers at the circle, who proceed to cut their initials on the stones. This practice was however, checked a few years ago. At the instigation of Mr. Jenkinson, the author of the well-known and valuable guide-book to the Lakes, and of the Cumberland and Westmorland Society, notice-boards prohibiting the practice were put up.

Judging from a correspondence that one of us has seen, there is not much chance of this circle being placed under the Act.

3. The stone circles on Burn Moor are situated at the head of Miterdale, and the great circle is rather more than a mile from the hamlet of Boot. They stand on the wastes of the manors of Miterdale and Eskdale, of which Lord Leconfield is the lord. These circles are protected by their inaccessible position, and are little known. Your Local Secretary for Cumberland some short time ago made arrangements with Lord Muncaster for exploring these remains, and also the extensive ones known as Barnscar, situate on Birker Fell, near Devoke Water, in Birker manor, of which Mr. Stanley, of Dalegarth Hall, is lord.*

Accurate surveys of Long Meg and her Daughters, of the Keswick stone circle, and of the great circle on Burn Moor, made by Mr. C. W. Dymond, F.S.A., are in the *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, vol. v. p. 39, and in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, vol. xxxiv. pp. 31-36.

4. Mayborough, near Penrith.—We are informed that under some recent exchanges the whole of this monument has now become the property of Lord Brougham.

5. Arthur's Round Table is also the property of Lord Brougham.

* I am glad to inform the Society that Lord Muncaster has been excavating in a mound in Barnscar, and found two urns, which Mr. Franks pronounces of the bronze period. This is very satisfactory as a refutation of the infidels who declared the mounds on Barnscar to be clearance heaps. Lord Muncaster proposes to have Barnscar properly explored, surveyed, and planned: the results will be laid before this Society. R. S. F.

The Act has not been applied to the last three mentioned ancient monuments.

It thus appears that in Cumberland and Westmorland the Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1882 is a dead letter. We are afraid that little or nothing can locally be done to alter this.

With regard to the inclusion in the schedule to the Act of additional monuments in Cumberland and Westmorland, such would seem difficult to suggest while the Act remains unapplied to those already scheduled. It is difficult to see on what principle the great stone circles at Gunnerkeld, near Shap, in Westmorland,* that at Swineside, in Cumberland,† that at Gamelands, Orton, Westmorland,‡ those at Knipe Scar and Oddendale, near Shap§ should be excluded, or the pre-historic remains on Moor Divock,|| or those near Devoke Water already mentioned.

No exhaustive list exists of the ancient monuments in Cumberland and Westmorland of like character to those included in the schedule to the Act. The late Mr. Clifton Ward, of Her Majesty's Geological Survey, made a list of those in the Lake district; which is printed in the *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society*, vol. iii. p. 241. To it we beg to refer. To this list many others must be added; the British village at Hugill, near Windermere; ¶ the Grey Yauds on King Harry, near Kirkoswald, in Cumberland; the terraces known as the Hanging Walls of Mark Antony, near Kirkland, in Cumberland; ** the Bishop's Dyke near Dalston, and the Bishop's, or Baron's Dyke, near Crosby on Eden; †† the Rath, near Kirkby Lonsdale; ‡‡ the Labyrinth, on Rockcliffe Marsh; § § the prehistoric remains in Geltsdale, Cumberland; |||| the earthworks near Eamont Bridge, other than the Round Table; ¶¶ the circle at Leacet Hill, Westmorland; *** Raycross on Stainmore, and Liddell Moat, in Cumberland, both figured by General Roy; the pre-historic remains at Lowther Woodhouses and Eamont Side, near Ulleswater; ††† the remains of the Great Shap

* See *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society*, vol. vi. p. 537, and *Journal of the British Archæological Association*, vol. xxxv. p. 368.

† See *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Society*, vol. v. p. 47. *Journal of the British Archæological Association*, vol. xxxiv. pp. 31-36.

‡ *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Society*, vol. vi. p. 183.

§ *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 176.

¶ *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 86.

†† *Ibid.* vol. vii. p. 271.

§ § *Ibid.* vol. vii. p. 40.

|||| *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 456.

¶¶ *Ibid.* vol. v. p. 76.

|| *Ibid.* vol. viii. p. 323.

** *Ibid.* vol. viii. p. 40.

†† *Ibid.* vol. viii. p. 111.

*** *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 444.

††† *Ibid.* vol. i. p. 157.

Avenue;

Avenue; * Castlefolds, Orton; prehistoric remains at Lacra and Kirk Santon, Cumberland,† &c. Many little-known ancient monuments exist on the eastern and northern fells of Cumberland.

It is impossible to measure the destruction already wrought among the ancient monuments of Cumberland and Westmorland. We have reason to think we can find some evidence as to that wrought at Shap in the last century. The work still goes on; the prehistoric remains at Hugill will be destroyed to make way for the pipes of the Manchester Waterworks; the prehistoric settlement on Threlkeld Knott, near Keswick, is doomed to ruin, for the cliff on which it stands is rapidly being converted into paving sets, and the river Lune is fast washing away the moated mound near Tebay.

We have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient and humble servants,

RICHARD S. FERGUSON, F.S.A.,

Local Secretary S.A. for Cumberland.

G. F. WESTON,

Local Secretary S.A. for Westmorland.

THOMAS LEES, F.S.A.

TITUS WILSON.

To the President,

Society of Antiquaries of London.

It was explained at the meeting of the Society of Antiquaries that the Report though dated October, 1886, had been kept back in the hope that similar reports would be forthcoming from other districts, which had not been the case.

A letter from Lieut.-General Pitt-Rivers was also read, pointing out that he had been able to get three of the five scheduled monuments placed under the Act, viz., the stone circle at Castle Rigg, the circles at Mayborough and Arthur's Round Table.

* *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London*, 2d. S. vol. x. p. 313.

† *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Society*, vol. i. p. 298.