

In Memoriam.

MR. WILLIAM NANSON died in London on May 22nd, 1911, after an operation at a nursing home soon after his arrival in England from Singapore. He was born in Castle Street, Carlisle, on July 12th, 1849, and educated at Repton School and Trinity College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. degree in Law and Modern History. After being admitted as a solicitor in 1875 he practised in Carlisle with his father, the late Mr. John Nanson, Town Clerk of Carlisle. In 1886 Mr. Wm. Nanson went to Singapore and became a partner with his brother Edward in a legal firm there, and was admitted to the Straits Settlements Bar. He was elected F.S.A. when in Carlisle in 1882 and a member of the Royal Archæological Institute, having been elected to our Society in 1874. He took great interest in antiquarian and archæological questions, and collaborated with his cousin, the late Chancellor Ferguson, in the compilation of the volume on the "Municipal Records of the City of Carlisle," and in an article on "The Secular Bells of Carlisle" (these *Transactions*, o.s., vii., Art. 18). His papers read to our Society included "The Carlisle Horns" (these *Transactions*, o.s., ii., Art. 29); "The Shire or County Tolls belonging to the City of Carlisle" (o.s., iii., Art. 16); "Bewcastle" (o.s. iii., Art. 24); "On the Customary Tenure of Carlisle called Cullery Tenure" (o.s. vi., Art. 29); "Carlisle during the Siege of 1644-5" (o.s. vii., Art. 3); "The Seal of the Priory of Carlisle" (o.s. vii., Art. 29); "Notes on Alston Manorial Records" (o.s. viii., Art. 4); "Solway Moss" (o.s. viii., Art. 26). In Singapore he, for some time, was a Municipal Commissioner and a member of the Public Library and Botanical Gardens Committees. In 1882 he was married in the Isle of Man to Katherine Louisa Harrison, who, with a son and a daughter, survive him. (Mr. E. J. Nanson.)

By the death, on July 8th, 1911, of Mr. W. N. THOMPSON, of St. Bees, the Society lost one of its most valued workers, whose output during the comparatively short period of his greatest activity was of a high order and promised still higher results.

He became a member in 1900, and was elected to the Council in 1904. To these *Transactions* he contributed "Gosforth in the Chartulary of St. Bees" and notes on Whicham, Bootle and Godard de Boyville (N.S., ii.), "South and part of South-west Cumberland in the Chartulary of St. Bees" (N.S., iii.), "The Derwentwaters and Radcliffes" (N.S., iv.), "Three Petitions of Shap Abbey" in collaboration with Mr. R. J. Whitwell, and "A Sandwith-Grindal Pedigree" (N.S., v.), "Remarks on Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*" and "Two old deeds of the Sander-son family" (N.S., vi.), beside much help to various students of West Cumberland records, and active assistance in watching over and promoting the interests of the Society in his district. More arduous and extended labour he devoted to the transcription and editing of Bishop Halton's Register, 1293-1309, published jointly by our Society and the Canterbury and York Society, a work needing and exhibiting no ordinary scholarship and skill. The long-continued ill health of his later years prevented the completion of this book, of which the two parts by Mr. Thompson appeared in 1906 and 1909; and his intended volume of "Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis* (the part relating to the present Diocese of Carlisle)" undertaken at the instance of our late President, Bishop Ware, remains in an unfinished condition, until some editor can be found to carry it forward. A monument of Mr. Thompson's patience and accuracy may be seen in the beautifully executed transcript he made of the Chartulary of St. Bees, recently presented to the Jackson Library by his brother, Mr. N. N. Thompson.

We have deeply to regret the loss, on July 31st, 1911, of Miss MARY LOUISA ARMITT, of Rydal Cottage. With her sister, whose death we had to record two years earlier, Miss Armitt was widely known as an authority on the natural history and antiquities of the district around Ambleside, where she had resided for nearly a quarter of a century, and done a remarkably large and varied amount of work in spite of weak health, which might have justified a less active existence. Among other occupations, she wrote many articles in newspapers and magazines on local history and nature study in the Lake District. To these *Transactions* she contributed two important articles on "Ambleside Town and Chapel" (N.S., vi.) and on "The Fullers and Freeholders of the Parish of Grasmere" (N.S., viii), as well as a shorter paper on "The Luking Tongs, their meaning and use" (N.S., xi.). A posthumous work by her, edited by Mr.

Willingham F. Rawnsley, has recently appeared. As recorded in these *Transactions*, N.S., vii., she joined with Mr. H. S. Cowper in the recovery of the old Bible of John Bell and the other seventeenth century curates of Ambleside; and by her bequest the town possesses a library which will be a worthy memorial of one who will be remembered as the historian of the beautiful place she adopted as her home.

This has been a year of heavy losses among the best workers of our Society, and not the least was occasioned by the death of Mr. FRANCIS HENRY MERVYN PARKER of Fremington. Educated at Sedbergh School and Trinity College, Oxford, where he took his M.A. degree, he was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1903. With this training in history and law, he was well equipped for the work he did so thoroughly among mediæval records; and a natural gift of literary form, not without human interest that illuminated the driest document, made his essays on Inglewood eminently readable. He joined our Society in 1898, and was elected to the Council in 1903. To these *Transactions* he contributed "The Parkers of Old Town, with notes on the Branthwaites of Carlingill and the Birkbecks of Orton Hall" (o.s., xvi.), "The Dedication of Orton Church," and "The Pedigree of Wastell and General Honeywood" (N.S., i.), "The Marriage of Sir Hugh de Louthre and Margaret de Whale" (N.S., ii.), "Inglewood Forest" (part 1) and a pedigree of the descendants of the Castle Carrock family (N.S., v.), "A remarkable Inquisition," "Inglewood Forest" (part 2) and a note on the Nicolsons (N.S., vi.), "Inglewood and the Deer-Stealers" and a Calendar of the Feet of Fines for Cumberland from their commencement to the accession of Henry VII. (N.S., vii.), "The Revenues of Inglewood" (N.S., ix.), "Inglewood, parts 5 and 6" (N.S., x.), "Inglewood, part 7," and "The Huttons of Plumpton Hay" (N.S., xi.), and "The Development of Inglewood" (N.S., xii.). His volume of "The Pipe Rolls of Cumberland and Westmorland, 1222-1260," with an introduction, forms No. xii. of our extra series, published in 1905, a book of great value to the student of local history. Mr. Parker married, in 1900, his half-cousin, Miss Agnes Amy Mary Parker, and lived chiefly in London, where he served our Society as delegate of the Congress of Archæological Societies. His death occurred at Shepperton-on-Thames, following an operation for appendicitis, on November 25th, 1911, at the early age of 37 years.

By the sudden death of CANON BOWER, on All Saints' Day, 1911, the Society has lost one of its most useful and best-known members, and one of the largest contributors to its *Transactions*. Elected as a member in 1874, he became a member of Council in 1887, and a Vice-President in 1909. He was seldom absent from our meetings, and did much unseen work for the benefit of the Society. It was his custom, when a member of the local Committee for arranging meetings in the district of which Carlisle is the centre, to cycle round the route of the proposed excursion, find out what was of interest at each stopping place, and allocate the time which each section of the excursion should occupy. In addition to minor communications regarding local finds or places visited and noticed in the Proceedings, he contributed nine considered papers to these *Transactions*. The titles of these are as follows:—"Notes on the Kirby Thore Registers," vol. iv.; "Notes on Discoveries at Crosscanonby Church," vol. v.; "Piscinas in the Diocese of Carlisle," vol. xii.; "Brasses in the Diocese of Carlisle," vol. xiii.; "Mural and Painted Decorations in the Diocese of Carlisle," vol. xv.; "Effigies in the Diocese of Carlisle," vol. xv.; "On a Brass found in Arthuret Church," vol. i., n.s.; "Busts, Portrait Medallions, and Modern Effigies in the Churches of the Diocese of Carlisle," vol. iv., n.s.; "Grave Slabs in the Diocese of Carlisle," vols. vii., ix., and xii., n.s.

Canon Bower was a clever draughtsman, and most of his papers were profusely illustrated by drawings made by himself. It was his aim to make his contributions as accurate and exhaustive as possible, and he spared neither time nor trouble to carry out his purpose. Some idea of the work which he has accomplished may be formed when it is stated that his paper on "Piscinas" had 90 separate drawings, and that on "Effigies" 55. Anyone reading his papers cannot fail to see that he was thoroughly imbued with antiquarian zeal, and his researches into the history of the Churches of the Diocese illustrated in his papers will form a permanent record of good and useful work.

Apart from his antiquarian studies he led an active and fruitful life, resulting in much good to the community, and a brief record may be of interest.

Richard Bower was a Yorkshireman by birth, being born at Holmfirth on September 29th, 1845. He was educated at Pocklington Grammar School, near York, and obtained a Dolman Exhibition at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated as B.A. in 1868, and M.A. in 1871. In 1872 he was ordained Deacon by Bishop Goodwin, and licensed to the curacy of Hesketh-

in-the-Forest. From 1876 to 1878 he was Curate in sole charge at Kirkby Thore. From 1878 to 1883 he was Vicar of Cross-canonby. From 1883 to 1902 he was Vicar of St. Cuthbert's, Carlisle. In 1886 he was appointed Chaplain to the Carlisle Workhouse. During his Vicariate of St. Cuthbert's, the Church was restored, at a cost of £1,600; churchyard improvements were carried out at a cost of £250; a more commodious and convenient Vicarage was obtained, and a new chapel was built at the Workhouse at a cost of £700. He was the prime mover in all these undertakings, and mainly responsible for raising the necessary funds. He found time also to take part in much City and Diocesan work. He took an active part in establishing a Diocesan Church-house in Carlisle. He was one of the Secretaries of the Diocesan Conference since 1888; Secretary of the Church Extension Society; Editor of the Diocesan *Gazette* since it was first established; member of the School Board for three years, from 1898; President for two years of the Carlisle Literary and Scientific Society; President of the Carlisle Natural History Society; President of the Carlisle and County Amateur Photographic Society; member of the Tullie House Committee, taking special interest in the Museum and the Jackson Library; member of Committee of many Diocesan Societies, as well as local philanthropic institutions, such as the Cumberland Infirmary, the Carlisle Fever Hospital, and Silloth Convalescent Institution. He succeeded Bishop Ware as Chairman of the Diocesan Mission to the Deaf and Dumb. Bishop Goodwin appointed him as one of his Chaplains in 1890, and he held the same office under Bishops Bardsley and Diggle. In 1896 he was collated to the 14th Hon. Canonry in the Cathedral, and in 1902 his laborious and successful work in the parish and in the Diocese was fittingly recognised by his promotion to the first stall in the Cathedral. He was one of the best known clergymen in the Diocese, which has lost in him one of its most devoted and unselfish workers. His Bishop, speaking of him the day after his death, well described him as "a quiet, gentle, peace-loving man. His influence was like the quiet, gentle influence of the sunlight. He passed away without ever knowing the pains of death. Perhaps that was part of God's reward for a good life."

It is proposed to erect a memorial to him in St. Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle, where he spent so many happy and useful years, and in recognition of his great services to the Diocese a memorial brass will be placed in Carlisle Cathedral. Donations

in aid of the above objects may be paid to the credit of "The Canon Bower Memorial Fund" at the London, City and Midland Bank, Carlisle, or may be forwarded to Mr. J. Martindale, 24, English Street, Carlisle, Secretary and Treasurer of the Fund.

It only remains to add that Canon Bower married, in 1879, the daughter of his first Vicar, the Rev. N. F. Y. Kemble, who cheerfully rendered him substantial help in his many activities, and who, with two daughters, survives him. To them the warmest sympathy of the Society will be extended in their sudden bereavement. (Henry Barnes, M.D.)

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF CARLISLE, more familiarly known until recently as Lord Morpeth, died on January 20th, 1912. Elected a member of this Society in 1894 he was occasionally seen at our meetings, but his great and useful activities led in other directions than that of local antiquities.

THE HON. WILLIAM LOWTHER, who died at Felixstowe on January 23rd, 1912, aged 90, was elected a member in 1874 and Vice-President in 1875. With two exceptions he was the only survivor of the officers for that year. The Society is happy, however, in numbering his distinguished son, the Speaker of the House of Commons, among its vice-presidents, and in being able to feel that the long-continued honour of its connection with the name is still enjoyed.

Mr. JOHN PATTISON GIBSON, F.S.A., of Hexham, who died on April 23rd, 1912, aged 74, became a member of our Society in 1905, though he was familiar to members at a much earlier date by his presence and for his assistance at meetings across the Northumberland border. Long known as a keen and painstaking student of the Roman Wall and its problems, he lived to see the fruit of his labours in the remarkable series of excavations he undertook recently with Mr. F. Gerald Simpson. Their exhaustive report on the Milecastle at Poltross Burn, printed in our last volume, and the still more interesting account of their explorations at Amboglanna, promised for our next, will ensure him a place among the Worthies of the Wall. Mr. Gibson's varied and always sincere research won him esteem among antiquaries in general, and his loss is severely felt by a wide circle far beyond the limits of our Society.