

In Memoriam.

By the death of Mr. W. G. COLLINGWOOD, our Society has lost the man who more than all others has controlled its policy and determined the course of its development for the space of a generation, or exactly half its lifetime. His lasting monument among ourselves is the thirty-two volumes of *Transactions* that have been either edited by him or produced under his guidance; the dozen or more extra volumes that the Society has published from his pen or of his editing; his half dozen historical novels depicting the state of our district at different times in the past; his guide to *The Lake Counties*; his *Lake District History*; and, above all, our Society itself, with its effective membership of six hundred and its unequalled standard among local societies for the scientific quality of its publications.

William Gershom Collingwood was born in Liverpool on 6 August, 1854, the eldest child of the landscape painter, William Collingwood, R.W.S., and his Swiss wife, Marie Imhoff. From early childhood he knew our district well, visiting it with his father on sketching tours and often spending his holidays by the side of Windermere, where he used to lodge at Gillhead with William Alexander, whom he always remembered with affection and gratitude as "the only man who ever taught me anything," a testimonial in which the Windermere fisherman was sometimes coupled with the Oxford philosopher Bernard Bosanquet. How much he learnt about the district, then and afterwards, in the way of things not visible on the surface, was expressed by a farmer who once travelled *tête-à-tête* with him in a railway carriage, and at parting observed: "ye don't look like a north-countryman, and ye don't speak like a north-countryman; but ye know a deal more than ye should." It was this early familiarity with the country-side and its people that gave him his unique position in the district, coming to it from outside and yet understanding it better than a native.

When he married, he settled down at Gillhead; and soon afterwards, in 1887, joined our Society. He had already had a brilliant career at Oxford, winning the highest honours in spite of

all the time he spent in painting and in the exciting company of Ruskin, and by now he had published his first book, a geological study of the mountains of Savoy, and was making his mark as a painter and lecturer on art. He had already formed a strong taste for historical studies, and this, with his training as an artist, had led him deeply into the history of art; and various influences, especially his intimacy with the circle that included William Morris, aroused his lasting interest in the Viking age and the Norse settlement that so powerfully affected the history, language and people of our district. Naturally therefore he found himself drawn into the study of pre-Norman sculpture, which was being systematically pursued by the Rev. W. S. Calverley, and into researches concerning dialect and place-names. His first contribution to our *Transactions*—characteristically included in an article by someone else—is a masterly drawing and description of the Bridekirk tympanum (o.s. xii, 463), done in 1892; in the next volume is his first signed article, on "Some Manx Names in Cumbria," in which he already shows himself a ripe Scandinavian scholar and a master of his subject. In volume xv he printed an important article on the Ormside Cup, and collaborated with Mr. H. Swainson Cowper in one on the Furness bloomeries and with Mr. J. Rogers in another on lost churches of the Carlisle Diocese. It was now, in 1898, that the death of Mr. Calverley left him in charge of a mass of material destined for a book on the pre-Norman monuments of the diocese of Carlisle; and in a remarkably short space of time he had finished the book, the greater part of it written by himself and including some hundreds of his own drawings. It was published in 1899, and established him as the possessor of an unrivalled knowledge of detail concerning monuments of that period.

He was now living at Coniston, close to Ruskin, for whom he had acted as secretary ever since his marriage. From a young man of brilliant promise, with striking gifts in art and literature, a witty talker and a cultivated musician, he had become a scholar and something of a recluse. He had sacrificed all hope of a career to the duty, as he thought it, of tending Ruskin's declining years; painted merely for a livelihood, wrote merely for his own amusement, and turned increasingly towards the past to find an object for his thoughts. He had won recognition as a writer with his first historical romance, *Thorstein of the Mere*, but his second, *The Bondwoman*, his finest piece of literary work, had been damned by the critics for representing a tenth-century slave as her master's unwilling concubine, and he never again sought

literary success. At heart he was a man of action. He could always lead men and organize movements. His open smile and his wisdom in counsel made it impossible for anyone to refuse to follow him. He would have made a fine soldier, and the proudest moment of his life, he used to say, was when on his way back from Iceland in 1897, bronzed and bearded, a pilot took him for captain of the ship. So, when Chancellor Ferguson died in 1900, he was obviously marked out by his talents, his learning and his immense energy, to fill his position as Editor to our Society.

He reorganised the *Transactions* as a series of bound annual volumes, the contents brought up to a new standard, both in text and illustration, the cover decorated with a design of his own in which a man with a spade unearths an altar with the dedication DISCIPLINAE while a woman, some votress of Clio, writes down the record. The design symbolised the ideals of the new century: excavation, with its results properly recorded and published, the whole presided over by a spirit whose name means sound learning and hard training. Henceforth his own articles, numerous and important though they were, and varying in their subjects from Bronze Age interments through Anglian sculpture and Norse place-names to medieval charters and Elizabethan mining, were the least part of Mr. Collingwood's contribution to our yearly volumes. Many of the articles which he edited were completely re-written by himself, with the addition of new matter, improved arrangement, and clearer style; plans and illustrations were re-drawn in his own hand; all indexes, with very few exceptions, were compiled by himself, and these editorial labours occupied him with hardly a break throughout the winter of each year. At the same time he was active in promoting every branch of the Society's work; undertaking excavations for which he had a gift amounting to genius; planning and organizing excursions, including the trip to the Hebrides in 1904, which gave so remarkable an instance of his executive abilities, and in addition to all this carrying on his work as a painter, discharging the duties of Professor of Fine Art at University College, Reading, pursuing his studies of pre-Norman sculpture in Yorkshire and elsewhere and turning once more to the writing of historical romances. He was now known the world over as a scholar, one of the leading authorities on place-names, without a rival in his knowledge of Anglian sculpture, and the final authority on the history of our district.

He was sixty when the War broke out, and that disaster put an end to this period of gigantic activity. His service in the

Admiralty Intelligence Division and the privations of war-time life in London left him diminished in strength and looking forward to a shortened span of work; but he was now President of our Society, and devoted himself more than ever to its welfare. He accepted a colleague in the Editor's office—who, however, was not allowed to do any of the real work—and began gathering together the threads of his labour into the great Inventories of the ancient remains of our district, the Index of volumes xiii-xxv, and his monumental *Northumbrian Crosses*. In 1927 came the first blow of the illness which finally carried him off; high blood-pressure, such as often attacks men of sanguine temperament and a habit of ceaseless work, brought on repeated strokes, while with undiminished resolution he attacked new tasks and revised old works for republication. The last work he did was the revision of his guide to *The Lake Counties*, and with fingers that could hardly drive a pen he wrote his last piece for publication, a preface in which he spoke of past changes and looked forward to changes in the future, not with the regrets and apprehensions natural to old age, but thus: "It is like looking at a kaleidoscope. But in such a toy the changes are never for the worse, always into something rich and strange. Can we hope the same for our country? I should like to be one who, as the Romans put it, does not despair of the republic."

In stature he was short, broad-shouldered and erect. Small of bone but strong in muscle. He was a great climber and swimmer, and remained a tireless walker to an advanced age. His eyes were a bright and piercing blue, and his hair in youth fair and curly, in old age the purest white. He was a man of strong affections and warm temper, controlled by a will so resolute that few of his friends knew how stern the control was; and he had no enemies. His manner in company, when he had overcome a strong disposition to shyness, was full of courtesy and charm, and in speaking his voice was sweet and powerful and he never failed to delight his audience. In his life he was no less simple and abstemious than if he had been vowed to poverty, which in effect he was, for he regarded time spent in earning money as time wasted from worthier employments, and he always gave away whatever of value he possessed, as generously as he gave his time and his knowledge to all who asked for them. Hard work for him was never drudgery, so insatiable was his appetite for it, and his capacity for enjoyment never failed him. From where he worked, he had only to lift up his eyes to the hills, to see a sight whose beauty was to him a joy for ever, and it was while he looked at these hills on a golden

autumn afternoon that he suddenly passed away, and was laid to rest beneath them.

By the death of Mr. JOHN FLAVEL CURWEN, F.S.A., which took place at his home, Horncop, Heversham, on July 31st, 1932, our Society has lost one of its staunchest supporters, and a wide circle of its members a loved and valued personal friend. From his first entry into the Society in 1887, down to the day of his death, Mr. Curwen gave his whole-hearted devotion to the furtherance of its aims and interests. There is hardly a single volume of our *Transactions* published during the forty-five years of his membership which does not contain one or more articles from his pen, whilst at our excursions his wide knowledge of our district and its antiquities, coupled with his power of lucid exposition, rendered him ever in request as a speaker.

His sound business capacity was, moreover, a valuable asset to the Society. He was elected Hon. Secretary for Correspondence in 1911, Vice-President in 1922, Hon. Treasurer in 1923 and Chairman of the Council in 1930. To all the varied duties of these offices he ever gave his unwearied attention and it may be said that the flourishing state of the Society's finances are in no small degree due to his labours.

As an architect he ranked high in his profession, and as diocesan architect and surveyor was able to apply his antiquarian knowledge to the restoration of the churches in his charge. An indefatigable worker he has left behind him many books of permanent value to students of local history and archaeology. His *Castles and Fortified Towers of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire North-of-the-Sands*, in our Extra Series, is the standard work upon a subject which he had made his own. In the Chartulary Series he edited for the late Dr. Farrer the first two volumes of his invaluable *Records relating to the Barony of Kendale*, and after the lamented death of Dr. Farrer, completed unaided the third volume. Shortly before his death, he completed and published an additional volume, *The Later Records of North Westmorland*. His interest in genealogical studies is shown by his exhaustive work, *The House of Curwen*, and his affection for the town where he worked by his *Kirkbie Kendal*, a book remarkable for the minuteness with which he has investigated the history and traditions of almost every old building in that picturesque old town. Among his shorter works histories of Milnthorpe and of Levens Hall deserve special mention. As a writer he combined accuracy in detail with a taste for the picturesque aspect of the

subject with which he was dealing, and his books are therefore eminently readable and have an appeal for the general reader as well as for the professed antiquary.

Despite his devotion to antiquarian studies, he was no recluse, but took an active part in the administration of local affairs. He was a Justice of the Peace for Westmorland, a member of the Urban District and Parish Councils, and interested himself in the work of all bodies concerned with local welfare. Tall and robust, his figure was a familiar one at every public meeting and social gathering in the neighbourhood, and his genial and sympathetic manner of address made him welcome everywhere. His alertness and activity made it almost impossible to realise his years, and when he was assailed by the illness to which he eventually succumbed, he refused to abandon his work but struggled on bravely to the end. Those of us who were present at Carlisle, when he presided for the last time at one of our Meetings, will not forget the charm and cheeriness with which, in the face of obvious weakness, he conducted the lengthy proceedings of the evening. His memory will always be treasured with esteem and affection by members of the Society he served so well.

Mr. JAMES R. BURNETT of the Red Beeches, Scotby, Carlisle, who died on June 5th, 1932, was the son of the Rev. George Burnett, Vicar of Scotby. Born at Birkenhead he was educated first at Carlisle Grammar School and subsequently at Sedbergh School and St. John's College, Cambridge. Choosing the law as his profession, he entered the office of Messrs. Dobson & Watson of Carlisle, and, later, entered into partnership with the late Mr. Studholme Cartmell. He afterwards set up in practice on his own account, and was one of Carlisle's best known and most highly esteemed family solicitors, who for many years was clerk to the Governors of Carlisle Grammar School. He took an active interest in the welfare of Scotby and by his work on behalf of the Choral Society did much to advance the study of music in his neighbourhood. A keen sportsman, he was well known as a cricketer. He became a member of our Society in 1905, and was always interested in local history and archaeology, though, latterly, he was unable to attend our meetings. His wife, who survives him, was a daughter of the late Dean. Henderson of Carlisle. His death will be regretted by a wide circle of friends.

SIR FREDERICK W. CHANCE, K.B.E., who died at his residence, Lancrigg, Grasmere, on July 1st, 1932, aged 80, will ever be

gratefully remembered for his many eminent services to the city of Carlisle. Born in 1852, the son of Mr. Edward Chance of Great Malvern, he was educated at Harrow and Caius College, Cambridge. Subsequently, as head of the important firm of Ferguson Brothers, of Carlisle, he devoted his energies not only to the expansion of its business but to the amelioration of the lot of its employees. He took an active part in local affairs, was Mayor of Carlisle in 1904 and for a short period M.P. for that city. He interested himself in all that concerned the welfare of Carlisle and did much to promote the cause of Education. A permanent memorial of this interest is the Carlisle School of Chemistry, his generous gift to the city, of which, in 1921, he was made an honorary freeman.

He was a director of Martins Bank, a member of the County Council, Deputy Lieutenant of Cumberland and High Sheriff in 1915. He took a keen interest in the history of our district, contributed many articles upon this subject to the local press, and recently published a book on *Some Notable Cumbrians*. He became a member of our Society in 1899. He was married, firstly to Mary, second daughter of Mr. G. B. Seton-Kerr, and, secondly, to Josephine, youngest daughter of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, 2nd baronet of Brayton, who survives him.

Professor JOHN GLAISTER, M.D., F.R.S.E., who occupied the Chair of Forensic Medicine at Glasgow University, came of the stock of the Glaisters of Scotland and Cumberland. Born in 1856, Professor Glaister had a distinguished medical career and was the author of several works upon subjects relating to his profession. At the same time he was interested in Archaeological studies and a keen genealogist. He had been a member of our Society since 1914 and contributed an article "The Glaisters of Scotland and Cumberland," to volume xx of the present series of these *Transactions*.

Mr. JOHN SIMPSON, Chief Librarian of Whitehaven Borough Free Library. Archaeologists of West Cumberland have sustained a loss in the death of Mr. John Simpson, who has been in charge of the Whitehaven Public Library for many years. He had a very wide knowledge of the books under his charge, and used that knowledge very generously in giving assistance to workers seeking references and the like in the course of literary and scientific work. Mr. Simpson's cheerful courtesy made visits of business to the Library and the Museum attached to it always a

pleasure, and great has been the aid given by him to those searching for local antiquarian data. The Library has been a subscriber to our Society for just over thirty years, and Mr. Simpson had collected a number of volumes of the Old Series our *Transactions* and other valuable works dealing with local archaeology and topography, forming a most useful reference library for students of the history of the district, his knowledge of which was always freely at the service of those wanting assistance. He passed to his rest at the Library on May 12th, 1933, at the ripe age of 72 years.

M.C.F.

ALDERMAN A. PATTINSON of 100, Highgate, Kendal, who died on April 28th, 1933, aged 74, left behind him a long and honourable record of public service. After an education at Windermere, he set up in business at Kendal, in which town he ever maintained an affectionate interest. A member of the Westmorland County Council since 1903, his practical experience and wide knowledge of the district were always at the disposal of that body, of the General Purposes Committee of which he was an able and efficient Chairman. He was a magistrate both for the county and the borough, and held many other public offices, taking a kindly interest in numerous charities. He was elected a member of our Society in 1915.

Mr. J. LAZONBY, of Fern How, Braithwaite, Keswick, whose death took place in August, 1932, had been a member of our Society since 1882. His death, which his many friends will deeply regret, severs yet another link with the past.