

PROCEEDINGS.

THOUGH no Spring General Meeting of the Society was held in 1935, a meeting of the Council took place at Tullie House, Carlisle, on March 27th for the purpose of transacting the usual business of the Society and to make preliminary arrangements for the spring and autumn excursions. At this meeting the following new members of the Society were duly proposed and elected:— Mrs. Anderton, Rydal; Mr. Leo M. Ball, Rydal; Miss C. Bushby, Carlisle; Major Carleton-Cowper, Penrith; Mr. W. K. Howard, Kendal; Mr. C. J. Hutchinson, Penrith; Mr. H. V. Johnston, Carlisle; Mr. H. H. Jones, Rydal; Miss J. E. MacInnes, Carlisle; Mr. A. R. McGowan, Calderbridge; Mr. G. H. Pattinson, junr., Windermere; Mr. C. J. B. Pollitt, Kendal; Mrs. Mark Rathbone, Caton; Mrs. James Reynolds, Carnforth; The Library of the University of London; Mrs. Saunders, Scotby; Miss M. E. Thomson, Penrith; Lt.-Colonel F. Westland, Newcastle.

SUMMER MEETING.

The first excursion of the season was held in the West Cumberland district with Carlisle for a centre, on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 2nd and 3rd, 1935. The local arrangements were in charge of a committee composed of Mr. J. Backhouse Beckton, Mr. H. Valentine, Mr. W. T. McIntire, F.S.A. and Mr. R. E. Porter, M.C., F.S.A., Hon. Excursions Secretary, while Mr. George Aitchison, M.B.E., kindly performed the onerous duties of Traffic Director. The programme of the excursion proved an attractive one and there was a large attendance of members and friends whose enjoyment of the two days' excursion through a picturesque and interesting district was enhanced by the favourable weather conditions which persisted throughout the whole period of the meeting.

TUESDAY, JULY 2ND, 1935.

The party assembled at Carlisle railway station at 10-20 a.m., and proceeded at once by motor coaches and private cars to

KIRKBRIDE CHURCH.

Here they were met by the Rev. G. Nedham, the rector, who gave an interesting account of his church of St. Bridget. Dedications to this saint are found at the West Cumberland churches

of Beckermeth, Bridekirk, Brigham and Moresby, of which the first three have 10th century monuments, but none appears to be older than this period. The inference, as the late Mr. W. G. Collingwood pointed out in *Transactions*, N.S. xxv, 11, is that the dedication was brought to Cumberland by the Christian Norse from over the Irish Sea. The little hill, upon which Kirkbride church stands was, the rector explained, the first piece of rising ground to the south of the west end of the Roman Wall, and was possibly on the site of a Roman fort. He mentioned that as in the cases of Over Denton Church and of the old church of Wigton, destroyed in 1788, Roman stones were employed by the builders of St. Bridget's church (see article by the Rev. J. Whiteside in *Transactions*, O.S. xv, 145).

The chancel arch and one of the lights in the north wall of the nave of the church appeared to be 12th century work, but the church was restored in 1895-98.

The Rector showed the visitors a stone lettered E(cclesia) Bride, a stoup with lamb and labarum carved upon it and a porcelain tablet found beneath the floor. On each side of the chancel arch, he pointed out an arched recess for a side altar.

The church, according to Bishop Nicolson was in a sorry plight in 1703. "I never yet saw," he wrote, "a Church and Chancel in so scandalous and nasty a Condition. Everything to the highest degree imaginable out of Order The Communion Table rotten The floor all in holes, no Surplice, no Common prayer-book, a very few fragments of an old Bible."

The modern windows replaced, the Rector believed, a medley of Early English, Tudor and even sash windows. The Waterloo window of the church was a memorial to six children who died of smallpox within six weeks, two of them upon the same day.

After the President of the Society, Professor R. G. Collingwood, had thanked Mr. Nedham for his interesting description of the church, the party resumed their journey, making their next halt at

NEWTON ARLOSH CHURCH.

This curious fortified church was described by Mr. W. T. McIntire, who first mentioned the local tradition—a tradition unsupported by any satisfactory evidence that there was an early church built by St. Ninian in the 4th century upon the site. He ascribed the settlement of this position of the Holm to the Viking invaders of the 10th century, to whom also he attributed the original name of the place, Arlosh (in 1185 Arlosk), from the Old Norse ár löskr, the sluggish (reach) of the river Wampool. The

land was doubtless at this early period in a water-logged condition. The church owed its foundation and the village its market to the disaster which overtook the once thriving port of Skinburness which at some date between August, 1301, and April, 1304, was destroyed by the inroad of the sea.

Bishop John de Halton had in 1301 authorised the abbey of Holm Cultram to build "a chapel or church to serve their vill or burgh near the port of Skinburnesse," but probably owing to the above mentioned destruction of Skinburness, the entry is erased from the register, and Bishop Halton in a charter, dated from Linstock, April 11th, 1303 or 1304 granted the abbey licence "to build a chapel or church within their territory of Arlosh with all parochial rights and all the tithes within their territories to the use of their monastery with power to present a priest for institution upon a vacancy allowing him 4l. a year and room for a house and curtilage. And in token of subjection, he to pay out of the said 4l. half a mark yearly to the bishop on the name of a cathedralicum and 40d. to the archdeacon for procurations" (Nicolson and Burn II, 177).

In 1305 the abbot of Holm Cultram was granted permission to establish at his town of Kirkeby Johan (i.e. near his new church of St. John at Newton Arlosh), a market and fair instead of at Skinburness, a privilege for which he had paid a fine of 100 marks to the king. Thus Arlosh became known as Newton Arlosh.

Although permission to build the church was granted in 1304, it does not seem to have been erected immediately, for as late as 1393 there is a confirmation by the bishop of Carlisle and by Richard II of the licence to have a church at Newton Arlosh. It is possible that the fortified tower of Newton Arlosh may date from about 1360, in which year, as we learn from Bishop Welton's register, the somewhat similar tower of Burgh-by-Sands church had only recently been built. During the disastrous period of Edward II's reign it was impossible to build pele towers, and it was only under the vigorous government of Edward III that the people of Cumberland were able to recuperate sufficiently to construct these necessary means of defence from Scottish raids.

Mr. McIntire proceeded to describe the church, which in its original form consisted simply of a nave and fortified tower. The interior measurements of the nave are 25 feet by 15 feet and of the tower 12 feet square. The vaulted basement of the tower has a narrow entrance into the nave and a newel staircase leading to the two upper storeys, each forming a single chamber. In one of

these rooms is a fireplace. The walls of the tower are five feet in thickness but the upper portion has been rebuilt.

The windows of the church are none of them less than seven feet from the ground and are only one foot in width, so that it would be difficult for an enemy to throw firebrands into the church in case of an attack. On the eastern jamb of the narrow church door is a rudely scratched dial. At the dissolution of the abbey, the commission for the survey of church goods reported that the chapel of Newton Arlosh possessed "one chales of silvr; ij vestements; a small bell; a sacrying bell."

The church was allowed to fall into ruins, for in 1603-4 in the pleadings of the tenants of the Holm in the tithe suit which embittered for so many years the relations between the lords of the manor and these aforesaid tenants, it is stated that, "Twenty years since the chapel of Newton Arlosh did decay, the door stood open; sheep lay in it. About fifteen years since the roof fell down and the lead was taken away by some tenants and converted into salt-pans." Into what a state of ruin the church had fallen by the beginning of the 19th century is shown by the engravings in the Lysons' *Cumberland*, facing p. xcxi. The burial-ground, however was still used, for the Terrier of 1749 states. "At Newton Arlosh is an Ancient Burying-place for which Burials there the Surplice fees is 16d."

In 1844, thanks to the energy displayed by Canon Simpson of Holm Cultram and the generosity of Miss Losh, the ruin was restored and used as a church, the N. aisle being added, and in 1894 further additions were made to the interior and the building brought to its present state of efficiency. It is interesting in connection with Newton Arlosh church to remember that in the great tithe dispute mentioned above it was asserted by the tenants that Abbot Gregory of Holm Cultram was believed to have petitioned Richard II to grant him a parish church "whereby he might erect a parson and the said parson might call for tithes. . . . The parish church of Newton Arlosh was never made use of by the Abbot nor any since, but only for a show to deceive the people with, that they might have corn and hay." Of this tradition, William Gilpin, Recorder of Carlisle, when in 1722 he was requested by the parishioners to give counsel's opinion upon the tithe question, said, "I doubt the story will still remain in the dark." Articles dealing with Newton Arlosh Church by J. A. Cory in *Transactions*, o.s. ii, 50 and by J. F. Curwen *Ibid* n.s. xiii, 113 supply further details with regard to this curious fortified building.

After the President, on behalf of the Society, had expressed its

thanks to the vicar of Newton Arlosh for his kind permission to visit the church, a visit was paid to the 17th century farm-house of

RABY COTE.

Here Mr. G. E. Chambers, F.S.A., gave an interesting description of this ancient home of the Chamber family, a building which perhaps stands upon the site of Newton Arlosh grange, one of the five granges confirmed to Holm Cultram Abbey in the letter by Pope Lucius III to Everard, the first abbot, in 1185. Though there are various mentions of a medieval house at Raby Cote, there is nothing, Mr. Chambers informed us, of medieval date about the house as it exists at present except the re-used material of which it was largely built, shortly after 1600, probably by Thomas Chamber. The Chambre or Chamber family of Wolsty Castle and Raby Cote played a predominating part for many years in the history of Holm Cultram (for a pedigree of the Chamber family of Raby Cote, see F. Granger and W. G. Collingwood's *Register and Records of Holm Cultram*, p. 152).

In the years following the dissolution of Holm Cultram abbey, the earlier builders of stone houses in the district ruthlessly employed the materials of the abbey, and Thomas Chamber, perhaps the earliest of these builders, was no exception to the rule. Nearly the whole of one side of Raby Cote was built of stones from the abbey. Historically, the interesting part of the house was now its exterior, with its shields, arms and other interesting relics of the ancient religious house. Among these stones were several fragments of 14th century tracery of a style resembling that of the ruined portion of the abbey to the east of the present church.

Of special importance were the fragments dating from the time of that great builder Robert Chamber, abbot of Holm Cultram from perhaps 1489 to 1519, whose rebus of the chained bear occurs more than once up on the stones built into Raby Cote.

There is an inscription which refers to him, unfortunately rather difficult to read, as the stones upon which it was carved have been used to form the upper portion of a plinth, and in building these into the wall some have been inverted, so that the letters upon them are upside down. The late Chancellor Ferguson read them thus:—"Gilbert Lamotte, John de Botyll, vicar of Burg. The year was the 6th of Robert abbot of Holm and of Our Lorde MDXIII—VIIIth Henry kyng." What event this inscription records it is impossible to tell. If this reading of the damaged inscription is correct it would imply that Robert Chamber's appointment as abbot of Holm Cultram was in 1507 not in 1489 as seemed probable from documentary evidence.

Mr. Chambers referred to several other points of interest in connection with the Chamber family and Holm Cultram, notably to the inscription upon a tombstone in the abbey church which reads:—"Oct. 21. 1586. Here lyeth Ann Musgrave, being murdered the 19th of the said month with the shot of a pistol in her own house of Raby Cote by Robert Beckwith. She was the daughter of Jack Musgrave, Capt. of Bewcastle Knt. She was married to Thomas Chamber of Raby Coat and had issue six sons vidt. Robert, Thomas, John Row., Arth., Will. and a daughter Florence." This tragedy would appear to have been the result of some feud with the wild border folk of Bewcastle. There is evidence of similar trouble from a feud in the case of Robert Chamber of Brockholes, who complained to Queen Elizabeth of the murder of his kinsman Robert Chamber and the threats of his supposed murderers Robert Barwis, John Stagg and others.

The Chamber family continued at Raby Cote until 1732, when the place was surrendered by their representatives of that time. From the Raby Cote family are sprung those of Chambers of Fouslyke and Pelutho, and among the Cumberland families with which they intermarried are those of the Graemes of Nunnery, Skelton of Armathwaite, Musgrave, Wybergh and Osmotherley.

Mr. Chambers then showed the visitors the ancient barn with its remarkable roof timbers, described by the Rev. W. Baxter in *Transactions*, n.s. xiv, 280. A description of Raby Cote by the late Mr. F. Grainger will be found in *Ibid.* n.s. i, 219.

In thanking Mr. Chambers for his description of Raby Cote, the President said that the Society were fortunate in having a representative of the Chamber family to describe the abode of his ancestors, he also expressed the thanks of the Society to Mr. J. J. W. Martindale for his kind permission to visit Raby Cote. The party then resumed its journey to Abbey Town, where after an interval for lunch, its members re-assembled in the church. Here Mr. W. T. McIntire spoke upon the history of

HOLM CULTRAM ABBEY.

This great Cistercian House was founded about 1150 by the pious Alan fitz Waldeve, lord of Allerdale, who by charter at Carlisle granted the monks a third part of the Holm, held by him at that time of Prince Henry, son of David I, king of Scotland. Prince Henry, himself afterwards confirmed Alan's charter and at the same time granted the abbey the remaining two-thirds of the Holm, which was then a waste used as a hunting ground. The abbey was occupied by monks from Melrose abbey, and the speaker

quoted one or two incidents to show how intimate for many years were the relations between these two Cistercian houses. The first task of the monks was to enclose their land, and the remains of part of their boundary dike were pointed out on the north side of the church. They then proceeded to build their church of which the present church was but a fragment consisting of six bays of the nave. The speaker drew attention to the architecture of the church, which was of the usual severe type enjoined by the regulations of the Cistercian order. He made allusion to the fine round-headed transitional west doorway.

He then briefly summarised the progress made by the abbey during the 13th century, mentioning its acquisition of its five principal granges, of the church at Burgh-by-Sands and other churches in the district, of salt pans on the Solway, of lands in Galloway over the possession of which arose a strife with Dundrennan abbey and of messuages in Carlisle.

Meanwhile the church had been enlarged, and the ruins to the east of the building, the ornamentation on which showed that they were of 13th and early 14th century origin, gave a clue to the calculation of the full dimensions of the church which appears to have had a length of 279 feet, or 23 feet in excess of that of Carlisle Cathedral before the destruction of the western bays of its nave.

A brief allusion was made to the visit of Edward I during the time when that monarch was utilising Skinburness as the arsenal of his army against Scotland, and to the sacking of the abbey by the Scots in 1216 and later by Robert Bruce in his terrible invasion of 1322.

Mention was made of several of the abbots of Holm Cultram, in particular of that great builder Robert Chamber, abbot from about 1487 to 1519, whose remarkable porch, dating according to its inscription from 1507, is one of the most striking features of what survives of the old church. The remains of his tomb, now in the porch but formerly in the choir were pointed out as was the grave-slab supposed to be that of the Earl of Carrick, Robert Bruce's father, with other fragments of tombs of de Kildesyk, *circa* 1300, Abbot Rawbankes, 1379, and Abbot Rydekar, 1434.

An account of the dissolution of the abbey followed, and of the petition of the inhabitants of Holm Cultram who preserved their church upon the plea that its tower was their sole means of defence against the Scots. The disasters which befell the abbey during the 17th and 18th centuries were narrated, and the restorations of 1730, 1886 and 1913 explained. The speaker drew

attention to one of the corbels inserted at the last restoration. the representation of a yoke and the inscription " *Jugum Dei* " have been carved upon this corbel, to record the abbey's, connection with cell of Jugum Dei, better known as Gray Abbey, a translation of its Irish name of Mainistir Liath, founded by Africa, daughter of Godred II, king of Mann, upon the shore of Strangford Lough in County Down.

A few words were added with regard to the fragments of the old conventual buildings still remaining in some of the neighbouring houses. Articles upon Holm Cultram abbey already published, in these *Transactions* are those by C. J. Ferguson, o.s. 1, 263; Mrs. Hesketh Hodgson, n.s. vii, 262 and J. H. Martindale, n.s. xiii, 244. For the documentary history of the abbey, see F. Grainger and W. G. Collingwood's *Register and Records of Holm Cultram*, being Vol. VII of the Record Series of our Society.

After the President on behalf of the Society had suitably expressed to Mr. Wood, the vicar of Holm Cultram the thanks of the Society for his permission to visit this interesting relic of a great Cumberland Abbey, we re-entered our conveyances and amid the pleasant surroundings of the Holm travelled the next stage of our journey to

BECK FOOT.

Here the site of the Roman fort was described by our President, Professor R. G. Collingwood, whose address forms the subject of Article IX of the present volume.

He said in conclusion that although the work of Mr. Robinson of half a century ago had given a very good general idea of this fort, and although the additional knowledge accumulated from time to time by Mr. Duff had added not inconsiderably to this original store of information, they had there a site peculiarly suitable for excavation at some future time when the energies of the society had exhausted, if they ever did exhaust the problems of the Wall, and their Roman experts looked round for new worlds to conquer.

BROMFIELD CHURCH.

The last halt of the day was made at Bromfield church, where Dr. J. E. Spence was the speaker. Dr. Spence gave a summary of the histories of the two manors of Bromfield and Crookdale, which were of special interest in connection with the church. Bromfield was granted in the 12th century by Waldieve, lord of the barony of Allerdale to his physician, Milbeth, whose descendants assumed the name of de Bromfield. He referred to a portion of a grave-

slab now in the porch of the church, the mutilated inscription upon which apparently referred to one of the de Bromfields. Adam, son of Thomas de Bromfield, granted the manor to Holm Cultram abbey; and upon the dissolution of that religious house, it was granted to William Hutton, whose son conveyed it to George Porter of Weary Hall, by whom it was sold to Sir John Ballantine.

The manor of Crookdale was in possession at the beginning of the 14th century of Adam de Crookdale, whose tomb is now in the north or Lady Chapel of the church, and above it has been placed an account of the descent of the manor to Ann Musgrave who married in 1663 the Sir John Ballantine referred to above. The two manors still remain in possession of the same family, the Ballantine Dykes of Dovenby. The patronage and advowson of the church were granted to St. Mary's abbey, York, and in 1302 the chapter persuaded the bishop of Carlisle to appropriate the rectory to that house.

The dedication of the church was to St. Kentigern, and the early christian monuments found upon its site, as upon that of the neighbouring church of St. Kentigern at Aspatria, seemed to carry the history of the church back to the early days of Christianity in Cumbria. Though on a pillar of the north arcade there is an account of the church which states that five churches at different periods have existed upon the site, there is no structural evidence above ground of a building earlier than the 12th century. The presence, however, of two pre-Norman crosses and of a hog-back tombstone of the 10th or 11th century, would indicate the existence of a church—perhaps of wood—at that early date.

On the south side of the church there was a raised platform ascended by four steps. There was no cross shaft, sundial pillar or other erection on the platform, but the site was used in the 18th century for giving out public notices. When explored in 1888 by the Rev. W. S. Calverley and Canon Taylor, the mound was found to contain a number of fragments of white sandstone and a cross-head of the 10th century, part of a cross which had no doubt stood in the churchyard until 1395, when the chancel was rebuilt and the mound erected to form the base of a churchyard cross. The steps of the mound were found to consist of some 23 grave-covers, dating from the 12th to the 14th century. These are now in the church porch.

The present church, erected in the 12th century consisted originally of a nave and chancel; the north aisle with its arcade of four arches was added in the following century. A further enlargement took place in 1395, when the chancel arch was

widened and the transepts or chapels were added. The north chapel was the burial place of the Crookdale family, and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary; the south chapel, dedicated to St. George was the burial place of the Newtons. Dr. Spence went on to describe the changes made at the restoration of the church in 1860.

The interesting tympanum over the south door is probably of the 12th century, and on the right hand jamb of the doorway can be seen one of the consecration crosses. The font is plain, probably of the 13th century. The corbels of the chancel show two monks' heads, one with the Roman tonsure and the other with the Celtic tonsure. In the recess to the north of the chancel is the tomb of one of the vicars with a rhyming Latin inscription of the 17th century. On either side of the altar are large aumbreys, and there is a piscina in the south wall. Over the east end of the nave the belfry for the angelus bell still exists, but the bell is gone.

After the President had expressed the thanks of the Society to the Vicar for his permission to visit the church, a return was made to Carlisle, where in the evening, a well attended

GENERAL MEETING

was held at Tullie House, the chair being taken by the President of the Society, Professor R. G. Collingwood, on whose motion it was resolved to send a message of condolence to the relatives of the late Professor Carr Bosanquet of Alnwick, through whose death the Society has lost a very valuable and highly esteemed member.

It was reported that the membership of the Society was 567, including twenty new members elected at the meeting.

The Editor of the *Transactions* (Mr. W. T. McIntire) reported that volume xxxv of the *Transactions* was now well advanced, and that the prospectus for Mr. Field's *Armorial for Cumberland*, which it was hoped to issue before long, would be forwarded to members with the new volume.

Dr. Spence, on behalf of the Committee for Prehistoric Studies, reported that it was hoped in the near future to issue reports upon the work done at the Millrigg settlement in Kentmere and upon the discovery of a souterrain at Beetham.

Mr. C. S. Jackson reported for the Parish Registers Committee that good progress had been made with the printing of the Crosthwaite and Lyth Registers. These registers would cost about £60 to print. The balance in hand amounted to £100.

The Hon. Secretary for Excursions (Mr. R. E. Porter) announced

that arrangements for the autumn excursion were in progress. The centre for the excursion was to be Durham, and the dates would be Sept. 10th and 11th.

The following new members of the Society were duly proposed and elected:—Mrs. Archer, Grasmere; Mr. and Mrs. F. Astley, Milnthorpe; Mrs. A. L. Barrow, Lancaster; The Rev. T. Calderbank, Yealand Conyers; Mr. F. S. Chance, Carlisle; Mr. R. G. Chew, Windermere; Miss B. Davis, Carnforth; Mr. W. G. Easterby, Kirkby Lonsdale; Mr. R. B. Ewbank, Grasmere; Dr. and Mrs. H. M. Eyres, Keswick; Miss Evans, Windermere; Mrs. Dudgeon, Workington; Mrs. M. A. Gordon, Helsington; Mr. H. Irving Graham, Carlisle; Mr. M. Houghton, Carnforth; Mr. and Mrs. N. MacLaren, Crook; Mr. F. C. Poulton, Southport; The Rev. and Mrs. H. O. Luckley, Aikton; Mr. James R. Reynolds, Carnforth; Miss H. Richardson, Ambleside.

Mr. W. T. McIntire submitted on behalf of Miss Mary C. Fair, a few notes on Mardale Church screen, in which she appealed to the Society to do all they could for the preservation of the screen when the threatened submersion of the church took place. It had been suggested that the screen might be placed in either Shap or Bampton Church.

It was stated that it had also been suggested that the screen go into the new church to be built at Carlisle.

Mr. T. Cann Hughes appealed for any available information to be sent to him regarding a clockmaker named Tainer of Asby.

A paper was read by Mr. Nicholas Size on "A Click Mill and Hut Circles near Buttermere."

At the conclusion of the meeting members adjourned to the lecture theatre where Mr. F. G. Simpson, Hon. F.S.A. Scot, Director of the Cumberland Excavation Committee gave an interesting description of the work recently accomplished by the Committee along the line of Hadrian's Wall.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3rd, 1935.

Leaving Carlisle railway station at 9 a.m., the party drove direct to Maryport, where by the kind permission of Lt.-Colonel G. Pocklington Senhouse they paid a visit to

NETHERHALL.

Here the Roman site and the collection of inscribed stones were described by our president, Professor R. G. Collingwood in a paper which forms Article X of the present volume of *Transactions*. After the members of the party had examined the fine collection of Roman altars (see article by J. B. Bailey and F. Haverfield in

Transactions, N.S. xv, 135 and additions by Haverfield in *Ibid.* N.S. xvi, 284), and the president had tendered their thanks to Lt.-Col. Senhouse for his kind permission to visit Netherhall, they re-entered their vehicles for the half hour's drive to Workington, where their first stopping-place was

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH,

which was described by the Rev. Canon S. P. J. Curwen, who said the present church was built about fifty years ago to replace the then existing Norman church which had become too small to hold the congregation. Almost all the old church was pulled down and destroyed, the only remains of that edifice now in existence being the tower, the archway leading into the church and the basin of the font. He directed attention to the 15th century tomb of Christopher Curwen and to the coats of arms of five generations of the Curwen family.

Referring to former rectors, he said that in 1491 there was a rector named William Egremont who was interesting because of his misfortunes. In that year the rector appealed for the help and protection of the Chancellor of England against some neighbours from Egremont who had come into his church and would have assaulted and killed him if he had not fortunately been vested at the time. They did not touch the rector, but they took off a number of his servants, shut them up in Egremont Castle, and kept them there till he had paid a very considerable sum of money to have them released. At a later date, however, the men from Egremont caught the rector on the road, and would have killed him "but for his swiftness of foot which delivered him out of their hands and power."

After the conclusion of Canon Curwen's address, the members of the party examined the cross-fragments which are the only relics remaining from a pre-Norman church upon the site of the present building. Some of them were recovered from the tower and the Curwen vault into which they had been built, when repairs were being made after the fire of 1887. Some of these 9th and 10th century cross fragments are described in Calverley's *Early Sculptured Crosses, Shrines and Monuments of the Diocese of Carlisle*, pp. 277-284 and others, found later, by J. R. Mason and H. Valentine in *Transactions* N.S. xxviii, 59-62.

WORKINGTON HALL.

By the kind permission of Mrs. F. S. Chance a visit was then paid to Workington Hall, where Canon Curwen was again the speaker. The oldest part of the group of buildings comprising the mansion

was, he said, the 14th century pele tower. According to Sir Daniel Fleming's *Description of Cumberland*, this tower was built by Sir Gilbert Curwen, the foundation stone being laid on May 8th, 1362. Subsequently, in 1379, as we learn from the Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1377-81, Sir Gilbert received a licence to crenellate his father's tower and surround its precinct with a defensive wall. Shortly after 1404, to uphold the growing dignity and importance of his family, Sir Christopher Curwen built the first hall on the ground level adjoining the north-east corner of the pele tower. It would be of one storey with a timbered roof and large enough to accommodate all the retainers at a common board, and thus leave the solar of the tower free for the exclusive use of the family. About 1528, Sir Thomas Curwen, finding probably the fifteenth century hall of Sir Christopher too small for the requirements of his household and to bring his house up to the growing standard of comfort which prevailed during the Tudor period, built a new hall 56 feet long by 22 feet wide upon the first storey of the house, and sometime before 1610, Sir Nicholas Curwen transformed the old fortress into a Tudor mansion. The two long flanking wings were added to the hall, so that with the old fourteenth century gate house upon its west side, the building became a great quadrangular mansion with a courtyard in its centre. For a fuller description of the hall see J. F. Curwen in *Transactions* o.s. xvi, 1.

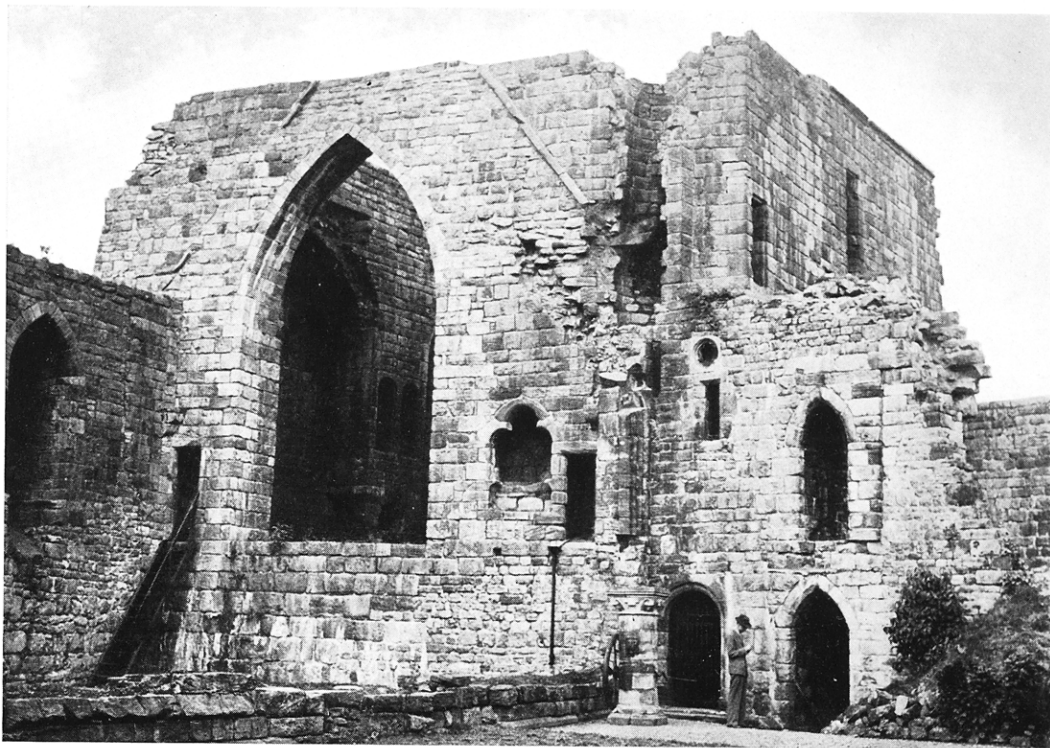
After the members of the party had been given ample opportunities of inspecting the various parts of the hall and its interesting basement and cellars, and after Canon Curwen had been suitably thanked by the President, an adjournment was made for lunch, after partaking of which the party re-assembled and proceeded to Brigham.

BRIGHAM CHURCH.

This remarkable and beautiful church was described by Dr. J. E. Spence, who, after summarising the history of the manor of Brigham, reminded his hearers that the church was one of the five in West Cumberland dedicated to St. Bridget. This dedication appears to have been a popular one with the Viking settlers in Cumberland of the 9th and 10th centuries, and the church at Brigham like those of Beckermest and Bridekirk, possesses monuments dating back to the 10th century.

In describing the evolution of the church, Dr. Spence referred his hearers to an article by Mr. Isaac Fletcher in *Transactions* o.s. ix, 149.

The existence of a pre-Norman church upon the site was evidenced by the survival of six cross-fragments in the building,



Photo

KITCHEN TOWER, COCKERMOUTH CASTLE.
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M. C. Fair.

To face p. 209.

a cross-base in the tower and a cross-head at the vicarage; all late 10th or early 11th century work (see Calverley, *Crosses*, 72). Of the later church the original nave and chancel appeared to date from about 1080, while a north aisle was added at a slightly later date and a south aisle built about 1150. A further enlargement took place about 1220, when a western tower was built and the chancel extended. A century later, about 1325, the south aisle was widened, and towards the end of the 14th century a south porch was built, the chancel once again lengthened and square-headed windows inserted. Later on, the north arcade was removed and a new chancel arch inserted in place of the old Norman round-headed arch.

Dr. Spence called attention to the fact that owing to the above mentioned widening of the chancel to the north, its axis was out of line with that of the nave, and the altar, placed in the centre of the east end, would have appeared awkward and lop-sided. Probably to remedy this defect, the east wall of the chancel was built intentionally obliquely to the north and south walls.

Dr. Spence pointed out the 14th century chantry of Sir Thomas de Burgh, a rector of Brigham, in the enlarged decorated south aisle, and his tomb in a canopied niche, on the south side of the aisle. Before the restoration of the church in 1865 there were holes in the respond and pillars of the arcade of this aisle, indicating that the chantry chapel had been enclosed by a screen. He showed also the Early English octagonal font of the 13th century, sedilia and a piscina of the first quarter of the 14th century and a curious mass of masonry at the west end of the south aisle in which is the head of a Norman window, obviously not in its original situation, but probably built into a kind of buttress to strengthen the respond in the 14th century.

COCKERMOUTH CASTLE.

A short concluding stage of their journey brought the party to Cockermonth, where by kind permission of Lord Leconfield, a visit was paid to the castle. Here Mr. W. T. McIntire described this old stronghold of the barony of Cockermonth. He said that it seemed strange that the tongue of land between the Cocker and the Derwent, defended on all sides save the east by steep declivities should not have been chosen as the site of an earlier stronghold. No traces had hitherto been found of an early Norman "motte," and perhaps this absence of evidence of the existence of an earlier fortress was due to the rapid changes in the families who held in turn the lordship of Cockermonth during the 12th century.

It seemed as if a permanent dynasty would be established when by the marriage of William fitz Duncan and Alice de Roumelli, the families of the great earl of Northumberland, Gospatric, and of William le Meschyn united for a brief space the baronies of Allerdale and Coupland, but the tragic death in the waters of the Strid, of their heir, "The Boy of Egremont," shattered these hopes, and the inheritance was divided between his three sisters. Of these, Cicely, the eldest married William le Gros, third earl of Albermarle, subsequently receiving the share of her youngest sister, Alice, who after marrying in turn Gilbert Pipard and Robert de Courtenai, died childless. The third sister, Amabel, carried her share of the inheritance to the de Lucy family.

Cicely and William le Gros had no male heirs but their daughter, Helwise, by her second husband William de Fortibus had a son William de Fortibus II, who according to documentary evidence built the first castle at Cockermouth between 1215 and 1221, in which latter year Henry III ordered the sheriff of Westmorland to raise forces to besiege it and destroy it to the very foundations. This first castle occupied approximately the same area as that of the inner ward of the present castle. There were no traces of a Norman keep, and if one existed it must have been destroyed in 1221. William de Fortibus II who died in 1241, evidently regained the favour of the king, and his son, William de Fortibus III, rebuilt the castle. This castle was in the form of a spherical triangle, each of the sides of which measured about 42 yards in length. The exposed eastern sides William defended by digging right across the promontory a ditch which could be crossed only by a drawbridge. The castle was surrounded by curtain walls, with its angles capped by angular bastion towers. Of this castle of William de Fortibus III remain the basement of the western bastion tower, the southern curtain wall up to the height of about 14 feet, the lower portion of the northern curtain and the footings of the eastern curtain, with a door jamb still standing at its southern end to show where the original gatehouse stood. An outer bailey, surrounded by a timber palisade, occupied the site of the present outer ward.

William de Fortibus III died childless in 1259, and upon the death of his widow, Isabel, in 1293 his estates escheated to the crown; and for the next 30 years were occupied by a succession of governors among whom were Piers Gaveston, the worthless favourite of Edward II, and Sir Andrew de Harcla, the gallant but ill-fated defender of Carlisle against Robert Bruce.

Upon the attainder of Sir Andrew, the king, perhaps partly to

reward his zeal in arresting the supposed traitor, acknowledged Sir Anthony de Lucy's claim to succeed to the honour of Cocker-mouth and to his son, Thomas, is attributed the building of the great hall of the castle. Thomas' son, Anthony, died in 1368 in the Holy Land and his sister Maud brought the castle by marriage to Gilbert de Umfraville, Earl of Angus. To the de Umfravilles is attributed the commencement of the range of buildings which stretch across the eastern side of the present inner ward, the ditch of the old castle of de Fortibus being used to form the cellars of the new construction. Gilbert de Umfraville probably also made considerable progress with the construction of the kitchen tower at the east end of Thomas de Lucy's great hall, but, dying in 1381, did not see the completion of his work. His widow married in 1385, Henry Percy, first earl of Northumberland, and thus began the long association of Cocker-mouth Castle with the fortunes of the Percy family.

It was Henry Percy who completed the castle in the form in which we see it now. He finished de Umfraville's wing above the ditch, completed the kitchen tower and added the gatehouse with its two guard chambers and gruesome dungeons. Disturbed during his building operations by a raid of the Scots under the earls of Douglas and Fife in 1387, he determined still further to strengthen the castle by adding the wall of the outer ward in the place of the previously existing palisade, and added the fine gatehouse with the five shields with the arms of Umfraville, Multon, Lucy, Percy and Neville.

It is interesting to note that during some repairs executed in 1904, the basement of a corner bastion tower was discovered beneath the eastern curtain wall, a little to the north of the present corner tower, known as the "Flag Tower." It would seem, therefore, that Percy's outer ward was of slightly smaller dimensions than those of the present day.

Mr. McIntire went on to trace the history of the castle under the Percys and narrated the story of its siege by the Royalists in 1648.

HADRIAN'S WALL.

After the President had expressed the thanks of the Society to Lord Leconfield and congratulated Mr. R. C. Porter, the Hon. Secretary for Excursions, upon the success of his arrangements for the expedition, the party dispersed, but several of its members returned to Carlisle and on the following morning paid a visit to Birdoswald to inspect the recent work of the Cumberland Excavation Committee on the line of Hadrian's Wall. They were

conducted by Mr. F. Gerald Simpson, Director of the Cumberland Excavation Committee, who showed them the diversion of the Vallum at High House turf wall milecastle and explained the operations then in progress, to the importance of which he had referred in his lecture after the general meeting on the evening of July 2nd. These operations are set forth in the report of the Cumberland Excavation Committee which is printed as Article XIX of the present volume of *Transactions*.

AUTUMN MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10TH AND 11TH, 1935.

There was a very large attendance of members and friends at the autumn excursion of the society, held in Durham and its neighbourhood on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 10th and 11th, 1935, and the hotel accommodation of the city was severely taxed to cope with the influx of visitors.

The local arrangements were in the hands of a committee consisting of Mr. Eric Birley, M.A., F.S.A., Mr. James McIntyre, Dr. J. E. Spence, Professor C. C. Whiting, D.D., F.S.A., and Mr. R. E. Porter, M.C., F.S.A. (Hon. Excursions Secretary). Most of the members taking part in the excursion arrived in Durham on the evening of Monday, and by the kindness and courtesy of the Dean and Chapter were enabled to enjoy the spectacle of the interior of the cathedral under the effect of powerful floodlights. The beauty of the massive architecture of the nave and the more delicate ornamentation of the choir and galilee under varying conditions of light and shade did not fail to appeal to all who were privileged to be present, and the words of thanks to the Dean and Chapter, spoken by our president, Professor R. G. Collingwood, were heartily endorsed by the whole party.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10TH, 1935.

The morning of the first day of the excursion was given up to visits to Durham Castle and Cathedral.

DURHAM CASTLE.

At the castle we were fortunate in having the guidance of Professor C. E. Whiting, D.D., F.S.A., who before conducting the visitors through the various parts of the ancient stronghold of the bishops palatine of Durham, gave a brief account of the development of the castle and city. The original fortifications of the castle extended round all the brow of the hill not occupied by the cathedral and its precincts, and enclosed the Ballium from which the street known as The Bailey derived its name. Dr. Whiting described the positions of the five gates and mentioned

the fact that the site of the existing castle was first occupied by the palace of the early Anglian bishops of Durham which was burnt down in 1069, and rebuilt as a castle by William the Conqueror in 1072. William's castle probably occupied only the mound where the keep now stands. This fortress, after being damaged by a fire, was rebuilt by Bishop Pudsey about the year 1174. The lower part of the gatehouse by which the party entered the courtyard of the castle dated from this period as did the great Norman door of the hall and two small windows below. Bishop Hatfield about the middle of the 14th century rebuilt the octagonal keep and, abandoning the two earlier Norman halls, built the present great hall of the castle, though this was afterwards curtailed of its original dimensions by Bishop Fox, who cut off the south end and turned it into smaller chambers, at the same time adding the great kitchen and buttery. Further alterations were made about the middle of the 16th century by Bishop Tunstall, who constructed the gallery in front of Pudsey's building, the staircase-tower at its east end and the chapel. Shortly after 1660, the munificent Bishop Cosin effected considerable repairs to the buildings of the castle ornamenting and wainscoting the great hall, building a porch in front of Hatfield's Gothic door and erecting the staircase known as the "Black Staircase," Bishop Crewe repaired the octagonal keep and several other portions of the castle, but during the following century the buildings suffered from the injudicious alterations made by more than one of the bishops. Bishop Thurlow, for instance, caused the octagonal tower to be destroyed.

In 1837 the University of Durham was founded by royal charter. The idea of founding such a university originated in the reign of Henry VIII, and was afterwards warmly taken up by Cromwell who actually founded a college here in 1657 which died an early death at the Restoration. The castle buildings are now occupied by the university, and the ruined keep was rebuilt by Salvin with a view to supplying additional accommodation.

Dr. Whiting showed the visitors most of the parts of the castle mentioned in the above brief epitome, and the clerk of the Works, Mr. C. A. Linge, by means of an elaborate model explained the measures which are being adopted to prevent the threatened collapse of the keep into the valley beneath, a task which demands constant attention and involves heavy expenditure, to defray which all who take an interest in our ancient buildings should be willing to contribute.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

The remainder of the morning was spent in visiting the cathedral. The visitors were divided into small parties and shown round the buildings by the Rev. Minor Canon Bentley and others of the cathedral staff, under whose able guidance they had special facilities for inspecting in detail such deeply interesting features of the church as the Galilee, the tomb of the Venerable Bede, the magnificent Norman nave and its monuments, St. Cuthbert's tomb, the remains of the apse of the earlier church, the chapter house, cloisters and other well-known attractions of this great cathedral, descriptions of which are given in so many readily accessible archæological works and hand-books, that it is needless to do more than merely mention them here. Of special interest to the visitors was the cathedral library, housed in the building which was once the dormitory of the monastic institution. Here we had the opportunity of examining such priceless relics as the famous eighth century Acca's cross,, the coffin of St. Cuthbert, with the cross, comb and silver altar found within it, Roman altars and a rich collection of manuscripts ranging in date from the 7th to the 15th centuries. Pages of many of these manuscripts are reproduced in collotype in Mr. H. D. Hughes's *History of Durham University Library*, which describes most of the chief treasures of the library.

Professor R. G. Collingwood thanked Minor Canon Bentley and his helpers on behalf of the visitors, and the party separated for lunch re-assembling at 2-15 p.m. at Elvet Bridge for an afternoon's excursion to Jarrow and Monkwearmouth.

JARROW.

At Jarrow, a visit was made to the church of St. Paul where Dr. Whiting gave a deeply interesting address upon the history of the church and its connection with the life and work of the Venerable Bede. Dr. Whiting's address has been published in full in the *Durham University Journal* of December, 1935, pp. 274-280, but a brief summary of his paper may be welcome here.

The church of St. Paul at Jarrow owed its foundation to that great scholar and architect of the 7th century, Benedict Biscop, who on his return from his third journey to Rome came to Northumbria, and in the year 673 was granted by King Ecgfrith, fifty hides of land to found a monastery at Wearmouth. Eight years afterwards the king gave an additional forty hides for the establishment of a house at Jarrow, and a party of monks, seventeen or twenty-two in number, took over the new house.

The two houses remained united under the abbacy of Benedict, but Eosterwini was vice-abbot at Wearmouth and Ceolfrid at Jarrow.

Bede was born in 673, the traditional place of his birth being Monkton, an obscure hamlet now absorbed in Jarrow. Given into the charge of Benedict Biscop at Wearmouth when he was seven years old, Bede spent the rest of his life in the practice of his religious duties and in the pursuit of his literary researches. If not one of the original party who came to Jarrow with Ceolfrid, he must have been sent there soon afterwards, and with the exception of a visit to Lindisfarne and another to York, with possibly other short journeys from his monastery, never quitted Jarrow till his death. In addition to his great *Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation*, he wrote a large number of ammentaries, poems and books on the science of his day. He is the glory of Jarrow; in the words of St. Boniface, "a candle of the church which the Holy Spirit lighted."

He died late in the evening of Wednesday, May 25th, 735, and was first buried under the south porch of the church, but was afterwards translated to a more honourable position within its walls. In 1022, Aelfred of Westoe, stole what was left of his bones, and carried these venerated relics to Durham.

After describing what was known of the conditions of life at Jarrow in Bede's day, Dr. Whiting spoke of the destruction of the monastery by the Danes in 794, and perhaps again in 875. In 1069 it was once more ruined by the Conqueror's men, but in 1075, was re-settled at the desire of Bishop Walcher of Durham by Aldwin of Winchcombe and two monks from Evesham. Some revival of monastic life and a restoration of the building probably ensued; but in 1083 William of St. Calaix, Bishop of Durham, brought the monks of Wearmouth and Jarrow to form the nucleus of the Benedictine community which he was establishing in Durham. After this Jarrow till the dissolution was simply a cell of Durham. Describing the existing church, Dr. Whiting drew attention to the chancel, suggesting that much of the stonework of the earliest part of the church, some of the stones of which showing Roman workmanship probably came from South Shields, might well belong to Benedict Biscop's original building. The chancel walls are not bonded to the tower and the angle quoins surviving at its north-west and south-west corners show it to have been originally a distinct building. The chancel, then, probably represents the nave of the early church. The three small windows upon the south side the jambs of which are upright stones with

horizontal stones for imposts seem to bear out this theory; the other windows of the chancel are 14th century insertions.

The old nave of the church was taken down and rebuilt in 1783 and again rebuilt in 1866. The twenty-two baluster shafts from the old church preserved in the north porch are not as well made as those of Monkwearmouth; and it has been suggested that they were the work of Jarrow pupils of the Gaulish masons of Monkwearmouth.

It has been suggested that there were two churches at Jarrow, the choir representing one and the nave the other, and that these built upon the same axis were united by the tower built by Aldwin and his Mercian monks, who may have been the original builders of the nave, because they needed increased accommodation for parochial purposes. Benedict's original church would be likely to have a porch similar to that at Monkwearmouth at its western end on the site now occupied by the tower. The portions of the monastic buildings left would seem to be all of Aldwin's date. They are all on the south side. Excavations conducted by Mr. E. B. Birley for the Durham Excavation Committee in 1935 showed that details of the medieval structure could be recovered if desired, but nothing earlier than 13th century remains was found. It was evident, however, that there had been a drastic clearance of earlier buildings. Recently the theory has been mooted that at least some of the original monastic buildings were upon the north side of the church. Some ruined cottages of Tudor date in the churchyard were recently destroyed, and Mr. Smithwhite of Sunderland believed that he recognized in the jamb of one of the doors a technique similar to that of the Saxon church at Escomb. The Rev. T. Romans, however, who examined the site doubted if there was anything of medieval date standing above ground.

Dr. Whiting in conclusion, described the ancient chair in the sanctuary, traditionally known as Bede's chair, and the carving of a winged heart pierced by a sword upon one of the bench-ends of the choir. This was commonly said to be the badge of Thomas Castell, prior of Durham from 1494 to 1519. On the motion of the President, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Professor Whiting, and the journey was resumed to

MONKWEARMOUTH.

Here the church of St. Peter was described by the Rev. Thomas Romans, M.A., F.S.A., who prefaced his account of the church with a brief summary of the history of the monastery of Monkwearmouth.

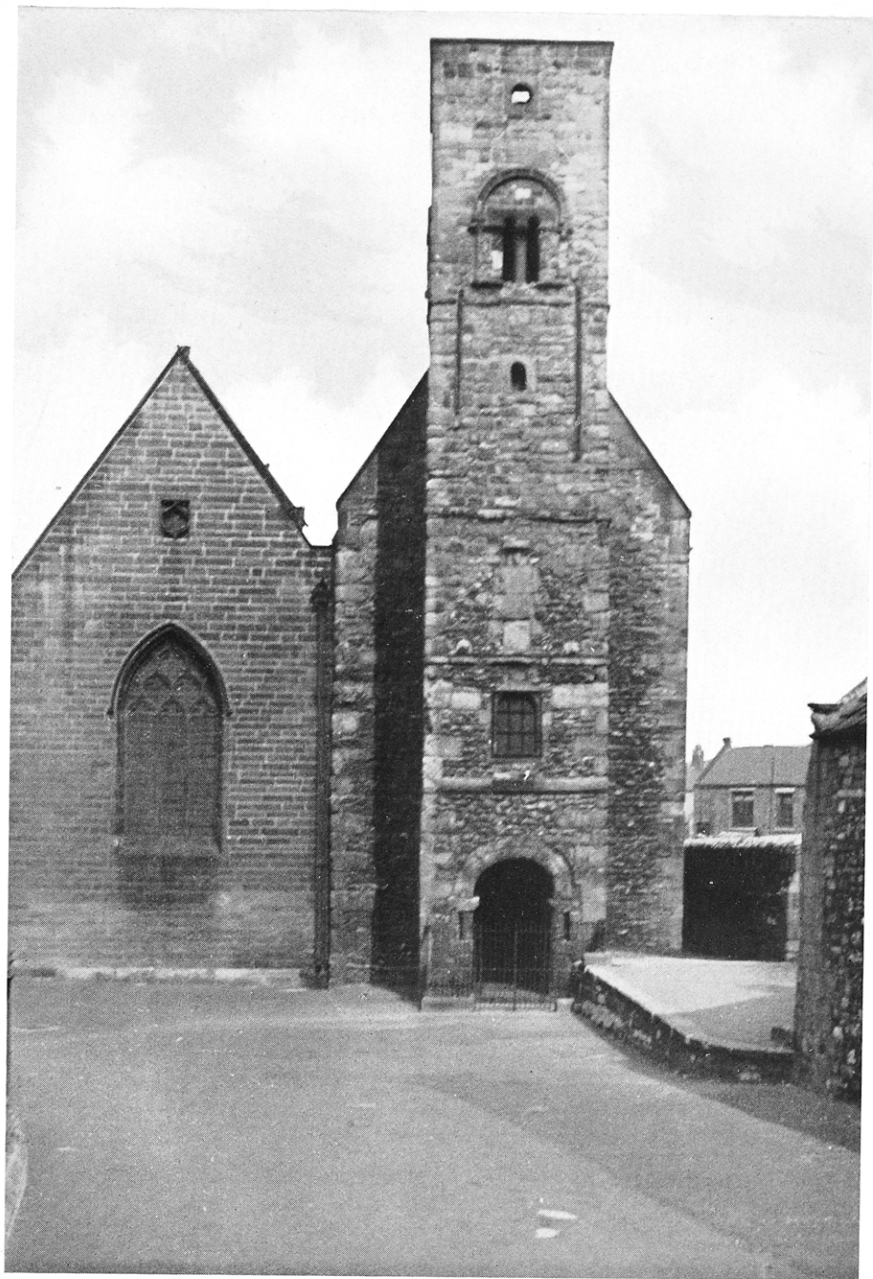


Photo.

MONKWEARMOUTH CHURCH.

J. E. Spence.

To face p. 216.

Bede informs us that a convent was founded here in the 7th century by St. Bega, but the history of the church does not begin until 674 when Benedict Biscop, as was narrated above in the description of Jarrow, was granted land by King Ecgfrith and importing foreign workmen from France, built what is perhaps the earliest stone church in England and founded a monastery. At his death in 689, he appointed Ceolfrid of Jarrow as his successor to the abbacy of Monkwearmouth, and the new institution flourished under his able management, the number of its monks being 600.

The prosperity of this monastery of St. Peter ended with the Danish invasions. In 870, it was destroyed, probably at the same time as Tynemouth, and after a temporary recovery again destroyed in 1070 by Malcolm king of Scotland. Like Jarrow, the monastery of Monkwearmouth was restored and reorganised in the time of Bishop Walcher by the three Evesham monks, Aldwin, Elfwy and Reinfred. The monastery was rebuilt and endowed with lands in North Wearmouth and Southwick, but in 1083 all the monks were removed to Durham by Bishop Carileph and from that time Monkwearmouth and Jarrow declined into cells, dependant upon St. Cuthbert, the superior of St. Peter's having the title of master of Wearmouth. At the dissolution, the lands of St. Peter were granted to Thomas Whytehead, a relation of the last prior and first dean of Durham. The site of the monastery was afterwards occupied by Monkwearmouth Hall, destroyed by fire in 1790.

In describing the church, Mr. Romans first drew attention to the western tower, the lower part of which was the original porch of the church, the upper portion being a later addition. The outstanding feature of this porch was the existence of its four arched doorways, one on each face of the building. That on the west was the principal entrance, and the speaker pointed out the peculiar construction of its jambs, with their long and short work. The lower vertical jambstones are carved with twined beasts. Then follows a horizontal course bonded into the wall supporting turned balusters, which in turn are surmounted by panelled stones at the springing of the arch.

There is a raised band round the archstones, and above the arch a horizontal band of carving between two cable edgings. The western end of the nave is pierced by small round-headed Saxon lights, and quoin stones showing on the north side indicate the fact that the north aisle is a later addition. In the interior of the church, the speaker showed what seemed to have been the

original plan of the church, a long and lofty aisleless nave with a comparatively small chancel. He drew attention to later additions to this plan and showed the visitors an interesting collection of carved stones and baluster shafts, relics of the earliest church. He pointed out also the richly carved altar tomb of one of the Hylton family. A description of Monkwearmouth church with illustrations of many of its architectural features will be found in Baldwin Brown, *Arts in Early England*, ii, 120ff.

A return was then made to Durham, where in the evening the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

was held in the University Lecture Room, Palace Green. Professor R. G. Collingwood, who took the chair at the meeting, before the opening of the business upon the agenda, referred to the grave loss which the society had sustained by the death of Mrs. T. Hesketh Hodgson, a most valued member and a very active worker for many years, and members present all stood in silence in token of their sorrow for her loss, and respect for her memory.

The Editor of the *Transactions* (Mr. W. T. McIntire) reported Vol. xxxv of the *Transactions* was nearly ready and should be in the hands of members by the end of the month.

He reported also, that the prospectus of Mr. Field's *Armorial for Cumberland* was ready and that the price of the publication had been fixed by the Council at 25s.

Mr. F. G. Simpson on behalf of the Cumberland Excavation Committee gave an interesting general report of the work which was being carried on by his Committee on the line of Hadrian's Wall, and the President added his personal impressions.

For the Committee for Prehistoric studies, Dr. J. E. Spence, reported upon several sites and objects of interest

In the absence of Mr. C. S. Jackson, the Prsident announced on behalf of the Parish Registers Committee that the printing of Crosthwaite and Lyth registers was now nearly completed.

The Treasurer (Mr. R. E. Porter) reported upon the society's accounts for the year ending June 30th, 1935, showing the following balances in the various funds of the society:—General Fund £307. 7s. 11d.; Capital Account £120. 2s. 7d.; Record Publication Fund £66. 16s. 3d.; Roman Wall Special Account £14. 1s. 1d.; Research Fund No. 1 Account £47. 17s. 8d.

The accounts were received and adopted.

On the recommendation of the Council it was resolved that the name of Lieut.-Colonel Oliver H. North, should be added to the list of vice-presidents and that of Mr. Ian A. Richmond to the Council. All other officials were re-elected *en bloc*.

The following new members were duly proposed and elected:— Miss A. B. G. Charlton, Carlisle; Mr. Harrison, Cark; Major S. H. Hughes, Gosforth; Mr. D. H. Johnston, Howtown; Mrs. Minnikin, Windermere; Mr. D. F. H. Poulton, Warton; Mr. Linton Taylor, Grasmere; Miss Tobin, Cumwhitton; Miss Mary Taylor, Kirkandrews; Mr. Tom Wilson, Keswick.

The following papers were read and directed to be published in an early volume of the *Transactions*:—" Early Settlements near the Head of Ullswater," by Mr. T. Hay (Art. VIII). " Additional Notes on Westmorland Clockmakers," by Mr. T. Cann Hughes. " A Sandhill Site at Eskmeals, West Cumberland," by Miss Mary C. Fair (Art. III).

Mr. James McIntyre exhibited some remarkably fine examples of stone axes upon which he promised to write a report in an early volume of the *Transactions*.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1935.

Leaving Old Elvet, Durham, at 9-15 a.m., amid pleasant sunny surroundings the party set out for its second day's round of visits, the first halt being at Lanchester, where in the church Mr. Eric B. Birley, M.A., F.S.A. gave an address upon

THE ROMAN FORT AT LANCHESTER.

Like so many Roman sites in the north of England, the Roman fort at Lanchester owes its first record to Camden, its first careful description to Horsley, and its first detailed study to John Hodgson. To members of the Cumberland and Westmorland Society it is the connection with it of Hodgson, the Westmorland man, that must be Lanchester's chief interest. Here he spent the leisure moments of his first curacy, a hundred and twenty years ago, in researches which he published in 1807, in the form of a series of notes appended to his poem " Longovicum: a Vision," one of the two main pieces in a little volume of verses. In later years he was to write other verses, but it was as a local historian, and in particular as the investigator of the Roman period and its remains, that he was to become famous; and we, to-day, whose work in the same field owes so much to his ungrudging labours, cannot but reverence the place in which he learnt to know and to develop his talents.

Our knowledge of Roman Lanchester depends in part on descriptions left by visitors to the site in days when there was more to be seen of its structural remains—Horsley, Hutchinson and Hodgson in particular—in part on the inscriptions and sculptures that have been found there and preserved—for it is known that

many have been destroyed. From the inscriptions we learn that the fort held a cohort a thousand strong in the time of Marcus Aurelius, *cohors I fida Vardullorum*, while under Gordian, seventy years later, the quingenary *cohors I Lingonum* and a cavalry regiment of the new style, the *vexillatio Suevorum*, formed its garrison. The inscriptions left by the cohort of Lingones speak of fresh building, in a manner that suggests that the place was being occupied afresh after a period of desertion; and milestones of Gordian from Lanchester itself and from Bishopwearmouth suggest that at that time the road to the coast was made or repaired, no doubt in connection with the working of the mineral deposits in the district, for whose protection and supervision the fort may have been judged necessary, no less than for its position on the trunk road from York to Hadrian's Wall. Hodgson has much to say of the traces of mineral working; those, and the aqueducts of whose course he has left a survey, and the remains, still impressive, of the fort itself (which has hardly been touched by digging), enhance the interest of Roman Lanchester; it is hoped that the day may not be far distant when there will be an opportunity of excavation, to obtain more definite evidence of a site which we know already to be of considerable importance.

An account of the evidence already available, by Mr. K. A. Steer, will have appeared, by the time that these lines are in print, in the *Transactions* of the Durham and Northumberland Archaeological and Architectural Society, Volume VII, part 2, where full particulars may be found.

LANCHESTER CHURCH.

The Rev. T. Romans, M.A., F.S.A., then described the church. The earliest known building upon the site was, he said, a mid-12th century aisleless church in the construction of which the materials of the neighbouring Roman fort were largely employed. Of this church the only traces left were the quoins of the exterior N.W. angle, the columns built into the porch, the arch of a doorway now forming the canopy of a monumental effigy of Anstell, Dean of Lanchester (1461) and the chancel arch of three orders with chevron mouldings and moulded impost. He suggested that its height may have been due to existence of a crypt.

At the end of the 12th century there was an enlargement of the church. Narrow north and south aisles were added to the nave, as at Staindrop, the pillars of the arcade being monoliths, taken perhaps from the Roman fort. He pointed out the dentelle ornament upon the arches of these arcades.

In the 13th century, a new chancel was built of more ample proportions than its predecessor. Traces of this change could be seen in the lancet windows, in the eastern light and in the blocked windows in the north wall of the chancel.

In 1283, Bishop Bek of Durham founded a college at Lanchester, consisting of a dean and seven prebendaries. The college was of some importance and had at its disposal nine vicarages. To meet the new requirements of the increased staff of clergy at Lanchester, the chancel was again widened and provision was made for stalls. On the south side the 13th century lancet windows were removed and windows with tracery of the Decorated period substituted. A vestry with a pointed cinquefoil arched doorway and a sculptured representation of our Lord in Glory was added, and a clerestory with cinquefoil windows built to heighten the nave.

Fifty years later, further alterations were made. The old Norman doorway was removed and replaced by a new south doorway with hood mouldings. A tower was added in the first quarter of the 15th century and a general reconstruction followed in the 16th century when the walls were raised to a still greater height.

Among the objects of interest pointed out in the church were three panels of 13th century glass in the three-light window of the chancel, with representations of the adoration of the magi and the flight into Egypt; remains of stall work in the chancel; an effigy of a priest in vestments of the earlier half of the 14th century; the brass of John Rudd, Dean of Lanchester (1490) in the chancel, and among the church-plate, a silver-gilt paten stated to have been found on the site of the Roman fort about 1570. Several medieval grave-covers and a Roman altar are also to be seen at this interesting church.

On our way from Lanchester to Eacomb, our next halting place, we passed close to the site of the Roman fort of Lanchester described by Mr. Birley at the church, and were able to obtain some idea of its position and configuration. This part of the journey along picturesque side roads was much appreciated by members of our party.

ESCOMB CHURCH.

We were fortunate at Escomb Church in being again under the guidance of Mr. Romans, who gave a very interesting description of this remarkable and almost unaltered example of Saxon architecture.

Mr. Romans attributed the building of the main fabric of the church to the early 8th century, though some of its features might

date from as late as the first half of the 11th century. The masons who built it, perhaps of Italian or French origin, seemed to have adopted the Roman technique though in certain particulars their work showed Celtic affinities. The church was built largely with Roman materials, probably from the fort at Binchester. Some of the stones built into the walls showed the characteristic Roman diamond broaching and on the exterior of the N.W. wall of the building was to be seen a legionary inscription.

The nave, the walls of which were about 2 ft. 3 ins. in thickness, was long in comparison with the chancel. It had a sharply pointed gable and still showed some of its original small deeply splayed windows. The narrow square-headed doorway had jambs of long-and-short work, and the slight inward inclination of these jambs was again suggestive of Celtic influence. The square heads reminded one of those of the doors of the Roman bath house at Chesters. Of these original doorways that on the south was unfortunately mutilated. In the N.W. portion of the nave were traces of a cobbled flooring.

One of the most interesting features of the church was the chancel arch, 15 feet high and 5 feet 3 inches in breadth, built up of Roman materials. The speaker pointed out the remarkable construction of its jambs with their alternating vertical and horizontal jamb-stones. In plan the church consisted of two rectangles, a long and narrow aisleless nave and a comparatively small square-ended chancel. The nave and chancel were separated by a wall pierced only by the chancel arch. There were traces of the former existence of a porch in front of the south door of the church. Mr. Romans pointed out some medieval grave-covers in the church and others in the porch. He also drew attention to the existence of a sun dial in its original position upon the south wall, and to two surviving consecration crosses. A description of Escomb church will be found in Baldwin Brown, *Arts in Early England*, ii, 53-54, with several illustrations. Note also figs. 62 and 63 in the same volume.

STAINDROP.

At Staindrop, the party separated for lunch, but re-assembled at 2-15 p.m. at St. Mary's church, where we were again indebted to Mr. Romans for a description of that remarkable building, the burial place of the Nevill family.

In the early years of the 11th century King Cnut presented his manor of Staindrop to St. Cuthbert and there is a tradition that he founded a church on the site of the present building, but the present nave does not appear to date from a period earlier than



ESCOMB CHURCH.



Photos.

J. E. Spence.

ANGLO-SAXON WINDOWS AND SUNDIAL, ESCOMB.

To face p. 222.

about the end of the 12th century, the period of transition from the Norman to the Early English style of architecture. The arches of the arcade belong to the former style while the circular columns, some of which have foliated capitals, seem to belong to the later period. Mr. Romans traced the development of the church, the nave of which seems to have been enlarged in 1343, when the Nevills had licence to found three chantries in the church. About fifty years afterwards, in 1378, the then lord founded a college for poor men, and erected collegiate buildings against the north wall of the nave. All traces of these buildings have vanished, and the stall-seats and desks of their former occupants are the only reminders of their former existence. At the time of the foundation of the college the chancel was enlarged. The upper part of the tower dates from about 1380. The church was restored in 1849.

Of the many monuments in the church, one of the most remarkable is the magnificent alabaster altar-tomb of Ralph Nevill, 1st earl of Westmorland, who is represented in plated armour with a lion at his feet. On his right is the figure of his first wife, Margaret, daughter of Hugh, earl of Stafford; on his left that of his second wife, Joan, daughter of John of Gaunt, who is buried by her mother Catherine Swinford in Lincoln Cathedral. Near this monument and the other Nevill tombs are the sedilia for the chantry priests who prayed for their souls.

In the N.W. corner of the nave is the great wooden tomb of Henry Nevill, 5th earl of Westmorland, and his three wives, and in the niches round the tomb are effigies of his children. At the foot of the tomb are the arms of Nevill, Manners and Plantagenet and beneath is the inscription: "All you that come to the church to praye, say a Paternoster and a Crede, for to have mercy on us and our progeny."

In the chancel are monuments to the Cleveland and Poulett families.

RABY CASTLE.

The excursion concluded with a visit, by permission of Lord Barnard, to Raby Castle, the ancient seat of the Nevill family. Mr. Romans once more acted as our guide and gave an account of the development of the castle and its connection with the Nevills.

The Nevills claimed descent from Gilbert de Neville, admiral of William the Conqueror's fleet in 1066, a claim recorded by a galley upon their coat-of-arms. Gilbert's grandson, Geoffrey, married Emma Bulmer, the heiress of Brancepeth, and Isabel,

Geoffrey's daughter and heiress married Robert fitz Mildred, lord of Raby, who took the name of Nevill. A mansion existed here before 1379, when John de Neville obtained a licence to "make a castle of his manor of Raby and to embattle and crenellate its towers." A curious lozenge-shaped tower records by its name of Bulmer tower the connection of the Bulmers of Brancepeth with the Nevills. Under the successive lords of Raby the castle gradually grew in size and importance until in the 16th century Leland described it as "the largest castel of loggings in all the north country, and a strong building, but not set either on a hill or on very strong ground.

The buildings are of enormous extent and enclose three courtyards, the whole being surrounded by a broad raised terrace. The centre of the south front was added by Inigo Jones but with the exception of this portion and the octagonal room adjoining, described as a wretched attempt at modern Gothic, Raby is in many respects the most perfect of our northern castles, retaining most of its ancient features and having had the good fortune in its modern additions to preserve something of its ancient style. The fortunes of the Nevill family may be said to have culminated with Ralph Nevill, who in 1398 was created 1st earl of Westmorland, and whose tomb the party had only a short time before seen in Staindrop Church. The downfall of the family came with the forfeiture of the Nevills' property after Charles, the sixth earl of Westmorland, had joined the ill-fated "Rising of the North" in 1569.

Raby was subsequently purchased from the lessees of the crown by Sir Harry Vane, who is said to have represented to James I that the castle was a mere hillock of stones. When a short time afterwards the king visited Raby, he is said to have exclaimed: "Gude troth, my lord, ca' ye that a hullock o' stanes? By my faith, I ha' na sic anither hullock in a' my realms." When Sir Harry Vane took part with the Parliament in the Civil War, the castle was seized by the Royalists under Sir F. Liddell on June 29th, 1645, but they were able to hold it only for six weeks. From an entry in the Staindrop register, it appears that the place was again besieged in 1648 when "many soldiers were slain before its walls and buried in the park." Sir Harry Vane's son was executed after the Restoration in 1662, and was succeeded by his grandson Sir Christopher Vane who was created Baron Barnard of Barnard Castle in 1699. To vent his enmity to his son, this lord, in 1714, procured 200 workmen and in a few days stripped Raby of all its lead, iron, glass and other movable objects to the value

of £30,000, the whole of which he was afterwards compelled to restore.

The grandson of the first Lord Barnard was created earl of Darlington and his great-grandson marquis of Cleveland in 1827 and duke of Cleveland in 1833.

The party then made the round of the interior of the castle, visiting the great hall, the kitchen which resembles upon a smaller scale the Prior's Kitchen at Durham, the chapel and other rooms of the mansion. They had also leisure to enjoy the park and beautiful surroundings of the castle.

Before parting the President expressed in suitable terms the gratitude of the society to Mr. Romans for all he had done to help to make the excursion just concluded a memorable one. A vote of thanks was also accorded to the Hon. Excursions Secretary, and the party then departed to Barnard Castle whence they were able to reach their respective homes by train