

REPORT
 OF
The Society of Antiquaries
 OF
 NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

M.DCCC.LV.

IN presenting the forty-third annual Report, the Council have to congratulate the Society of Antiquaries on the prosperous condition and steady progress that have marked the course of the past year. Many papers of much interest have been read, and many donations, both of books and of objects of antiquity, have been made, attesting the interest taken both by the members and by the public in the welfare of the Society.

The new and auspicious era of the Society's taking possession of the fine old Norman building where it now holds its meetings, has been perpetuated by the fresh life infused at that period and subsequently into the Society's operations. The rapid accumulation of papers and of antiquities has since then been such, that not only has the Society now completed the fourth volume of its Transactions, but it is already in possession of papers amply sufficient to form another volume of goodly size, and which it is hoped will more speedily be distributed to the members than has hitherto been the case.

While, therefore, your Council see good reason to rejoice at the progress already made, they wish to impress upon the members, that in order to preserve the well won reputation of this, one of the earliest provincial institutions of the kind, it is absolutely requisite that unceasing efforts should be made to provide a constant series of papers for the meetings, and to seek out every where the numerous objects of antiquarian interest that continually present themselves. Archæology has now become so favourite a study, and so many young energetic societies have recently engaged in its pursuit, that there is danger of

the older institutions being left behind, if their members do not use their best exertions to keep pace with the rapid advance of this interesting study.

At the last anniversary meeting it was determined that the Proceedings of the Society should be regularly reported, and published monthly in a neat demy octavo form, for distribution to the members. This has been done by the *Gateshead Observer* printing office, the reports having been duly drawn up by Mr. James Clephan; and your Council does not hesitate to say that no measure has given more general satisfaction. The value of these monthly Reports of the Proceedings is fully appreciated also by the public, as is evinced by the eagerness manifested to obtain copies. The Secretaries have received numerous letters from archaeologists in other parts of England, requesting as a signal favour to be allowed copies of these Proceedings. The Secretaries have not as yet felt themselves justified in complying with this request, as the circulation is limited by the original resolution to the members alone; but your Council would suggest that a certain number of copies should be allowed to be sent to various Archæological Societies, and to such gentlemen as may be considered entitled to them from the interest they take in the study of antiquities.

During the past year the excavations at Housesteads and elsewhere along the line of the Roman Wall have been continued by the energetic proprietor, Mr. John Clayton. The results have been important, especially as regards the discovery of one of the exploratory turrets of the Wall, at the Knag-burn, a little east of Housesteads.

The excavations at Bremenium, which have been carried on at so much expense by the munificent Patron of the Society, the Duke of Northumberland, have been this year as far as possible completed by some of the members, aided by a further donation of £25. from his Grace. The very satisfactory results of these additional explorations have been fully detailed by Dr. Bruce at the monthly meeting in December last; and a full description of the whole, with plans of the station, will be published in the Transactions.

The exertions of the Society have likewise been directed to the preservation of the monuments of antiquity in this neighbourhood. The opening out of the roadway from the High Level Bridge to St. Nicholas' Square has exposed fully to view the well known "Black Gate," one of the main entrances to the Castle of this town. It was at one time much to be feared that this fine structure would fall a sacrifice to modern convenience, and would be swept away with the surrounding buildings. Against the proposed destruction of this venerable edifice,



the Society most energetically appealed to the Corporation, and your Council is happy to report, with signal success. Not only did the Corporation determine to retain the Black Gate entire, but they offered a reward of £50. for the best design for the approach in question, with a clause specially insisting on the preservation of the Black Gate. These designs, which have been recently exhibited in the Merchants' Court, have no doubt been seen and studied by all who take an interest in archæology.

Nor has the vigilance of the Society been confined to local antiquities, but in May last it forwarded a petition to Parliament praying that the valuable collection of London antiquities, the property of that eminent antiquary, Mr. Charles Roach Smith, might be purchased by the nation. Your Council has recently learned that there is some prospect of this most desirable object being carried into effect. The excavations now going on at Tynemouth for improving the fortifications there, will be sedulously watched by the Society, and it is hoped that many interesting objects will be discovered during their progress.

The want of additional accommodation for the Society's increasing collections is now beginning to be severely felt. Not only is space deficient, but the essential article of light penetrates but sparingly through the deep windows of the Castle Keep. The Roman altars and inscriptions require to be ranged under a strong light to be correctly examined, and still more is this required with regard to many of the smaller and more delicate objects arranged under glass. For the latter a strong light from above is by far the most appropriate.

Two plans have been proposed for obtaining the requisite accommodation.

The one is to provide the additional space within the Castle itself; the other to obtain a lease of some of the arches of the adjacent railway, and to fit them up for the reception of the larger antiquities.

The only means of obtaining the requisite space within the Castle is by restoring the apartment which by many is considered to have existed over the Great Hall, and for this a plan has been prepared and laid before the Society by Mr. Dobson. Mr. Dobson proposes to perforate the present brick arched roof (which was put up in 1813) with a six feet domed light, and this would give the Society an apartment 15 feet high by 30 in length and 24 in breadth. The cost of this is estimated, with the flooring, &c., at £134., and the top-light thus obtained would be very favourable for the smaller specimens.

By the other plan, that of enclosing some of the railway arches, if they can be obtained on lease at a reasonable rate, a large space, with a

good side light would be provided, and if the whole could be connected by a wall with the Castle, so as to enclose the area, and form a passage, ample room would be secured.

The progress made in preparing the Illustrated Catalogue of Roman Antiquities has been necessarily slow, from the long time required to complete all the wood engravings wanted for the purpose. The Council is glad to report that these engravings are now finished, and that the Catalogue of this most important part of the Society's collections, prepared by Dr. Bruce, will speedily be published.

The concluding Part of Vol. IV. of the Transactions of the Society is this day laid upon the table. A notice of a motion has been given by Mr. W. H. Longstaffe to reduce the future size of the publications to demy octavo, similar to that of the Proceedings; and that the Transactions so printed shall be issued quarterly to the members, free of carriage. It will be for the Society to determine, this day, whether the important change shall be carried into effect or not, and the decision come to will necessarily affect also the monthly publication of the Proceedings.

The Council have had under their serious consideration the important subject of the completion of the History of Northumberland, which was left imperfect by the lamented death of the late Rev. John Hodgson, one of the Vice-presidents of this Society. It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the qualifications which pre-eminently fitted that gentleman for the execution of the great work which he undertook. His extensive general and antiquarian learning, unwearied industry, and minute local knowledge, are widely known, and have been duly appreciated; nor can we doubt that if his life had been prolonged, the county of Northumberland would have possessed a record of its history and antiquities equally distinguished for comprehensiveness of plan, minuteness of detail, fulness of information, and perspicuity of style. These characteristics are eminently displayed in the published volumes; but the original design is unfortunately far from being completed.

Mr. Hodgson proposed to divide his work into three parts:—

1. The general history of the county.
2. The topography and local antiquities, arranged in parishes.
3. A collection of documents, forming at once the materials for the compilation and the vouchers for the accuracy and fidelity of its execution.

Of these, the third part only is complete according to the author's intention, and this unfortunately is the portion that is least interesting to the general reader, although it contains a rich fund of information for the antiquary.

Of the second part, three volumes have been printed, embracing the description of less than one half of the county, and it would require at least as many additional volumes to comprise a satisfactory description of the remainder.

Of the first part nothing as yet has been published.

Such being the state of the work at the time of Mr. Hodgson's decease, and no steps having been taken for its further prosecution, the Council have endeavoured, but in vain, to find some competent person willing to devote himself to the completion of an undertaking so deeply interesting to the public in this locality, but which unfortunately holds out no more solid inducement for the exercise of very laborious application than the approval of those who appreciate this branch of literary study. They are not however without hopes that parties may be met with who are both competent and willing to undertake the history of particular parishes or districts within the county, and that by a combination of the efforts of several individuals, it may be possible to complete the topographical part, not perhaps in a manner altogether worthy of the companionship of the preceding volumes, but so as, at all events, to present an immense mass of original and authentic information.

In order to obtain the assistance of such persons in their several localities, and to ensure as far as possible uniformity of plan, and also to solicit information and the inspection of documents from the landed proprietors and others, the Council would suggest the appointment of a small committee, to whom the general superintendence of the work should be entrusted. In this way, they trust they may look forward to the completion of the second part at no distant period. In the meantime, however, they are strongly impressed with the importance of supplying as early as possible the want of the first part, or General History, that the work at once may be complete as far as it goes; whereas it is at present not only imperfect in its conclusion, but defective in its commencement, and thus the general plan is with difficulty understood by the reader.

This part may, without undue curtailment, be comprised in a single volume; and as the materials have not here to be sought by personal inquiry, or in private repositories, but in the pages of our early historians, which are now readily accessible, there can be no difficulty in securing its completion at an early day if it is placed by the Committee in the hands of a party conversant with the subject.

Another object which the Society has in view, is the preservation of the ancient music of this Border county. These records of the past, in

the shape of ballads, &c., have indeed received considerable attention, but many of the old airs are now with difficulty recoverable, and ere long will have entirely disappeared. Much solicitude has been expressed by the noble Patron of the Society, that these interesting records of former times should be preserved, and the Council suggests the appointment of a small committee of such gentlemen as are willing to give their attention to the subject.

During the present year the Society has lost by death one of its earliest members, the Senior Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. John Adamson. Mr. Adamson had been connected with the Society from its formation in 1813, and had acted as its Secretary during the long period of forty-three years. During this time Mr. Adamson contributed several important papers to the Society's Transactions, and from his extensive correspondence with archæologists in all parts of the country, he was enabled to obtain much important information, and many donations of works of value for the Society's library. Mr. Adamson was well known to the literary world as a diligent student of Portuguese literature, and had published several works relating to Portuguese authors. For thirty years he had also held the office of Secretary to the Literary and Philosophical Society of this town, which Society he first joined in 1811. He was likewise one of the founders of the Natural History Society, a pursuit to which he was always much attached.

The Society has also to deplore the loss of Captain Widdrington, of Newton Hall, in this county, a gentleman of cultivated mind and taste, an ardent naturalist and traveller, and who ever took much interest in the proceedings of the Society.

One of the most active members of the Society, Mr. H. G. Potter, has resigned his connexion with the Society, on occasion of his removal to the South of England for his health. Mr. Potter was a diligent excavator on the line of the Roman Wall, and the results of his researches at Amboglanna are well known to all the readers of the Transactions of the Society.

The Council, in deploring these losses to the Society, see yet good reason to believe that the renewed spirit and vitality manifested in the Society since its removal to its present locality, will not only continue unabated, but will increase year by year.

PAPERS READ.

February, 1855.—Anniversary Meeting.

MR. JOHN CLAYTON.—On an Altar to Cocidius discovered at Housesteads.

March.

MR. W. HYLTON LONGSTAFFE.—On the Pilgrimage of Grace.

April.

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May.

REV. JAMES RAINE, JUNR.—Memoir of Anne Countess of Pembroke, &c.

June.

MR. W. HYLTON LONGSTAFFE.—Abstract of thirty-four Local Muni-ments belonging to Mr. Thos. Bell.

October.

MR. W. HYLTON LONGSTAFFE.—Continuation of Paper—On the Pilgrimage of Grace.

November.

MR. HODGSON HINDE.—Transcripts of Returns of Dean and Chapter Property in Northumberland, 1654.

MR. R. R. DEES.—Old Deeds relative to Property in the Broad Chare, &c.

DR. CHARLTON.—On the Bilingual Inscription from Falstone; and on the Runic Inscription in Carlisle Cathedral.

December.

REV. DR. BRUCE.—Description of the Excavations at Bremenium.

January, 1856.

DR. CHARLTON.—On the Bewcastle Cross.

MR. WM. DICKSON.—On Malcolm's Well, and the Hospital of St. Leonard, at Alnwick.

 DONATIONS.

February, 1855.—Anniversary Meeting.

MR. E. W. CHALLONER.—Rubbings of Monumental Brasses from the neighbourhood of Newmarket.

March.

REV. DIXON CLARKE, Belford.—Fragment of Iron Casting from the Castle of Belford.—Transactions of Ossianic Society, 1853.

April.

MESSRS. LISTER AND SONS.—A Bronze Celt and two Bronze vessels.

MR. DONKIN, High Friar Street.—Forty Copper Tokens.

MR. JOHN GREENE, Gateshead.—Inscribed Stones formerly in the Trollope Monument, Gateshead.

June.

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE, Guildhall, London.—Catalogue of the Beaufoy Collection of Tokens.

MR. JOHN BRITTON.—Memoir of Edward James Wilson, Esq.

MR. RICHARD SAINTHILL, Cork.—“Numismatic Crumbs.”

MR. ROACH SMITH.—Notice of his Museum of London Antiquities.

KILKENNY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Transactions.

LORD LONDESBOROUGH.—Miscellanea Graphica.

REV. H. CHRISTMAS.—Letter on the London Society of Antiquaries.

MR. J. ADAMSON.—A Bone Instrument found in Ireland.—A Leader for the Distaff.

MESSRS. GEORGE GREENE AND F. P. IONN.—Piscina and Sedilia of St. Mary's Church, Gateshead.

MR. H. G. POTTER.—Roman Remains from Burdoswald—Head of a Statue, Sculptured Stones, &c.

August.

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.—Report.

MR. J. LINDSAY, Cork.—Observation on an Ancient Syrian Talisman.

MR. R. SAINTHILL.—Medal of Mr. S. Engraved by Wyon.

MR. W. H. SCOTT, Edinburgh.—Observations on Oriental Coins. Transactions of Kilkenny Archæological Society.

MR. WM. KELLY.—Royal Progresses to Leicester.

MR. BARRASS, per Mr. John Bell.—Silver English Coins and Foreign Copper Coins.

MR. HOWARD, of Blackheath.—Impressions of Copper Plates in his possession.

MR. M. A. DENHAM, of Piersbridge.—Proverbial Folk Lore of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

September.

LIVERPOOL ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—Proceedings of, Vol. I.

October.

LIVERPOOL ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Part I. Vol. ii.

LORD LONDESBOROUGH.—Miscellanea Graphica.

MR. GEORGE KIELL, Inland Revenue Office, London.—Bactrian Coins found in Samarcand.

MR. WEBSTER, Douglas, Isle of Man.—Cast of a Seal of George II.

DONOR UNKNOWN.—Two Halberts.—Three Spears.—and a Broadsword.

MR. A. H. RHIND.—Pamphlet on British Antiquities.

MR. VENTRESS, Newcastle.—Portion of one of the Links formerly used in lighting the streets of Newcastle.—Nimbed Head weeping, in Stained Glass, from the Old Duke of Cumberland public house, near the Castle, recently pulled down.—Creeing-trough.

December.

ARUNDEL SOCIETY.—Catalogue of Fictile Ivory Casts.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.—Their Transactions. two volumes.

MR. W. BOYNE, Tenterden Street, London.—Six Rare Tokens of the 17th century.

REV. J. C. BRUCE.—Bayeux Tapestry.

MR. DIXON DIXON.—Four Valuable Volumes of Maps, Plans, &c.—Memoirs relating to Collieries in the neighbourhood of Newcastle.—A Punch Ladle, containing a Medal presented to his Grandfather.

January.

KILKENNY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Transactions.

G. RIPPON, Esq., North Shields.—Chinese Cannon captured at Chusan.

W. J. FORSTER, Esq.—Roman Silver Coin.

THE LATE JOHN ADAMSON, ESQ. IN ACCOUNT WITH

SOCIETY'S

Dr.		£. s. d.
1853-4. To Balance due the Society		62 18 1
„ Admittances to Castle	58 4 6	
Less left in Dr. Charlton's hands to meet cur- rent expenses	11 11 8½	
		46 12 9½
		£109 10 10½
1854-5. To Balance brought down		18 9 8
„ Receipts from Members		80 17 0
„ Admittances to Castle	65 4 10	
Less left in Dr. Charlton's hands to meet cur- rent expenses	12 14 10½	
		52 9 11½
		£151 16 7½
1855-6. To Balance		41 19 7
„ Receipts from Members		95 8 0
„ Error in charging Mr. J. H. Hinde's account twice over		9 18 6
„ Cash from Dr. Charlton		23 0 0
		£170 6 1
1856. To Balance due the Society		£63 5 8

EDWARD CHARLTON, ESQ., M.D., IN ACCOUNT WITH

CASTLE

Dr.		£. s. d.
1855. FEBRUARY 10. } to 1856. FEBRUARY 2. }	To cash received for Admittances to the Castle	63 4 3
		£63 4 3
	To Balance due the Society on this account	7 16 9
	„ on the general account	1 6 7
		£9 3 4

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE
ACCOUNT.

		Cr.	£.	s.	d.
1853-4.	By Balance due Mr. Adamson		25	0	1
	„ Sundry Payments		66	1	1½
	„ Balance		18	9	8
	In Dr. Charlton's hands	11 11			8½
			£109 10 10½		
1854-5.	By Disbursements		56	17	1½
	„ Additional Disbursements		52	19	11
	„ Balance		41	19	7
	In Dr. Charlton's hands last year	11 11			8½
	In Dr. Charlton's hands this year	12 14			10½
			£24 6 7		
			£151 16 7½		
1855-6.	By Disbursements		104	10	5
	„ Error in not charging Paxton's Salary, 9th May		2	10	0
	In Dr. Charlton's hands	24 6			7
	Dr. Charlton paid Mr. Adamson	23 0			0
			£1 6 7		
	Remains to be accounted for by Dr. Charlton				
	By Balance		63	5	8
			£170 6 1		

February 2, 1856,

Examined and found correct,

ROBERT WHITE.

W. HYLTON D. LONGSTAFFE.

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.
ACCOUNT.

		Cr.	£.	s.	d.
1855. FEBRUARY.	By paid Warden's Salary		46	16	0
	„ For Coals, Carriages, and other Sundries		6	1	6
	„ Mr. Paxton, late Warden, one Quarter's Salary		2	10	0
	Balance in hand		7	16	9
			£63 4 3		

February 2, 1856,

Examined and found correct,

ROBERT WHITE.

W. HYLTON D. LONGSTAFFE.