

THE HOSPITAL OF ST. LEONARD,
IN THE PARISH OF ALNWIICK.

SINCE I sent the communication to your Society respecting this Hospital (printed in the *Archæologia Æliana*, iii., p. 48), much further information has been obtained concerning it. I must first correct former errors, before I allude to the discovery of its true site.

This Hospital, it is stated, was founded by Eustace de Vesey for the soul of his wife's grandfather, Malcolm III.; but it should have been his wife's great great grandfather—thus:

MALCOLM, slain 1093, at Alnwick.	}
DAVID, King of Scot- land, died 1153.	}
HENRY, died 1152, vitâ patris.	}
WILLIAM THE LION, died 1214.	}

LORD EUSTACE DE VESCY, = MARGARET, his natural
died 1216. daughter.

I stated, in my former communication, that the well called Malcolm's Well "does not now exist." This was thought to be the case at that time; but the well has since been discovered. And it was also supposed that the present cross, at the top of the hill, marked the place where the Hospital stood; by the late discoveries, however, that is also proved not to be correct.

With these three exceptions, my former paper upon the subject may be depended upon for accuracy.

It is stated in the chronicles of the Abbey—

1st. That the Chapel of St. Leonard was founded on the spot where King Malcolm was mortally wounded.

2nd. That that event took place near to a certain spring, thenceforward called "Malcolm's Well."

On the 5th of June, 1845, on ploughing a field on the flat ground a little lower down the hill than the present cross, several carved stones were turned up; and, upon examination, the foundations of a chapel and other buildings were discovered. On further search, it was found that there had been on this spot an ancient burial ground. About thirty skeletons of human remains were observed, and all with their faces laid towards the east—many of them children, as well as adults. Several portions of the building were dug up, such as a holy-water vase—the stones of a Norman arch and doorway, with a lozenge pattern upon it—a considerable portion of the water table, shewing the slope of the roof to have been what is called “high-pitched”—the socket which formed the apex of the gable, into which the shaft of a cross had been inserted—portions of the capitals, shafts, and bases of columns—fragments of ornamental bordering—dog-toothed and chevron mouldings—several coffin lids, with crosses carved upon them—but no inscriptions. One stone coffin was of an elegant shape, with a complete skeleton in it; being near the surface, it was taken up, but it was sunk again into its resting place six feet deep.

From this discovery, there can be no doubt that these stones formed part of the building of the Chapel of the Hospital of St. Leonard. Near to it were the foundations of many other buildings.

A few yards to the north-west of the Chapel an ancient well was found, where water had been drawn by the inmates of the Hospital; it was about four or five feet deep, and the sides of the stones were worn by constant use in letting down vessels to bring up water. From its antique appearance, and being so near to the Chapel, there can be no doubt that this was the identical spring which the old chronicler mentions as that which was called “in the English tongue Malcolm’s Well.”

The stones which were discovered buried in this site in 1845, have been rebuilt to a certain extent, on the spot, at the expense of His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, under the advice of Mr. Salvin, his Grace’s architect, in this present year, 1855.

The Norman arch is a very good one, and almost perfect; it shews the style of architecture to have been of a Norman character.

Much more information might be collected respecting this event, but it would not be advisable to load the proceedings of this Society with them; it is sufficient to place upon record the leading features of the case, and thus to point out the spot where an event of so much importance took place as the slaying of the King and his eldest son and heir-apparent to his throne.

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