

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

*Monthly Meeting, 6 May, 1858.*

John Hodgson Hinde, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.

READ.—A letter stating that the Treasurer's letter of application for the Roman altars at Beltingham had been submitted to the Rev. Mr. Clarke, the incumbent of that place, who, with the full concurrence of the Bishop of Durham, had much pleasure in presenting them to the Society.—THE REV. WM. IVES, Incumbent of Haltwhistle.

Observations on the Saxon poem of Beowulf.—THE REV. D. H. HAIGH. The following is an abstract of some of Mr. Haigh's opinions.

The heroes of the poem are real personages, and those *English*, and it seems to have been composed originally in England before the close of the 6th century, by a Northumbrian, who was familiar with the scenes he describes and acquainted with contemporaries of some of those engaged in them (see line 3892-5). In its present form the MS. of the work may be of the 10th century, but it retains many characteristics of the early Northumbrian Saxon words which appear on the Ruthwell and Bewcastle crosses. There is no allusion to later events, and excepting a few passages, probably introduced after the christianization of Northumbria, the poem is in substance intact. Mr. Kemble showed that Saxo's attempt to weave the names occurring in its pages into the *Scandinavian* histories was a failure. The circumstances of the fall of Hygelac accord with the narrative of Gregory of Tours, a contemporary of the author, and the poem is matter of history, allowing for the genius of a people with whom an earthquake was the struggle of imprisoned spirits, and the flash of a meteor the flight of a dragon.

The dates of 428 for the coming of Hengest and 467 for the accession of Arthur bring the British and Saxon accounts into accordance. They fix the date of Garmund's war in 506, and he may be identical with Garmund of the poem (l. 3928), and alluded to in the name of Garmondsway Moor. Following the indications which Layamon supplies, it is considered that St. Albinus (who died in 549), was the author of the Brut, and that the 9th chapter of Geoffrey's 11th book marks the conclusion of his work. Certain passages, not found in other versions, may have been interpolated by Geoffrey.

Early in the 6th century the colonization of Britain by the Teutonic races was so complete, that large bodies of them sought and obtained new settlements from Theodric King of the Franks; and shortly after,

an Anglian princess, at the head of 100,000<sup>1</sup> men, conducted an action for breach of promise of marriage against Radiger King of the Warni: so that there is no reason why Hrothgar, Hygelac and Beowulf may not have reigned in Deira and East Anglia.

The genealogies of the Cumbrian, whose notes are appended to four MSS. of Nennius, and who seems to have lived a century before the compilation of the Saxon Chronicle, are to be preferred. From the poem we learn that Offa was contemporary with Hygelac, and must have died about the beginning of the 6th century. Between Offa and Penda of Mercia, who was born 576, the genealogist gives three generations, which will exactly answer to the interval between them. The later chronicles add four additional names, which probably belong to a collateral descent. Hengest, whom he places at the head of one of his genealogies, is, according to Frisian tradition, a son of the sister of the original invader of Britain, and his pedigree could not, like that of Hengest I., be traced from Woden. Brond, who is placed by the Saxon chronicle and Florence in Bernicia, between Bæddæg and Beornd, appears to belong to the West Saxon kings. Ingebrand and Wægbrand were also probably collateral names. Florence's third and fourth names, Beorn and Beornd, seem to be false spellings of Beornec, from whom the Beornicas derive their name. In the Deiran genealogy, at the commencement, the chroniclers give Wægdæg, the Cumbrian Bæddæg. Huntingdon gives Wepdæg, which appears to be the same as Swæbdæg. This, and Wægdæg and Siggeat, may be regarded as collateral names. For the Cumbrian's Soemil, Sguerthing, Florence reads Swearta, Seomel, Westorwalena. Sguerthing or Swearting indicates a Swearta; this, therefore, may be the name of his father Seomel, and he and Westerfalena will be one.

The distances of Tytla the East Anglian, Penda the Mercian, Ida the Bernician, Cuthwine the West Saxon, and Sleda the East Saxon, all contemporaries of Æthelberht of Kent, from Woden, correspond remarkably. Ælle's pedigree contains two additional generations, as might readily happen. The pedigrees of the Ostrogoths (in which Gaut is our Geat), Longobards, and Danes strangely confirm our own. Geat, Woden, and Seaxnot of the genealogies do not appear to have been gods, but only the namesakes of them, and the two former gave names to places in England.

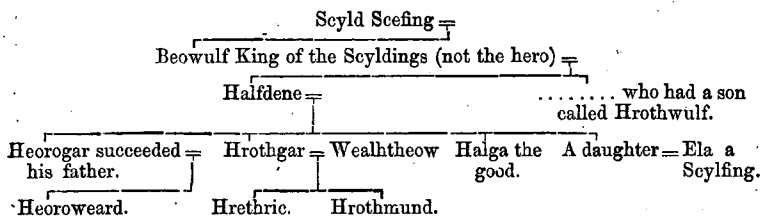
The poem opens with a beautiful and purely Saxon story—the costly entombment of Beowulf's sire, Scyld Scefing (*qu.* Scyld the son of the skiff or boat, *σκαφη*), by giving his body, at his own desire, again to the ocean, in a rich keel, amid arms and treasures not less than those which accompanied him as a foundling child in the boat which bore him to his future subjects.

Ethelwerd, who lived four centuries later than the poet, attributes this story to Sceafa of the Anglo-Saxon genealogies. William of Malmesbury, much later still, places a sheaf, probably suggested by the name, at the child's head. Ethelwerd sends the boat to Scani, an island of the sea; William to an island of Germany called Scandza, and says he

<sup>1</sup> So says Procopius, whom Gibbon calls the greatest historian of his time.

reigned in the town then called Slaswic, but in his own time Haithebi. He places Sceaƿ between Sceldwa and Heremod, and in place of Sceaƿa at the head of the genealogy, he gives Streph, of whom he says what the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle says of Sceaƿa, that he was the son of Noah, born in the ark. But the Sceaƿa, Sceldwa, and Beaw of the genealogies have nothing to do with Scyld Sceƿing, and Beowulf of the poem. The Scandinavian genealogy, given by Snorro, places Sif at the head of Woden's ancestry, and, after several generations, Skiold and Biav: but there was another Scyld, a son of Woden, according to the Langfedgatal, and the Scyld of the poem is a third: and all must be regarded as namesakes of Scyld mentioned in a saga as the god of the people of Scania. The Danes know nothing of the story in connection with their Skiold. If the people of Scania did find a child exposed in a boat, they may have given the name of their god to him, with the addition of Sceƿing, "the son of the boat," for the word *skiff* in our language proves that there was such a word as *sceƿ* for a boat, cognate to the Greek *σκαφη*, from a verb *sceofan*, or *soufan*, Gr. *σκαπτω*, Anglice *scoop*: A child so found would be without pedigree, and such a distinctive name would naturally be given to him, and doubtless suggested the statement in the Saxon Chronicle. Scyld is really the hero of the story, and his people are not called Sceƿingas, but Scyldingas. The names Sceaƿa, Heremod, Scyld, and Beowa were doubtless common enough; and many names of places may be traced to them; amongst others, Shilbottle, in Northumberland. The name Beowulf never occurs but in this poem, and there is borne by two persons in no way related. It is distinct from Beowa, yet, were it the same, the coincidence would not be greater than in the case of the contemporary Eadberts of Northumberland and Kent.

We have then in the poem:—



The pedigree of the Scandinavian Roar and Helgi, sons of Halfdan, in Hrolf's Kraka Saga, is different from this of Hrothgar and Halga. Their grandfather Beowulf and brother Heorogar are omitted, their sister Signy married Earl Sævil, not Ela, and Hrolf in the Saga is the son of Halga; whilst here Hrothwulf is the cousin of Hrothgar, and by the father's side, as appears by the Scôp's tale. There are some reasons for believing that Hrothgar's ancestors may have settled in Northumbria in the fourth century, for in A.D. 375, a Tuetonic colony came to this country, and the Segas appear to have given their name to Segedunum, on the Wall, early in the fifth century. They are mentioned as subjects of Healfdene. Bolvelaunio (Ravennas) is probably Bolton on the Alne, and may be Beowulfi-Alaunium; and Shilbottle in this neighbourhood

bears the name of his father, Scyld. Hrothgar appears to have moved from the home of his fathers, and we shall have little difficulty in identifying the locality of his settlement.

About 495—for it was twelve years before the date of the poem—he built a fortress, to which he gave the name of Heort. The situation of Hart, in Durham—rather more than two miles from the haven of Hartlepool—agrees with the distance indicated in the poem of Heort from the shore; and it is just the distance from the coast of Suffolk—Hygelac's territory—for the voyage of Beowulf to be accomplished in the time specified. But in a passage of Canto XX. a mere is mentioned "where a hill stream rusheth downwards, under the darkness of the hills, a flood beneath the earth. It is not far hence, a mile's distance, that the mere stands, over which hang barky groves; a wood fast by its roots overshadows the water;—there liveth not one so wise of men who the bottom knows." At this distance from Hart, between it and Thorp Bulmer, there was until lately a large pool called the Bottomless Carr, and from this flowed, and still flows (though the pool has been drained and converted into arable land), the Hoebeck—equivalent to the hill stream of the poem—which runs into the Slake of Hartlepool.<sup>2</sup> The forest has disappeared, but the Slake of Hartlepool is full of the remains of large trees, and similar vestiges appear for nearly two miles along the coast towards Seaton. The lines which describe the course of Hrothgar tracking Grendel's mother along the coast, "precipitous cliffs and many nicor-houses," exactly describe the coast of Hartlepool, with its wave-worn caves.

Shortly after its construction, the fortress of Heort was attacked by the Heatho-Beards, led by Froda and his son Ingeld, and Withergyld. "The hall arose, high and horn-curved. Intense heat of hostile flame awaited it, nor was it yet long ere the warrior promised to swear with oaths that he would cease thenceforth from deadly enmity (l. 163, 171). "My friend [Ingeld], thou mayst recognize the sword, the dear iron, which thy father under his closed helmet bare to the fight for the last time when the Danes slew him, the bold Scyldings gained the fatal field, since Withergyld fell, after the fall of heroes" (l. 4100, 4111). "Hrothwulf and Hrothgar, paternal cousins, longest held peace together, after they had expelled the race of the Wicings, defeated Ingeld's army, slaughtered at Heorote the host of the Heatho-Beards" (Scôp's Tale, 91-100). Near the north-west extremity of the Slake at Hartlepool, a number of holes, nearly eight feet square, have been found, about five feet below the surface, filled with human bones. The Teutonic tribes burned the illustrious dead, but those of lower rank, especially when slain in battle, would be buried.

From the first quotation the battle appears to have caused a peace between Hrothgar and Ingeld. There is no need to look beyond Britain for Hrothgar's adversaries. At Bardsey Moor, near Leeds, there is a remarkable earthwork, which may mark a settlement of this tribe.

A giant of the name of Grendel is said to have terrified Hrothgar's people for twelve years, and was overthrown by Beowulf. Grendel

<sup>2</sup> See Mr. Oliver's letter after this abstract of Mr. Haigh's paper.

(*e. g.* Grindleton in Yorkshire) is found as a man's name, and Grindon<sup>3</sup> may contain it abbreviated. Discarding marvels, there may have been some foundation for the story. When Beowulf visited the court of Hrothgar, Hrothwulf his cousin was there, and "as yet was their peace together." Hrothgar's queen was Wealtheow, of the family of the Helmings, the mother of two sons, Hrethric and Hrothmund, and of a daughter, Freaware. Wulfgar, prince of the Wendels, is present as an ally, and Ingeld the son of Froda, prince of the Heatho-Beards also, an accepted suitor for Freaware. The poet relates events subsequent to the action of the poem by putting prophetic speeches into the mouths of his heroes. Beowulf predicts that an old warrior will call Ingeld's attention to his father's sword carried about the court of the palace by the son of Hrothgar; that Ingeld will murder the prince, and, knowing the country well, make his escape, renounce his bride and rekindle war; that Hrethric will seek aid of the Geats, and Beowulf himself will be allowed by Hygelac to conduct auxiliaries. From Wealtheow's speech also we may infer that Hrothwulf succeeded his cousin Hrothgar, who was much older than he, and repaid the kindness of Hrothgar and Wealtheow to him when a child, by protecting his child. Allusion is afterwards made to the extinction of Hrothgar's race in war, and the elevation of Beowulf to reign over the Scyldings.

Helmington, in Durham, may be connected with the family of Hrothgar's queen, the Helmings; Sedgefield with the Secgas, whose prince was a vassal of Hrothgar's father, Healfdene; Elwick, Elstob, Elton, and Eldon, with Ela, a Scyfling, who married a sister of Hrothgar. Wulfgar, prince of the Wendels, was an ally of Hrothgar when Ingeld was at his court, and may have accompanied him; for in Barwick in Elmet, not far from Bardsey, is a fortress of thirteen acres called Wendlehill.<sup>4</sup>

The father of Beowulf the hero was Ecgtheow, who slew Heatholaf among the Wylfings, who appear (l. 922, 929) to be the same people as the Waras. He fled from their vengeance over the waves, and sought "the south Danes folk, the favour of the Scyldings," when Hrothgar reigned in his youth. Hrothgar paid the wergild for Heatholaf, and Ecgtheow swore fidelity to him, and probably returned to East Anglia (Wymondham).

Beowulf was brought up in the court of his maternal grandfather, Hrethel, and, during the reign of his uncle Hygelac, sailed with fifteen companions to Hart, in order to combat the giant Grendel, whose fame had reached him. "About an hour of the second day the voyagers saw land, the sea-cliffs shine, steep mountains, spacious sea nesses. Then was the sea-sailor at the end of its watery way. Thence the Weders people stepped quickly upon the plain." (l. 456.) The Scyldings' land warden saw them from the wall, and rode down to the shore to enquire their errand. Hearing that they offered assistance to Hrothgar, he committed their vessel to the care of his brother officers, and conducted

<sup>3</sup> Crindale dykes, near Grindon Lough, on the Roman Wall, is called Gryndeldikes in an old deed. 2 Hodg. iii. 329.—*Ed.*

<sup>4</sup> Compare Windleston in Durham.—*Ed.*

them until they came in sight of Heort, and then returned to his post. Arrived at the palace, they put off their armour, and were challenged by Wulfgar, prince of the Wendels, who reported their coming to Hrothgar, and was bidden to usher them into his presence. He received them graciously, and entertained them at a feast. The following night Beowulf vanquished the giant,<sup>5</sup> and a few days afterwards slew his mother. Loaded with presents from Hrothgar and Wealtheow, he returned to "the cliffs of the Geats, the known nesses," where Hygelac met him. The point was probably Burgh Castle, in Suffolk, about 220 miles from Hartlepool, a distance, at eight or nine miles to the hour, a rate at which fishing cobs can easily sail, might be well accomplished in twenty-five hours. On the outward voyage, as Beowulf drew in towards the land, the Huntcliff and Hartlepool cliffs and the Cleveland hills would present themselves, and after passing the cliffs of Hartlepool, on which Hrothgar's coast guard stood, he would disembark on the sands to the north, whence a journey of about two miles would bring him to Hart. On his return he descried the well known cliffs of the Geatas, and the first land he would see would be the only part of Norfolk which possesses any elevation, the mud-cliffs between Cromer and Happisburgh.

After this Beowulf was associated with Hygelac in the kingdom, and, after the fall of the latter, was faithful in his protection of his benefactor's young son, but, on the death of the latter in battle, became sole prince, and long reigned victoriously. His eventful reign over Hrothgar's Scyldings has already been noticed. It is in their neighbourhood that the last scene of his life, in which he is said to have fallen in consequence of an encounter with a dragon, is placed, and it affords an instructive commentary as to the origin of similar stories. It was the rifling of a large chambered tumulus, and the death of Beowulf was probably owing to the mephitic vapour collected within its recesses. It was "the mound in a field, deep by the ness, near to the water waves," (l. 4474)—a mound under "the earth, near the raging of the holm,"<sup>6</sup> the strip of waves," (l. 4813)—"a steep stone hill, the path lay beneath, to men unknown." (l. 4432.) "He saw there by the rampart a stone arch stand, and a stream break out thence from the mount," (l. 5077)—"he looked on the giants' work, how the stone vaults, fast on props, held the eternal earthhouse within." It was evidently a tumulus, containing chambers formed of large flagstones set on edge, supporting others laid horizontally over them; and it was upon a ness or cliff, which is called Earna-næs, over which Beowulf's companions are said to have shovelled into the water beneath the body of the dragon (*i. e.* probably part of the materials of the mound), in order to get at the con-

<sup>5</sup> A field of 81 acres, directly south of Naisbury, near Hart, bounded on the south by Dalton Piercy, is called Thrum's Law. At Catterick tumuli are still traceable at Thrummy Hills, anciently Thyrmhou and Thremhoses, and the name has been traced from the Norse, *Thürmr*, a giant (6 Arch. Jou. 347). But more, the field immediately north of Thrum's Law is called on the Hart sale plans, *Grandy's* close. The occurrence of Grendelsdike, near Grindon Lough, in Northumberland, has already been noticed. In the same locality *Grandy's* Knowe occurs.—*Ed.*

<sup>6</sup> A word common to the low grounds near rivers. See *Prompt. Parv.*, i. 243.—*Ed.*

coaled treasure. The scene was evidently well known to the poet, and is identified with Eaglescliff,<sup>7</sup> a promontory fifty feet high, in Durham, surrounded on three sides by the Tees. The name is a translation of Earnanæs, and was probably given when the reason of the original name being applied was forgotten, for Earndale and Arncliffe seem to indicate settlements in the neighbourhood of a tribe called Earnas, and the name of Yarm may be a contraction of Earnham. The tumulus has disappeared through the value of its materials, but the spring still rises in the churchyard and falls into the Tees.

The body of Beowulf was conveyed to Hronæsnaes, there burned, and a mound, called Beowulfes-beorh, raised over his ashes, so lofty that it could be seen at a distance out at sea. Hrona is preserved in Runswick, near Whitby, four miles to the north of which is a lofty headland which may well have been Hronæsnaes, for on it is the village of Boulby, an easy contraction of Beowulfes-beorh, which name Beowulf expected would be applied to the headland by the seafarers "when the Brentings drive afar over the darkness of the floods." We accordingly find a settlement of that tribe at Brantingham, close to the shore of the Humber.

The reign of Beowulf over the Geats is said to have lasted fifty years, a period which, computed from the date of his visit to Hrothgar's court before 511, immediately after which he was raised to the throne by Hygelac, brings the time of his death so near to the generally received date of the accession of Ælle, that we may regard Ælle, who, as descended from Swerting, was of the kindred of Hygelac and Beowulf, as his successor. The invasion of Eoppa and Ida, who landed at Flamborough some time before 547, but whose kingdom seems to have been confined to Bernicia, may have been that in which Hrothgar's race fell, and the occasion of Beowulf's coming to take possession of Deira.

[The Scôp's Tale, or Traveller's Song, is next reviewed. The date of his journey is marked by his mention of Theodric King of the Franks (511-534). He traversed great part of Europe, but it is probable that most of the tribes and princes whom he visited were settled in England, because the poem is English and shows no traces of any foreign Teutonic dialect, and at that time an Anglo-Saxon would not feel any interest in preserving a mere catalogue of foreign kings and peoples. He visited the Scots and Picts, and would at all events mention the tribes he passed through on his way. A large proportion of those whom he mentions must have been among the colonists of Britain; and the story of Hadugot, his contemporary, shows that in the beginning of the 6th century the complete state of Anglo-Saxon colonization here compelled fresh settlements on the Continent. The residence of some of these tribes is only known in England, whilst of others we have traces both here and abroad. A number of the tribes are connected by Mr. Haigh with the names of places in very varying districts. Crakehall and Craike, in Yorkshire, are mentioned under the Creacas. As to the Denas, or Deningas, it is remarked that "the lord of the Danes" mentioned in

<sup>7</sup> Eggascliff in 1084.—*Ed.*

this poem was Alewih, the opponent of Offa: the Danes were also the subjects of Hrothgar in Durham, and had settlements in Norfolk, according to Gaimar. Under the Hunas we find Hunwick, in Durham. Altogether, Mr. Haigh finds traces in England of at least half of the families mentioned by the Traveller.]

In consequence of Mr. Haigh's paper, the Editor requested Mr. Oswald Oliver of Elwick, a careful local inquirer, to examine Hart and the course of the Howbeck, drawing his attention to certain names on the old plan of Hart manor, printed with the particulars of its sale in 1770. In that plan the Howbeck rises in Bottomless Carr, flows through the "Bottoms," and next has Dunshill on its south side. On its entrance into the village of Hart it is north of the road, on the south of which are *Palace* Garths. On leaving the village the brook crosses the road to the Dean Fall, adjoining which, on the west, are three fields called "Old Kirk," a name much associated with old remains of various kinds. Besides these, Mr. Oliver's observation was directed to two fields, of about fifty acres each, on the north of the road between Hart and the sea, called Basley Hill and Scald Hill. The latter is probably "the Scawle" of the scattered possessions of the North Hart estate in the town fields in 1614.<sup>8</sup> The result of Mr. Oliver's search is not unfavourable to Mr. Haigh's conclusions, and is given below:—

"I took a walk over to Hart yesterday, to examine the places you pointed out to me, commencing with Dunshill, but could find nothing to arrest my attention but a circular hill, of which there are others similar in shape in the adjoining fields. The How Beck has its source in the field called the Bottoms (on the plan), in the south-east corner. The Bottomless Carr surface water and drainage discharge into the Bellows Burn and Catlaw Howl, from thence into Hesledon Dean. The course of the How Beck, from its rising to Hart, about one mile, is through a gradual slope on each side, and from Hart to near a mile further through flat meadow and pasture fields; on leaving Dean Fall it descends into a small glen or valley nearly half a mile in length, a sweet secluded place, the average height of the banks on each side may probably be from six to eight yards, the width at the bottom not above the same; it then pursues its way cross the Warren, and discharges itself into the mere or Slyke at the north-west corner, where we meet with mounds similar to those on the Tees. I could find nothing at Old Kirk, but on the east side of Basley Hill is the appearance of entrenchments. I must now direct your attention to Hart, on the west side of the site of church and the hall: here we have undeniable proof of a fortification, from the fosse or moat along the course of the How Beck, the length of not less than one hundred yards, which forms the south side; on the west side a sunken road marked on the plan as the road to Sunderland;

<sup>8</sup> Then set out by Humphrey Farrowe. The document is in the Editor's possession.



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on the north side, marked as the orchard, the bed of another moat, could not trace anything on the east. I think the extent of area, excluding the church and churchyard, may be nearly two acres. I must not omit mentioning meeting my eye a fragment of ancient masonry, forming part of an out-office attached to the hall. The How Beck, to do it justice, can only be called a rill,<sup>9</sup> but sufficient to supply water for the fosse. I must remark, on leaving the vicarage (marked glebe), the How has a fall of a few feet on entering the moat which I have before described."

**EXHIBITED.**—A miniature portrait, by Sir Antonio More, of Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, who was beheaded in 1572. The picture, which belonged to Richardson the painter, and came out of the Arundel collection, is marked "ÆTATIS 25, 1562." It is engraved by Houbraken among the heads of illustrious men.—P. H. HOWARD, Esq., Corby Castle.

A brass tablet taken from the body of a Russian soldier at Inkermann. It represents St. Basil the Great, in a style little differing from the Byzantine art of former ages.—**THE SAME.**

Specimens of Mosaic work from St. Sophia, the gold being glazed over; a nail crusted over with lava, from Pompeii; an Egyptian scarabæus; an engraved gem; and several Greek and Roman coins from Ephesus.—**MR. BARKER.**

A thin object of brass found near the Roman Wall, at Walker, on Mr. Brown's farm, and suggested by Dr. Bruce to have been used with harness. It is of an oval contour, pierced with two circular holes formed by two eagles' heads sweeping round to the top of a sort of pine-apple ornament. On the body of the object, under the above decorations, is a tiger in considerable relief, striped diagonally with streaks of some black metal.—**MR. BROWN.**

A MS. account of the army quartered near Newcastle, 5 Nov. 1745, when General Wade had a force of 16,398 men, with 34 guns (24 of brass), and upwards of 100 waggons of gunpowder and ball.—**MR. ORMSTON.**

**PRESENTED.**—Supplement to Mr. B. Homer Dixon's Essay on Proper Names.—**THE AUTHOR.**

Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, Vol. II., No. 13.—**THE SOCIETY.**

Proceedings of the Liverpool Architectural and Archæological Society, Vol. II., Part 3.—**THE SOCIETY.**

<sup>9</sup> It must be remembered that its waters are reduced by the diversion of the waters of Bottomless Carr, which in 1770 flowed into it.

Note sur la Sépulture d'un Jeune Guerrier Franc; par M. l'Abbé Cochet.—THE AUTHOR.

Collectanea Antiqua, Vol. IV., Part 2.—MR. C. ROACH SMITH.

Abury Illustrated, by Wm. Long, Esq., M.A., 1858.—DR. THURNHAM, Devizes.

An Essay on the Ancient Weights and Money and the Roman and Greek Liquid Measures, with an Appendix on the Roman and Greek Foot; by the Rev. Robert Hussey, 1836.—THE REV. E. HUSSEY ADAMSON.

On certain Medals of Leonard C. Wyon, by Richard Sainthill; and suggested Types for the Coinage of India, by the same.—THE AUTHOR. [The suggested type contains the Queen's head on the obverse, and the royal crest on the reverse; the oriental inscriptions signifying "Victoria Queen of India, Great Britain and Ireland," and "God and my Right."]

A leaden object (a weight for the steelyard?) found near Minster-acres, covered with intersecting lines and pellets, a fine specimen of its kind.—MR. J. P. DOLPHIN, of Stanhope.

A block of oak, being a portion of the "apron," or "stomach-piece," and therefore of the original fabric, of the Betsy Caines, the vessel wrecked as a collier on the Black Middens of the Tyne in 1827. [The sailors had traditions that she brought over William the Conqueror and William the Third, and that the Roman Church would never prevail in England while she kept afloat. She was, it is believed, under another name, a pleasure yacht of the Prince of Orange; but according to Macaulay (3rd edit. ii. 476, 483), William came from Helvoetsluys to Torbay in a *frigate* called the Brill.]—THE REV. JAMES EVERETT.

RESOLVED.—That the Annual Country Meeting be held at Flodden Field.

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*Monthly Meeting, 2 June.*

John Hodgson Hinde, Esq., V. P., in the Chair.

READ.—A letter on the subject of entrenchments at Hart, printed above, p. 124.—MR. OSWALD OLIVER.

Notes on North Tyndale in 1279, founded on the Iter de Wark. To be printed.—DR. CHARLTON. [Mr. Fenwick, the Steward of the Liberty, stated that he was informed by Mr. Cuthbert Teasdale, admitted an attorney in the time of George II., that the king's writ did not run in the

Franchise of Tyndale until the middle of George III.'s reign. He added that the right of the Steward to execute capital punishment without the intervention of the coroner, as in the case of a decapitation at Bellingham mentioned in the *Iter*, was understood to be valid. The Chairman remarked that several *iters* of the county at large are extant.]

PRESENTED.—An object of cornelian agate, found at Rothbury, somewhat in the form of an arrow-head.—MR. W. A. BROOKS, C.E. [Dr. Charlton stated that it resembled the agates in the claystone porphyry of the Cheviots.]

The Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, Vol. I., N. S., No. 4.—THE SOCIETY.

Memoirs of the late Thomas Wilson, Esq., the author of the Pitman's Pay.—MR. BROCKETT.

ELECTED.—Edward Hailstone, Esq., F.S.A., Horton Hall, Bradford, as an ordinary member.

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*Monthly Meeting, 7 July.*

John Fenwick, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair.

READ.—The Municipal History of Newcastle, printed p. 103.—MR. HODGSON HINDE. [Mr. White had been struck by the frequent allusions in the 16th century to the narrow accommodation for strangers in Newcastle. The Earl of Surrey, before the battle of Flodden, was obliged to move on to make way for others that were at hand. The Editor, in reference to the ancient government of Newcastle by a *præpositus* or provost, drew attention to the frequent mention of such an officer in other places of less moment.]

A letter to Dr. Bruce, in reference to the survey of the Devil's Causeway or Eastern Watling Street, undertaken for the Duke of Northumberland, announcing that the road was traced to within two miles of Berwick Castle, making for that point.—MR. MACLAUCHLAN.

A letter to Dr. Bruce, informing him of the discovery of a Roman amphitheatre at Martigny (on the Simplon road, in Switzerland), the ancient Octodurus. It resembles in position the amphitheatres at Silchester, Dorchester, and Housesteads. The masonry was rude, and the interior fittings had been furnished by the neighbouring forests.—MR. WAY.

A notice of a statue of some size at Alnwick church, which, with one of St. Sebastian, had been disinterred from near the reading-desk. The statue in question is of a king, the head lost, the hands bearing a sceptre and orb. From the girdle hangs a rosary. Under the feet are the well known badges of the house of Lancaster, a lion and an antelope, and it is presumed that we have here the saintly king of the Red Rose, for whom the Percys had so severely suffered.—THE EDITOR.

PRESENTED.—The last remnant of the brazen effigy of Sir Aymer de Athol, from Trinity Chapel, St. Andrew's Church, Newcastle (See Bourne, p. 42), from which the churchwardens have lately removed it. It represents the knight's feet resting upon a spotted leopard.—MR. DONKIN. [There is a notice of Sir Aylmer in White's Otterburn, p. 90.]

The two Roman altars which lay near the Rev. Anthony Hedley's grave at Beltingham. One is plain, the other has a legend not yet read (2 Hodg. iii. 198, 199).—THE REV. MR. CLARKE.

The Odes of Horace, in Four Books, translated into English Lyric Verse by Lord Ravensworth.—THE AUTHOR.

Collections of the Surrey Archæological Society, Vol. I., Part 2.—THE SOCIETY.

The Canadian Journal, No. 15, N.S.—THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE.

Proceedings and Papers of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, Vol. II., N.S., No. 14.—THE SOCIETY.

PURCHASED, by subscription. — The Acts of the High Commission Court within the Diocese of Durham, edited by Mr. Longstaffe for the Surtees Society.

North Allerton, its Annals and Characteristics, by Mr. C. J. Davison Ingledew.

RESOLVED.—That the excursion to Flodden, &c., take place on July 27 and 28.

That Dr. Raine's Life of the Rev. John Hodgson, and the two Newcastle volumes of the Archæological Institute be purchased.