



PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

*Country Meeting, 27 July, 1858.*

A party of the members of the Society breakfasted at the Collingwood Arms, Cornhill, on July 27, the North-Eastern Railway Company having obligingly furnished them with a saloon carriage and return tickets at very liberal rates. Flodden Field was their destination.

At Crookham, between Cornhill and Ford, Mr. White called attention to an upright stone, seven or eight feet high, standing in a field of wheat on the left side of the road, commonly called "The King's Stone," and as to which there are various stories, some saying that here the fight of Flodden ended; and others that it was erected by Surrey in commemoration of the victory. Mr. White held in his hand "A Contemporary Account of the Earl of Hertford's Second Expedition to Scotland," A.D. 1545; edited by Mr. David Laing, who had found the original in Trinity College Library, Dublin; and in that narrative it was stated:—"The Erle of Harford departhit from Nywcastell the 5 day of Settember; and all his armey had a day a pointit to mytte att the Stannyngston vpon Crocke a More the 8 day of these present, and all the caryadge and ordennance and monysson: and so the dyd. The said Erle rod from Nywcastell to Anwicke a Satterday, and ther he rest Sunday; and a Monday to Cheidyngham; and a Tywsseday to the forsaied Ston on Crackamowre." The stone, therefore, was standing on the moor two-and-thirty years after the battle.

Mr. White expressed his belief that the boulder stone (which sinks six or seven feet below the surface) was only a memorial of the battle in so far as it was associated with its history, and that it had occupied its position long before Flodden Field acquired its great renown. Had the stone been purposely erected in memory of the battle, it would have been placed on the ground that was occupied by the armies, and where the fortunes of the day were decided.

The Rev. Robert Jones, Vicar of Branxton, pointed out a bog at the foot of Branxton Hill, where Palinsburn takes its rise. Here, he said, a cannon ball was once found, weighing 13lbs. In a field to the south, also, was picked up a gold coin (French) of the date 1530—which, it has been surmised, may have been dropped by some curious visitor from France, making a pilgrimage to the site of the battle.

In the village of Branxton, the vicar showed his guests the house in which Percival Stockdale, son of one of his predecessors, was born—a thatched cottage. At the door of another cottage stood one of the patriarchs of the hamlet—old George Straughan, hale in body and sound in mind, with eighty winters' snows on his head. His wife's grandmother, he said, was a lassie named Telford in 1745, living in Haddon, seven miles away, when the Pretender passed through that village; and she used to tell how the children were alarmed at the sight of the soldiers. She herself, dressed in "a bit blue frockie, fell down on the road as she was running away, and was pulled up by a Scot, who cried out, laughing, "Weel duin, blue breeks!" and asked "what she was frightened for!"

In the churchyard, Mr. Jones showed the spot where a pit was discovered, several years ago, in which men and horses had been hastily buried together, as their mouldering bones betokened; also, where some busy mole had disclosed to the day a number of silver coins of older date than the battle. The church is modern, but occupies the site of an ancient edifice, and incorporates a pointed chancel arch of transitional date.

At the door of the vicarage stood Mr. Andrew Rankin, one of the churchwardens, aged 70, who had come to meet the antiquaries, and give them information as to a discovery he had made, about the year 1818, of a trench containing human bones. He was making drains for Mr. Henry Collingwood, of Lilburn Tower and Cornhill, the owner of Branxton Hill, and came upon this trench—which he intersected from east to west. It was as wide as the turnpike road where they were all standing, and full of bones. He was not (as had before been stated in print) working for Sir Carnaby Haggerston at the time, but for Mr. Collingwood. The battle-field, he added, was all an open moor in his youth. The hedgerows by which it is now crossed in all directions, he had himself assisted to plant.

On the vicarage table was the manuscript copy of the "Exact History of the Battle of Floddon," from which, contained "in the library of John Askew, Esq., of Palinsburn," the Vicar of Norham, Mr. Lambe, had his edition printed in 1773:—and which, moreover, had been read by Sir Walter Scott, before *Marmion* was written. The author (supposed to have flourished about the time of Elizabeth), recounting the progress of the conflict, sings how—

The ordnance great anon out-brast,  
On either side, with thundering thumps;  
And roaring guns with fire fast,  
Then levelled out great leader lumps.

Such "lumps," in lead and iron, are found all over the field; and Mr. Jones had samples to show his visitors. He had also several old coins. Moreover, there were the remains of a sort of miniature sword, found on or near Yeavinger Bell, but bearing the "mint mark" of England on the silver handle. Mrs. Jones kindly invited the party to cake and wine; and then they turned into a field overlooking the church and village. On Branxton Field, with Crookham Moor beyond, Mr. Rankin pointed to the spot in the Horse Close, the fourth field west from the vicarage, where, at the foot of an eminence, the burial-trench was found. He was asked if he could point out the "Pipard Hill" of the old chronicles, where King James was said to have been slain; but he said he had never heard of such a hill—not from the oldest residents—and his memory went back upwards of sixty years. The village, Mr. Jones stated, formerly extended further than at present, both east and west.

Mr. White's paper on the battle was now read, and will be printed in a revised form in the *Archæologia Æliana*.

Driving along towards Ford, the next halt was opposite the Scottish camp. Alighting, the excursionists entered a field, crossed the brook which ran blood on the day of the battle—(a tradition which has its origin in a popular blunder as to the site of the carnage)—and ascended the high ground on which King James encamped, and where the rock, commonly called his "chair," remained till tastelessly broken in pieces.

Richard Dunn, an intelligent gamekeeper in the service of the Marquis of Waterford, was on the hill, and volunteered his services as guide. He pointed out what he took to be entrenchments of the Scots, but which may possibly be of earlier date—(for it is a country of ancient camps). Ford Castle was shown in the distance—whence the King commanded a view of his camp; and from another point there was a charming view of Milfield Plain, to which the Earl of Surrey, lying on Wooler Haugh, challenged the invader to battle. The challenge was refused; and then, by a course pointed out by the keeper, the English commander marched with his forces behind the hills—crossed the Till by Twisel Bridge—and moved between the King and Scotland:—James, when he perceived the enemy's object, moving to Branxton heights, that Surrey might not seize the same vantage ground.

Mr. White directed the gaze of the party to Homildon, about a mile west from Wooler, where the Earl of Douglas, laden with English plunder, in 1402, was overtaken by the Earl of Northumberland, his son Hotspur, and the Earl of Dunbar. A battle ensued, which the English warriors won without sword or spear, the Northumbrian archers, alone, discomfiting the Scots.

Before quitting the classic height, the antiquaries quaffed the waters of a well which may have slaked the thirst of James IV., and then proceeded to the Delaval Arms, at Ford, where they dined.

Captain Carpenter, of Ford Cottage, now exhibited, with other rarities, a portion of an ancient gold chain, each link consisting of three rings. It was found, he stated, near the king's encampment. Mr. Dixon Clark favoured the antiquaries, during the day, with an inspection of a pair of spurs, bronze gilt, with fleurs-de-lis, which had been dug up by the walls of Belford Castle. Sir. S. Meyrick, to whom they had been shown, pronounced them to be of the time of Hedgley Moor.

Ford Castle and Church were next visited; and then such of the pilgrims as preferred returning home at the close of the first day, took leave of those who remained behind, and drove back to Cornhill, where they found the children of the schools in gamesome glee—it being the wedding-day of Sir John Majoribanks of Lees—who had lent the antiquaries a handsome “drag” for their Border drive.

On the 28th, Ford Church was again inspected. Part of the rectory-house remains, with its thick walls and gloomy features. Ford Castle was nearly destroyed by James IV. on his last fatal incursion into the Borders; but its corner towers seem by their strength to have resisted the attempts of the spoiler. Captain Carpenter kindly took the party over the most interesting portions of the interior. A bed-room, traditionally called the “King's Chamber,” and some drawings of the castle in its former state, particularly attracted their attention. A visit to the tumuli near Ford Colliery—Roughting Linn—and the Camp and curiously-carved Stone near it—closed the proceedings of the day.

On Wednesday morning, the Parsonage House at Cornhill was visited. The Rev. S. A. Filer stated that his ancestor, Robert Arnot of Woodmilne, Fifeshire, carried the royal standard at Flodden, and fell at his sovereign's side. In 1780, a seal of solid silver was picked up on the field, graven with the arms of Arnot. Mr. Filer showed the excursionists an impression of it; and exhibited other objects of interest.

Twisel Bridge is but a short drive from Cornhill. Hither they were conducted by John Laing, Esq., of Cornhill. The advanced portion of Surrey's army, and his artillery and baggage waggons, passed over it on their way to Flodden. The bridge consists of a circular arch of great span, and is strengthened underneath by five ribs.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> EDWARD SWINBURNE, Esq., to MR. J. B. TAYLOR.—Capheaton, 5 Sep. 1819.—I have a pretty bird's-eye view of the Twysel Dean, with the Till and Sir F. Blake's Castle (which by the way is a tasteless thing, but it is a large mass.) The objection to this view is the omission of the interesting bridge at Tillmouth, of which no part is seen from the spot, which is the bank opposite the mill. The incipient bridge of

Kippie Hill also lies at a short distance from Cornhill, but in a different direction. To this spot, also, Mr. Laing guided the party. The encampment is a very strong and peculiar one: Within the lines of entrenchment, near one extremity of it, is an artificial hill of considerable elevation. There are no traces of masonry about Kippie Hill. Near to the hill is a marsh, which is supposed to have been used, when drained, for concealment or ambush. It has had a fosse all round it at least 15 feet wide, and a cutting through the middle. These drains are now choked, and the place yields the best cranberries in the world. Among the names of the neighbouring farms, is the singular assemblage of Kilham, Downham, Pass-on, and Press-on: Several lines of terraces, resembling those in the vicinity of Roman camps, and which are supposed to be connected with a peculiar system of cultivation still adopted in some parts of Italy, are seen on the outskirts of this camp.

Passing over the fruitful plain of Milfield, and receiving the friendly attentions of George Grey, Esq., of Milfield Hill, the party arrived at Yeavinger Bell, a conspicuous hill of the Cheviot range. It is impossible, without the aid of diagrams, to describe the forms and cunning contrivances which characterize the camps upon this and very many of the neighbouring hills. The ramparts are usually adapted to the form of the ground, and are composed of large masses of loose stones. They constitute, even in their present fallen state, a very formidable barrier; and unless the traveller treads upon them cautiously, he will quickly come to the ground. In some cases the entrance is defended by a traverse; in others, where there are several lines of rampart, the breastwork of the inner is made to cover the gateway of the one more remote. The travellers noticed, with great interest, in nearly all the camps, the remains of the habitations of their original occupants: These have been circular huts, partly sunk in the ground. Advantage is often taken of a rise in the ground, so as to ensconce the kraal in a partly sheltered nook. With much satisfaction, the tourists met Mr. Mac- lauchlan at Wooler, and, by his permission, inspected his plans of the camps on Yeavinger Bell and Homildon Heugh, executed by order of the Duke of Northumberland.

After spending two hours upon the Bell, the party descended, and

Sir F. B., just below the mill, is a feature. I toiled much, and made many attempts to get a view of the dean, with the bridge and castle, from nearer points on the eastern bank; but all is there so grown up, it was in vain. I made a drawing of the bridge near it, and tried to coax in the castle through the trees. The old bridge is handsome, but they do not combine well. The scenery there is fine. I got a sketch also of the castle below the bridge, in the next turn of the river, but the bridge is lost: the castle is the only object and very lumpish. The river and banks are pretty. I must think more of this subject."

visited the villages of Old and New Yeavinger, and the church of Kirknewton. This locality is intimately connected with the introduction of Christianity amongst the Saxons of Northumberland. Beda, writing of the labours of Paulinus, says:—"So great was then the fervour of the faith, as is reported, and the desire of the washing of salvation among the nation of Northumbrians, that Paulinus, at a certain time, coming with the king and queen (Edwin and Ethelberga) to the royal country-seat, which is called Adgefrin (Yeavinger), stayed there with them thirty-six days, fully occupied in catechizing and baptizing; during which days, from morning till night, he did nothing else but instruct the people, resorting from all villages and places, in Christ's saving word; and when instructed, he washed them with the water of absolution in the river Glen, which is close by. This town, under the following kings, was abandoned, and another was built instead of it, at the place called Melmin (Milfield)."<sup>2</sup>

An examination of the battle-ground of Homildon followed. The antiquaries read upon the spot the chronicles of the fight, and endeavoured to fix its precise locality and realise its scenes. This being done, they sought the aid of the host of Wooler Cottage.

Early next morning they were to be seen upon the heights of Homildon Heugh, examining the ancient camp there.

After breakfast, one section of them proceeded to view the very curious and elaborate camp called Kettle Camp, and the hill named from its peculiar conformation the Cup and Saucer Hill. On the latter summit some traces of ramparts were observed.

The other section went to Doddington, where is an ancient peel tower, three stories in height. A rude inscription upon its battlements was read as:—T. G. MILES HVIVS STRVCTVRE SV'PTVM FECIT. A.D. 1656. The fort was considered to be older than this date. The battlements are not original. The gables, which formerly terminated in what are called "crow-steps," are now covered with a water table, and the entrance tower bears marks of being an addition. Probably these and other alterations were made in the year indicated, by some of the Grey family.

On the heights above Doddington are some very interesting camps of the primeval period; and in their vicinity several of those curious carvings on the native rock to which the attention of archæologists has but lately been turned. They were not visited, as the Junior Secretary of the Society had seen and could describe them, and as the sons of the Rev. William Procter, the incumbent of the village, had kindly supplied drawings of the carvings.

<sup>2</sup> Giles' translation.

Chillingham Castle and Park were the next objects of attraction. Lord Ossulston offered the hospitalities of his house for the evening, which were reluctantly declined. He kindly conducted the tourists over the castle; and afforded every facility for observations. The church contains the fine tomb of Sir Ralph Grey, of Wark, Heton, and Chillingham, son of Sir Thomas Grey, who was beheaded in 1415, for conspiring against Henry V. The wild cattle of Chillingham park were of course an object of interest. The archæologists were driven as far into its fastnesses as was practicable, in one of his lordship's carriages; and unsuccessfully pursued their search on foot. The animals had perhaps been scared before; or perhaps, owing to the heat of the day, they had retired into the shade. A calf was however disturbed. Usually when a calf is roused it rushes at the intruder, and raises a cry which brings the whole herd down upon him. Fortunately on this occasion it quietly retired.

The travellers were now constrained to take the shortest route to the railway, and to seek their homes.<sup>3</sup>

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*Monthly Meeting, 1 Sept.*

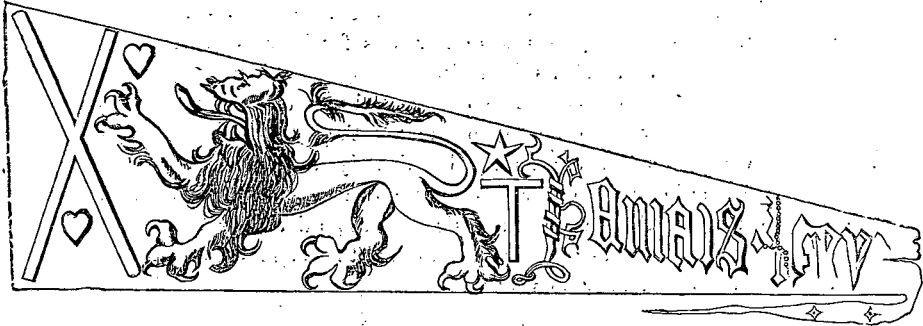
John Clayton, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.

COMMUNICATIONS.—Some notices of the standards of Keith and Douglas, lately inspected by Mr. White. That of Keith, Marischal of Scotland, is said to have been borne at Flodden, and is preserved in the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh. It is of faded silk, fringed all round, with the motto VERITAS VINCIT, and the three stags' heads wrought upon it in black. It is four feet four inches long, and one foot six inches broad where it was fastened to the staff, whence it tapers off in a swallow-tailed form, there being an opening about ten inches up the standard. The exposure of this interesting relic to the action of a western sun is to be regretted.

The Douglas standard, preserved at Cavers, is of green silk, and contains some rude stitches of reparation put in by Sir Walter Scott. Only a facsimile of it, made under the direction of the poet, is unrolled to visitors, who apply in such numbers, in person and by letter, that the family do not intend to allow the standard to be seen by strangers henceforth. Surely a facsimile might be exhibited at the Advocates' Library. The length is thirteen feet; the breadth at the staff end three feet.

<sup>3</sup> Principally derived from an able report of the excursion in the *Gateshead Observer*, the editor not having been present.

The opening of the swallow-tail extends three feet three inches upon the banner, and the points are about fifteen inches apart. The standard contains the cross of St. Andrew, the hearts and stars of the Douglas bearing, and a lion passant, with the motto *Jamais array* [ere] It is engraved in the Border Antiquities, and the Battle of Otterburne by



Mr. White (who has kindly permitted the use of his cut), and was considered by Scott to have been carried by a Douglas at the Battle of Otterburne; but this standard of thirteen feet length has sometimes absurdly been put forward as a pennon from the lance of which it is said that Hotspur was then deprived. What Sir Walter calls the Percy pennon is also figured by him, and is described by Mr. White as of a triangular shape, about nine by ten inches, like a lady's bag, with two openings from the bottom. The colour is brown; there is a lion upon it, and it is thickly wrought over with small pearls. There is also a similar object which may be enclosed in it. Mr. White is of opinion that it never was a pennon. In the box which contains these precious relics at Cavers is the National Covenant of Scotland, signed by Montrose and the other chief men of that kingdom.—MR. WHITE.

A notice of a broken iron signet ring, set with an artificial stone, bearing a figure of Minerva, and closely resembling a design in Tapz's Gems, plate 26. It has recently been found at Borcovicus. A plain iron ring was the Roman wedding ring. Such rings are rarely met with in Roman stations, the iron having oxidized and decayed; and this may account for the number of intaglios found without setting.—DR. BRUCE.

EXHIBITED.—A photograph (by the Rev. J. T. Dunn, of Warkworth) of the fragment of an altar discovered within the last few years at Glos-  
ter Hill, at the south of Coquet, and submitted to the Editor by Captain



Linskill of Morwick Hall. It was in a field without apparent connection with buildings. The inscription is [CA]MPESTRI[BVS] COH. I. [perhaps II.] An altar to these field deities, published by Gruter, commences in the same way. The Editor's reading has been approved by Dr. Bruce, who states that the *Campestres* are sometimes termed *deæ*. Gloucester Hill was called Gloucestre in the twelfth century,<sup>4</sup> and we have doubtless the same elements in it as occur in the name of the city of Gloucester. A little to the south-west is Chester Hill. This is the first occurrence of a Roman inscription in that part of Northumberland.—THE EDITOR.

PRESENTED.—A copy, in German, of the Rev. James Yates's paper on the Danubian Wall.—THE AUTHOR.

Sketches of Kertsch, and a further account of Assyrian and Egyptian Antiquities in Turkey, by John Hogg, Esq.—THE AUTHOR.

Roman sepulchral inscriptions.—THE REV. J. KENRICK.

Five rubbings of brasses.—DR. CHARLTON.

A photograph of the Black Gate.—MR. WORDEN.

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, No. XLVII.—THE SOCIETY.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Vol. II., Part II.—THE SOCIETY.

ELECTED.—Mr. F. D. Robinson, of Whitby, as an Ordinary Member.

RESOLVED.—That a copy of the Northumbrian Muster Roll, *temp.* Hen. VIII., be presented to the Rev. R. Jones, of Branxton, in slight acknowledgment of his valuable attentions to the Society on their visit to Flodden Field.

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*Monthly Meeting, 6 October.*

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

COMMUNICATIONS.—A letter from the historian of South Yorkshire to the Chairman on the subject of the Chillingham inscriptions.

“Torrington Square, August 18, 1858.—My dear Sir,—I have been much interested by the singular inscriptions in the Hall of Chillingham,

<sup>4</sup> The water which ran under Gloucestre to Coket was the southern boundary of a saltery granted by Roger fitz Richard, Lord of Warkworth, by advice of his wife Adeliza, and with the confirmation of his son Richard, to the monks of Newminster. As such it is mentioned in the charters of these persons.—*Mr. Woodman's copy of the Newminster Cartulary.*

and the elucidations of them, classical and biographical, in the *Archæologia Æliana*; and so I conceive must have been every other member of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

“My friend Dr. Raine is so intimately acquainted with every thing relating to the Northern Counties, and is so cautious and admirable a critic, that I should not have dared even to hint at the possibility that these inscriptions are the composition of any person not named by him, had he pointed out any one person as the author as decidedly as he has disproved the claims of nearly every person named by others; but as he does not affirm, but only states with some reserve the claims of even his most favoured candidate, he will, I am sure, allow me to consider the question as still an open one, and excuse me if I bring another candidate into the field, and suggest the probabilities that occur to me as giving to him a claim to the authorship, even should hereafter his better information, or the knowledge of some other member of the Society, show that this claim cannot be supported.

“The person I mean is THOMAS DENNY, who is thus spoken of in a letter of Mr. John Cade, written from Gainford in 1789, and printed in Nichol’s *Literary Anecdotes*, Vol. VIII., p. 321. Cade writes as if he knew him. He is speaking of Sedbergh, and he says, ‘It is of note for its well endowed school, where the *eccentric Denny* and many distinguished literary characters were educated.’

“All the contemporaries of Denny must have been long dead, and possibly even the memory of him may have faded away. At least I know not that he is any where mentioned in any printed writing, except in the passage just quoted; nor do I remember to have ever heard his name mentioned by any of my northern friends. Yet he was a remarkable man; and whether his claim to be the author of the Chillingham inscriptions be admitted or no, the members of the Newcastle Society may not be sorry to place in their transactions a singular memorial of him, on which I rest the probability that he prepared the two inscriptions on which Lord Ravensworth has so eloquently commented.

“This memorial is an Epitaph *de seipso*, written by him. I found it among a packet of papers similar in kind, collected by a gentleman who died in February, 1783. There is no date; but I presume the original, from which he transcribed it, might well be written twenty or thirty years before, which will carry back the era of poor Denny to about the time when the inscriptions were prepared.

“The epitaph is as follows:—

“Quos e terra mutuo accepit cineres

Hic reposuit THO. DENNY:

Qui Græcæ linguæ peritissimus fuit, et mire memor;  
plures tametsi abhinc annos, pro<sup>o</sup> obtuso visu,  
a libris alienus.

Multi, ut eum torquerent, difficiles sententias  
astute excogitabant,  
et in pensum præscripserunt ut Græcæ redderet;  
quod insperato et extemplo absolvit.

<sup>o</sup> *Var.*, præ.

Homo fuit incerti lecti et laris :  
 lacunari suo nusquam ebone vel auro renidente :

Eheu miseriarum fallax lenimen !

Fœnile erat pro cubiculo, pro cubili strues,  
 et ubique jacuit. —

Ὅμηρομανίᾳ captus, veluti ipse Homerus  
 vicatim oberravit, et Rhapsodias ostiatim recitavit;

nummuli, victus, et vestitus ergo;

et græcari subinde solitus (quis culpâ vacat ?)

Anacreontis lepidas cecinit<sup>6</sup> cantilenas;

aut audaces Pindari dithyrambos :

Pannosa paupertate placidus, innocuus,

curis solutus, et æquo animo beatus,

supremum diem neque optavit neque metuit.

Halton (viculus in agro Lancastriensi)

huc usque<sup>7</sup> sine certamine hunc indigenam

sibi vindicat.

νῦν πλάνην ἐρύξει

ἢ φυσίχοος.

“ I submit the following translation :—

“ The ashes which he had borrowed from the earth  
 THOMAS DENNY has here restored.

A man he was most skilful in the Greek tongue, and  
 with a memory wonderfully stored with it :

But for many years, owing to the failing of his sight,  
 estranged from books.

Many to perplex him were accustomed cleverly to devise  
 difficult sentences,

and prescribe it as a task to him to turn them into Greek,  
 which he accomplished to their amazement and at once.

He was a man uncertain of couch and home :

His house-tree never shone with ivory or gold.

Alas ! the deceitful solace of his miseries  
 was to have a hay-loft for his bedchamber, straw for his couch,  
 and to lay down wherever he could find a place.

Homer-mad, like Homer himself

he wandered from village to village, and recited his rhapsodies from door  
 to door,

for pence, for food and raiment :

and becoming given to habitual *græcisism*, (who is free from fault ?)

he sung the pretty songs of Anacreon

or the bold dithyrambs of Pindar.

In his patched poverty gentle, innocent,

free from error and blest with even spirits,

he neither longed for nor dreaded the day of death.

Halton, a small village in Lancashire,

<sup>6</sup> *Var.*, devolvit.

<sup>7</sup> *Var.*, hucusque.

hitherto, without a rival, claims him  
as one born in her.

Now the life-bearing earth  
ends his wandering.

“The various allusions to the Greek and Latin writers will be at once perceived, and also that they are happily applied: but it seems to me that there is a resemblance in the use of the passage alluded to, to the same artifice which is so conspicuous in the Chillingham inscriptions—and generally, that there is sufficient reason to think they were all coined in the same mint.

“I would also submit whether we are not to assign to him, before he became blind, intemperate, and a beggar, the inscription on James Purdy.

“The epitaph was written by him late in life; the inscriptions, if his, when his mind had not lost any portion of its vigour, or his memory its stores.—I am, my dear Sir, very faithfully, JOSEPH HUNTER.—Aug. 24.—If worthy, Mr. Hinde will perhaps have the goodness to bring this communication under the notice of the Society. I have been fearful lest it may turn out that the epitaph is already well known.—J. H.”

[The Society is at all events much obliged to Mr. Hunter for recalling the memory of Denny from its thick veil. Since the epitaph was in type, I have stumbled upon it in 49 *Gent. Mag.*, 191. There it presents one or two slight variations, which I have introduced as notes to Mr. Hunter's copy, and the conclusion is as follows:—

ἴνυ πλανῆν ἐρυξεί  
Γῆ φυσίζοος. *Hom. Iliad*, xxi.

— nunc erronem coercebit

Alma terra.—*Hom. Iliad*, xxi. v. 61, 62.

—“The grave will hold the wanderer.”—*Pope*.

GUL. DAWSON, Armig. aulâ de Langcliffe, prope Settle, in agro Eboracensi.

Sedbergh school was an object of the bounty of Sir Anthony Denny, and the Society may not be indisposed to print the notice of his unfortunate namesake which appears with Mr. Dawson's effusion. I give it below, first remarking that in page 286, another correspondent of the Magazine asks (in vain, as far as I see) for the years of the birth and death of “the justly celebrated Thomas Denny,” and the occupation of his father; and that in p. 405 is an English ‘imitation,’ or paraphrase, of the epitaph, dated Leeds, July 17, 1779, the year of the Magazine.

“THOMAS DENNY was one of the celebrated Mr. Wharton's scholars at Sedbergh, where he laid a good foundation of learning and accuracy in the learned languages, being blessed with a retentive memory, and great

mental powers. His first employ after leaving school, having no friends or connections to further his advancement in life, was the defatigating task of a schoolmaster at Dent; a vocation not at all suitable to his volatile genius, and eccentric conduct as a preceptor. During his residence there, he gave an early specimen of his classical knowledge, and poetic genius, in an Epithalamium, or bridal song, in Greek and Latin. In a few years he bid adieu to his laborious and fatiguing occupation, and commenced literate itinerant. His manner was to travel annually through several parts of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Westmoreland, and call on such gentlemen, clergy, and laity, as had a taste for classics; also, at such grammar-schools as were within the circuit of his perambulations; where, in general, he met with a welcome reception. To such scholars and young students as were desirous of making a speedy and thorough progress in their humanity studies, he was always a pleasing associate, being an excellent grammarian, and very knowing and singularly skilful in idioms and minutiae of the ancient languages. Among the Roman poets, Horace and Virgil were his chief favourites, as Homer was of the Greek, whose stile he has well imitated in a translation of the first six books of Milton's *Paradise Lost* into Greek; which, with a great number of detached pieces on various subjects, in that and Latin, were preserved by several gentlemen of his acquaintance. Betwixt him and the gentleman who drew up his sepulchral eulogy, there was the greatest intimacy and friendship from their juvenile years to Denny's death, who paid the last debt to Nature at Mrs. Bennison's in Hornby, and was interred in the church-yard of Mellinge, Lancashire.—JOSEPH LEACH.—*Mr. Walker's Academy, Leeds.*"

And here I think it well to insert a description of the Chillingham tablet from 26 *Gent. Mag.*, 74.<sup>7</sup> It occurs in "a description of the present state of Alnwick and the neighbouring places in Northumberland, which is, in the minutest particular, impartially true. The necessity of procuring such accounts from persons who really reside at or near the place they describe, appears by the gross errors which are published with much confidence and ostentation in some late monthly collections."

"About twelve miles north-west of Alnwick stands Chillingham Castle, a seat of Ld. Tankerville. It is a large old building, of a quadrangular form, in good repair, and well furnished. Several writers have related, that in sawing a block of marble for the chimney piece of the great hall, a living toad was found in the body of the stone, which exactly filled the cavity where it lay, as a figure of metal fills a mold in which it is cast. I shall not take upon me to determine how much of this strange story is true, but content myself with giving an account of such circumstances relating to it, as came within my own knowledge. The chimney-piece of the hall was not marble but free-stone, and in that part which

<sup>7</sup> The article led to the communication to the Magazine of several other stories of the discovery of toads in stones.

lay transversely from side to side, and formed the top of the chimney-piece, there was a hole of an irregular figure, plainly corresponding with the parts of an animal; its greatest length was about seven inches, and its greatest depth, which was in an oblique direction, about five. The inside was incrustated with a dark brown substance, of a close texture, that was perfectly smooth and even, as if it had been polished. In another chimney-piece at Harton Castle there was a like hollow, nearly of the same dimensions, which appeared to be the other half of the mould, but both are now destroyed. That part of the stone which was at Harton, has been broken and defaced, I know not how; and the late Earl of Tankerville having a few years ago caused a window to be made where the fire-place was, this part of the chimney-piece was broken by the workmen, and built into the wall. There is, however, *still remaining* a large frame that *used to hang* over the mantle-piece, in which is the resemblance of a coat of arms, a large toad in the field, the crest a toadstool, with a less toad upon it, the mantling is snakes interwoven, the carving on the frame itself is serpents and effets, and the following inscription is written in letters of gold, in two ovals, one on the left side of the arms, and the other on the right."

Here follow the inscriptions, side by side, and, below them in the centre, are the appropriate words—" *Est et a Jove bufo,*" which, if existing, are not elsewhere mentioned. This anonymous communication is in the Magazine of 1756. In 1769, Wallis mentions that "in one of the ground rooms is a remarkable chimney-piece, wherein a live toad was discovered in sawing the block in two:—the nidus of the toad visible till plastered over by the order of the late Lord Tankerville. In the same room is a painting of it, from which the late Mr. Warburton took a drawing, and prefixed to it the following verses." Warburton died in 1759, having, as Dr. Raine remarks, been much in Northumberland from 1716. Hutchinson, who quotes Wallis as to the nidus, "inquired after this curiosity, but the housekeeper knew nothing of it." The nidus is now reported as being open, but the accounts admit of reconciliation. The age of the painting would probably be settled at once, after an inspection of careful drawings and rubbings from it.]

#### Notes of Border Stories.—DR CHARLTON.

It is rather remarkable that so few anecdotes have been preserved of the daring deeds of the Borderers, famous as these men have been in history for their lawless bravery and constant warfare with their neighbours. During the last 150 years, however, the Borderers have been, in spite of the contrary assertion by the veracious Lord Macaulay, profoundly peaceable; and the last two or three generations appear to have forgotten and neglected the tales of daring enterprise and deadly feud and combat which were rife at an earlier period, and formed then, no doubt, the staple 'folk lore' of the district. One of the last of the

old Borderers, and who seemed to have retained much of the warlike, turbulent spirit of his ancestors, was a gigantic man of the name of Milburne, as famous for the strength of his lungs, as for his prowess in clearing a fair or emptying a keg of whisky. Muckle Jock Milburne, of Bellingham, has now been dead some years; but in spite of whisky-drinking all his life, he was past his 80th year when gathered to his forefathers. Of these forefathers, the turbulent Milburnes of North Tyne, he had retained one or two characteristic anecdotes; but though we give them nearly in the language he used, it is impossible to imitate the strong Border accent, the mixture of Northumbrian and Scotch, with a preponderance of the latter dialect, in which these stories were given by Muckle Jock Milburne:—"My fore-elders, wi' twa ithers, gaed yence over the Borders to lift sheep on the Scottish side; for the Scots thieves had harried sair in Tynedale. They gaed over by the Coquet heid, and lifted the sheep near Yetholm, and druv them down by Reedwater heid, when the Scots cam' after them, three to three. My fore-elders made a stand upon the fell, and the Scots cam' bravely up. Ane of our side fell at the first foregatherin', and anither was wounded; but ane of the Scots fell, too. My fore-elder was then sare beset with the twa Scots, till he gat a straik at ane of them wi' his swaird, and garred his heid spang along the heather like an onion! And then the third Scot tuik aff over the hill, and my fore-elder carried the sheep into Tynedale." Another anecdote of the Milburnes is perhaps worth preserving, and it was obtained from the same source:—"One of the Milburnes, a celebrated fighter, quarrelled in Bellingham with another Borderer; and, of course, the difference was to be decided with the broadsword, or with the whinger and dagger then commonly borne. As the parties stripped to their shirts in the street, Milburne suddenly turned to his wife, who was a spectator of the combat, and cried out, "Wife! bring me out a clean sark:—it s'all niver be said that the bluid of the Milburnes ran down upon foul linen!"

[Mr. Fenwick said, he knew Jock Milburne well. He was one of his bailiffs of the barony of Wark. Mr. William Brandling, one of the receivers of Greenwich Hospital when that charity held the barony, occasionally took Jock with him when he went a-shooting on Hareshaw Common; and the Rev. Ralph Brandling, of Gosforth, being one day of the party, fancied that Jock was a little too free, taking greater liberties than became him. He therefore roundly rebuked him, using sundry uncanonical oaths, till Jock broke in upon the commination service, exclaiming:—"Hech, man! they mun ha'e been very short o' timmer, when they m'yed thee a pillar o' the Church!"—Mr. White contributed another story of Jock, namely, that having been sent into Lincolnshire with 2,000*l.* to buy sheep, he said on his return that all the time he sat on the coach as he went, he kept thinking that nobody there had so much money in his pocket as himself.—Mr. Fenwick stated, that Jock was often present at the barony dinner, and took his wine, but he had never seen

him the worse of drink.—Dr. Charlton replied that he should think not; it would be very difficult to make Jock drunk.]

Two letters from Mr. Clayton to Dr. Bruce, descriptive of Roman remains in France and Italy.

Avignon, September 13, 1858.—My dear Sir,—My head quarters are still in this pleasant city, from whence I have seen Nismes, the Pont du Gard, and Orange. To-day I shall proceed to Arles.

You will find much matter of interest whenever you visit this district. In the buildings of Avignon *itself* (the Roman Avenio), the traces of the Romans are nearly obliterated. Seeing that in the middle ages it was a city containing a population of 80,000 souls (now reduced to 30,000), it is not to be wondered at that all the Roman materials were worked up for the accommodation of so vast a population, confined by fortifications to a narrow space. The few bits of Roman masonry which remain may be seen in an hour; but in the Museum days may be spent with advantage.

The small number of altars to be found in this vast collection of objects of interest, strikes me as a singular feature. There are little more than half a dozen altars, and these (with one exception) of the rudest character. There is a very rude altar to Jupiter Depulsor; two or three to Mars; one to "Sylvanus Aug.;" one inscribed, in very rude letters, "DEA . VICTORIA CONS. . . . TVTA"; two inscribed "NYMPHIS." All these appear to be of the Lower Empire.

The exception is a beautiful altar to Mercury in marble. Round it is a delicately carved border of flowers; and on each side a fig-tree in full leaf in bold relief. The inscription:—"MERCVRIO . SEXTVS . SILVIVS . SYLVESTER . ICCIANVS." This altar has found its way to the Museum within the last few weeks, having been found in 1851 at Vaison (the Roman Vasio of Gallia Narbonnensis)—from which town much of the wealth of the Museum of Avignon has been drawn.

There is likewise an altar of a somewhat superior class which was found at the little town of Caderousse inscribed—"NUM . AVG . PRO . SALVTE . IMP . M . AVE . COMMODI." And this is the only altar from which any date can be collected.

The sepulchral stones are numerous, and many of them richly ornamented with sculpture. Many of the inscriptions indicate that the monuments to which they apply were erected by the *heredes ex testamento*, which may account for the apparent lavish expenditure in ornament, the testator having set apart the funds for the purpose.

One which was found at Rousillon near Vacluse, last year, contains a superfluous letter, which puzzles the Concierge. The inscription is—"D . M . C . LVCELLIA . C . SEVERINO . FILIO PIENTISSIMO . QVEM LIBERTVS SVVS HOCIDIT." The French do not know what to make of the superfluous H with which the last word commences. I fancy they have not, like us, portions of their population who prefix an aspirate to syllables beginning with a vowel.

A stone of a sepulchral character, found at Vaison, bears this very curious inscription:—"D . SALVSTIO . ACCEPTO . OPIFICES LAPIDAR . OB SEPVLTVRAM EIVS."



And two stones found at Vaison, placed in the ground at a distance of three metres from each other, are each of them thus inscribed:—"AREA . LATA . P . X . LONG . P . X ."

In the space between these two stones were excavated tombs containing urns filled with calcined bones and glass lachrymatories. It would seem that the Romans were careful in mapping out the ground appropriated to their sepulture.

On a massive column is inscribed:—"IMP . CÆS . T . AELIO . HADRIANO . ANTONINO . AVG . PIO . PP . TRIB . P . . . . . COS . III ."

The remains of sculpture and architecture which are collected in the Museum are, for the most part, of a high order. There are very good antique marble busts of the Emperors Tiberius, Domitian, and Verus. It is, however, in its minor Roman antiquities that this Museum is pre-eminent. The number and elegance of the vessels of glass, and of the urns, lamps, and vessels of earthenware, leave the eye little to desire. It would seem that the French *disinter* objects of antiquity with much more care than we exercise in England. There is scarcely a vessel of any sort which is fractured in the slightest degree. The articles of bronze are numerous and satisfactory; and also the ornaments of the person. I observed several iron signet rings, and some of gold. None of the latter can vie in elegance with the gold ring found at Boreovicus.

You will be surprised to hear that of this splendid Museum there is no catalogue. The government, it is said, are about to publish a catalogue of all the Roman antiquities found in *Gaul*. In the meantime, we must grope our way without that aid.

The Conservateur of the Museum, Mons. Deloye, and the Concierge, Mons. Binon, have been most courteous. They have given me access to Greuter and Orellius, and a pile of French authors on antiquities. The Concierge (whose social position resembles that of our own Warder) understands Latin and speaks it freely; and from morn till eve cheerfully attends upon the people visiting the Museum, which is accessible to the public without any payment.

How creditable it is to a small town like this (having less than 30,000 inhabitants) to maintain such an establishment.

It seems that this Museum of Avignon was founded in the year 1810, by a patriotic citizen, M. Calvet, who, during the disorders of the French Revolution and the dispersion of the literary treasures of the French monasteries, had made a vast collection of books and objects of antiquity, all of which he left to the city. The municipality of Avignon has since proved itself worthy of the liberality of the founder, by the care which it has taken of the gift, and the industry which has been exercised in adding to the collection everything that has been since found, either at Avignon or any of the neighbouring towns, which could be purchased. At the same time it has been open to receive, and has received many donations.

I must now take you to Orange (the Roman Arausio). The pencil of the artist (Fairholt, pp. 102, 104, of Part II. Vol. V. of Mr. Roach Smith's *Collectanea Antiqua*) has already put us in possession of the two objects of interest here, the triumphal arch and the theatre. The architectural beauty of the triumphal arch is very considerable. The

Guide Book suggests that as the name "Marius" is on one of the sculptured shields, the arch was raised to commemorate Marius' victory over the Cimbri. Unfortunately for this hypothesis, I make out eight or ten names on the shields, as well as that of Marius. The French savants ascribe to this work the date of the reign of Tiberius, and make up their minds that the sculpture represents the victories of his legate, Julius Florus, over the Belgians, and of his legate, Julius Sacrovir, over the Gauls. They found their conclusion on the arms and accoutrements of those with whom the Romans are combating—a very uncertain test.

The théâtre possesses much of grandeur of proportion, but must be seen *before* the amphitheatre of Nismes. No vestige of an inscription has been found, save, on one of the three lower stone seats, the letters "EQ. C. III," which the Concierge conceives mark the rank of the persons to whom these seats were appropriated.

There is no collection of antiquities here. All that is moveable has gone to Avignon.

The remains of the magnificent buildings of Nismes (the Nemausus of the Romans) and of the Port du Gard are made known to the world by the engravers. The inscriptions and other objects of a moveable character are collected in the Maison Carrée. Here, as at Avignon, I observed the paucity of altars. One struck me as novel; and I afterwards found a similar altar at Avignon.

At Nismes, "PROXYMIS . SVIS . CORNELIA . CVPITA."

At Avignon, "PROXVMIS . POTITA . C . CODONIS F . V.S.L.M."

The French antiquaries assume these inscriptions to have reference to the Penates, who are described as *Deis Proximis*. Both of the inscriptions are evidently of the Lower Empire.

In and around the Maison Carrée you will find a fine collection of sepulchral stones and of architectural fragments of great beauty. There is also an altar to Jupiter of Heliopolis and of Nemausus.

There are also some inscriptions in and about the ruins of the temple of Diana, chiefly of a sepulchral character. The Roman baths, and the magnificent spring of water with which they are supplied with the material for bathing, is not the least interesting of the antiquities of Nismes.

I shall conclude this letter at Arles to-morrow.

Marseilles, September 15, 1858.—After spending part of two days at Arles, (the Roman Arelas) I am established here till I set sail for Leghorn.

Arles is an old town, in which no change has taken place for centuries. It stands, like Hexham, without addition since the middle ages. Roman works pervade the town; and, I doubt not, an excavation would lay bare a Roman city under the earth. The remains of the amphitheatre and of the theatre are most magnificent; and many reliques of architectural grandeur are to be found in the Museum.

The Roman inscriptions which are collected in that building are altogether funereal; and you will notice the transition from the Heathen to the Christian style. These sepulchral inscriptions are very numerous; but there is not a single altar. I acquired for ten francs a genuine Roman iron signet ring, recently found.

In proceeding from Arles to Marseilles, Murray's Hand-book notices

that at or near St. Chamas is a Roman bridge, with a triumphal arch at each end of it, which is called in the country the "Pont Flavien," there being an inscription on the frieze to justify the name. Had I noticed this in time, I should have stopped at St. Chamas to look at it; but it is seen very well from the railway. An inhabitant of the country (who was in the carriage) pointed it out to me, and I had a most satisfactory view, both of the bridge, and the triumphal arches by which it is approached. The bridge is of a single arch, and spans a ravine. The whole has been admirably preserved.

A great deal more time might be advantageously spent in this country. Vienne, Vaison, and St. Remy are all towns which ought to be visited; but I am afraid of curtailing too much the time I can spare for Italy.

The French steam-boat which leaves this place to-morrow morning, will (if the sea continue smooth enough for so bad a sailor as I am) receive me, and land me at Leghorn on Thursday morning. Ever yours sincerely.—JOHN CLAYTON.

Venice, September 27, 1858.—My dear Sir.—I gave you a rough sketch of what I saw of Roman remains in the South of France; and I will now endeavour to give you a like sketch of those of Northern Italy.

I found in the Uffizi palace at Florence, a considerable collection of Roman inscriptions, almost altogether sepulchral. In these inscriptions it is interesting to trace the transition from the Pagan to the Christian style. The most interesting objects, however, are marble busts of many of the Roman Emperors, which have been dug up in various parts of Italy. The resemblance of the busts to the heads of the Emperors on their coins is very striking. At Florence there are no remains of the Romans *in situ*; but at the neighbouring town of Fiesole there are *in situ* some portions of a Roman theatre or amphitheatre; and a further excavation would probably disclose much more. They show here as *Etruscan* (on account of the Cyclopean character of the masonry) the remains of a wall of circumvallation. You and I have seen Roman masonry quite as solid and substantial in its character; and I suspect that the whole may be Roman.

At Milan (the Mediolanum of the Romans), there is nothing Roman left *in situ*, but the remains of sixteen Corinthian columns, portions of a temple or some other building near the church of Saint Lorenzo, and a single column near the ancient church of Saint Ambrogio. When the flagging of this church was taken up, a few years ago, a great many Roman sepulchral inscriptions were found, which have been built into the wall round the courtyard in front of the church. Many of these are of the Lower Empire, and some are in very corrupt Latin. That so important a city of the Romans as Mediolanum should retain so few monuments of its ancient grandeur and importance, is singular. I fancy it may be ascribed to the calamities of war.

At Brescia (the Brixia of the Romans), I found a most interesting collection of inscribed stones. It seems that, so far back as the year 1480, the citizens of Brescia made an ordinance for the preservation of all objects of antiquity that might be dug up. The consequence has been the gathering together of a vast number of objects of antiquity in a building

which has been erected to receive them, styled the "Muséo Patrio." There are many altars; but, as regards altars, this collection, as well as every other, is inferior to that of our own Society. I found, here, that, as elsewhere, there is no catalogue. The Custos (an intelligent Brescian) regretted the want of it. He said, "He *could* not make a catalogue, and no one else *would*." In this collection there are several altars to Mithras, inscribed "Deo soli," or "Deo soli invicto;" one of them simply "DEO . SOLI . RES . PVB." There are several altars to Juno, and one inscribed "JVNONIBVS"; another, "MATRONABVS"; another, "MATRONIS . PRO . CORNELIA . MACRINA . CORNELIA . METELLA . V . S . L . M." To Jupiter, to Hercules, to Minerva, and to Mercury, there are several altars; one of Apollo *and* Diana; another inscribed "NEPTVNO . AVG . L . SVLPICIVS . CLAVDIVS . EX . VOT.;" another inscribed "GENIO . COLONIE . CIVICÆ . AVG . BRIXLÆ." There is a vast collection of sepulchral inscriptions, which it would take a week to go through thoroughly. Here, as in the collection of sepulchral inscriptions at Florence, the transition from the Pagan to the Christian style is very striking. In this Museum are collected many beautiful remains of architecture and sculpture. The most remarkable is an exquisite statue, in bronze, of Victory—the last and best of the objects which have been dug up at Brescia. The left foot is raised, for the purpose of resting upon some object, which has been separated from the statue. The Brescians have supplied the vacuum with a helmet, on which the foot now rests. If they had seen the figure of Victory in our collection, they would have placed a globe under the foot of *Roman* Victory, instead of a helmet. The figure of this statue is beautiful; the drapery most graceful; and the workmanship is of the most finished character.

The Brescians have nothing of Roman remains *in situ*, except the fragments of six Corinthian columns, which form the portico, and of some columns of a main building, which, from its architectural remains, must have been of a very handsome character. The capitals and cornices have been beautifully sculptured. Behind these columns the Brescians have erected their Museum, in which you would be glad to spend many days. When I looked upon Brixia, with its vines festooned from tree to tree, glittering in Italian sunshine, I could not help thinking of the winter quarters of Vindolana, to which was doomed the Roman officer "ex Italiâ domo Brixia," whose name and country are recorded on the altar at Chesterholm.

The beautiful town of Verona, the birth-place of Catullus, "Mantua Virgilio gaudet Verona Catullô," still retains without change its Roman name—to which the Italians subjoin the epithet "la degna." The remains of the amphitheatre are most striking. The exterior has not been so well preserved as that of Nismes, but the interior is as the Romans left it—which is to be ascribed partly to the imperishable character of the material (Verona marble), and partly to the continued use of the building for theatrical purposes. One of the gateways of the Roman line of fortification has been preserved. It is, like the gateway at Treves, and like the gateways of the stations on the Roman Wall, a *double gateway*. On the outside, this gateway is of a very ornate character, the frieze or cornice being supported by two Corinthian columns.



placed between the two openings of the gateway. From the inscription on the frieze, the date of the reign of Gallienus is obtained. The masonry of the gateway is regular and excellent; but the wall in which it stands (of which there are yet some remains) has, like the walls of Rutupiaë (Richborough), been composed of round flint stones imbedded in mortar, with intervening courses of brick.

There is another Roman arch in another part of the town, of smaller dimensions than those of the gateway, and less ornamented; it does not appear to be in the line of the fortification.

On the left bank of the river Adige (which runs through the town) are some slight traces of a Roman theatre.

The "Museum Lapidarium" contains a large collection of Roman sculpture and inscriptions—the latter chiefly sepulchral. There are in it many milestones, and some altars. I observed one bearing an inscription which I do not remember to have met with:—"DEO . MAGNO . ÆTERNO . STATIUS . DIODORUS , V . S . L . M ."

There are more than one altar inscribed "Deo invicto Mithræ" and "Silvano."

On a large slab, apparently taken from the front of a temple, is the following inscription, which I copy as somewhat novel:—"FORTVNÆ . FANUM . AB . C . VIBIO . VARO . PATRE . INCHOATUM . Q . CÆSIUS . MACRINUS . EREGIT . ET . DEDICAVIT ."

I would gladly have given more time to this Museum, had I been able.

On a promontory of the Lago di Garda are the remains of the villa of Catullus, which I had not time to visit.

The line of railway from Milan to Verona affords the most beautiful views that can be conceived.

In going through the continental collections of antiquities, I have felt very much the want of catalogues; but when I consider that we have not yet a catalogue of our own Roman antiquities, and probably, without your intervention, would never have had one, I must not blame much our Continental fellow-labourers.

Having reached this City of the Sea, I shall turn my face homeward, and, taking the route of Mount Cenis, reach England as soon as practicable without night travelling.

I remain always most truly yours.—JOHN CLAYTON.

**EXHIBITED.**—A gold coin of France, found near the Tyne at Newcastle. *Obv.* The royal arms (three fleurs-de-lis) crowned, between two fleurs-de-lis as badges, also crowned. MM. a crown. KAROLUS 8 D 8 GRACIA 8 FRANCORVM 8 REX. *Rev.* A cross with four crowns in the angles. MM. a crown. XPC 8 VINCIT 8 XPC 8 REGNAT 8 XPC 8 IMPERAT.—MR. R. ROBINSON.

A photograph, forwarded by Mr. F. K. Robinson, of Whitby, from an oak carving, seen by the Editor some years ago, (above the mantle-piece of an old "post and pan" house at Thorpfield, on the borders of the

manor of Topcliffe, near Thirsk,) and now the property of Mr. Ruddock, of Whitby. The subject, which had been slightly cut to fit it to the farm house, is the coat armorial of the ill-fated Thomas Percy, Earl of Northumberland, who perished at York for his participation in the Rising of the North, and it no doubt graced one of the rooms at Topcliffe Castle.—THE EDITOR.

The arms of the nobility, with their crests and supporters, in Queen Elizabeth's time; a MS. formerly the property of John Holland, and contemporary with the noblemen whose bearings occur in it. The occurrence of Lord Burghley's insignia fixes those of the Earl of Northumberland to Henry Percy, the brother and successor of the above Thomas. The bearings of the two earls will be considered with those of other members of the family in a separate article.—THE EDITOR.

PRESENTED.—The Archæological Journal, No. LVIII., containing an interesting article on the visits of Henry III. to the Northern Counties.—THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

Auction Catalogue of part of the library of Mr. John Bell.—MR. BELL.

Report and communications to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, No. VIII.—THE SOCIETY.

A shilling of James II. found at Newcastle.—MR. THOMAS M'CREE.

A "churn (pronounced kurn) babbie" of straw, dressed doll-wise, recently used in the harvest-home ceremonies at Lysdon farm.—DR. BRUCE. [Mr. White stated that in the Lowlands the clothing of the figure is omitted, and the form wholly made out by skilful manipulation and sewing of the straw. It was also mentioned that the same usage prevails in some parts of Northumberland.]

PURCHASED.—An ancient rifle with wheel-lock, in good preservation, and of curious construction. Also an old sword.