

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

Monthly Meeting, 1 November, 1859.

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

COMMUNICATIONS.—*From Mr. Henry Norman.*—An account of recent excavations at Amboglanna (Birdoswald).

“In levelling the broken ground in front of the farm house, to form a new garden, about 3 feet below the debris of buildings of an evidently much later date, we came upon a very perfect specimen of a Roman building of the first period. Following up the wall, we found that it extended, from east to west, some 92 feet long, and 3 feet 6 inches broad. Upon excavating downwards, buttresses appeared also 3 feet 6 inches broad, and eight in number, the distance between each about 7 feet 6 inches. The wall has loop-holes or flues [between the buttresses], at 4 feet from the top, and 2 feet high, passing through the wall, some 3 feet or more, into the space beyond. The projections of the buttresses from the wall at the base are, when perfect, 4 feet, others some 2 feet 7 inches. Another wall or counterscarp [3 feet 6 inches thick] in very fine preservation runs parallel [6 feet 6 inches from the face of the other wall, and 2 feet 6 inches from the face of the buttresses], forming a passage between, [alternately of those widths], in which we found some arch stones. As at present opened out, the two walls stand about 5 feet, but in one place we dug 3 feet deeper without finding any foundation. The mass of matter removed being principally large stones (rough flags and slates for roofing, many being perforated with nail-holes), caused the labour to be very heavy and consequently slow. It may be here noticed that at the eastern end of this wall another runs at right angles, which re-appears at 60 feet, so that a building of considerable extent must have occupied this portion of the station.”

By Dr. Bruce.—An account of several recent discoveries of Roman remains, and observations on the articles exhibited.

The Chairman announced the following additional subscriptions towards the proposed museum:—Sir W. Calverley Trevelyan, Bt., 50*l.*; Dr. Bruce, 25*l.*; Matthew Wheatley, Esq., 10*l.*; Philip Henry Howard, Esq., 5*l.*; Rev. James Everett, 5*l.*

Mr. Dobson's elevation of the intended building was on the table, and a circular appealing for donations to the museum fund was adopted.

EXHIBITIONS.—*From Mr. Norman.*—Bronze objects from Amboglanna.
 1. A bull's head springing from the centre of four erect leaves. The bronze below the leaves is broken away, and is hollow. It has been filled with some whitish substance, but no iron remains. If a handle is indicated, it must have been most heavy, angular, and uncomfortable.
 2. A handle to a vase, formed to its shape and ending in the head of an animal, which fitted over the edge and would appear to be looking into the vessel.
 3. A naked torso, probably of a gladiator.
 4. A naked gladiator, with the remains of a weapon in his right hand, which is elevated, and over his left is fixed a small maunch-like appendage, which is jagged at the edges into a leafy form.
 5. Another and larger figure, in the same attitude. The weapon is wholly gone, leaving a round hole in which it was inserted. The left arm is supplied with the same maunch-like appendage as designates No. 4, but it is broader, with plain edges, and has a foliated surface ornamentation. The faces of these two figures are purposely barbarous, and the use of the cloth hanging from their arms was probably that of the small flags employed by the Spanish bull-fighters, denoting that here we have figures of the poor creatures who fought with beasts to make a Roman's holiday.
 6. Several coins, ranging from Domitian to Magnentius.
 7. Two large rings.

By Dr. Bruce.—Numerous coloured drawings by Mr. Mossman of Roman remains in the North of England.

By the Chairman.—Transcripts of the Northumberland visitations of 1575 and 1615, from the Harl. MSS.

DONATIONS.—*From Mr. Challoner.*—A box of the coals which were found in a depository near the baths of Habitancum (Risingham) in 1843. (See Arch. Æl., O.S., iii., 156.) The present specimens were purchased from Mr. John Bell.—*Dr. Bruce* observed that the Roman stations in this country yielded more ashes of coal than of wood.

From the Kilkenny Archæological Society.—Its proceedings and papers.

ELECTIONS.—*Ordinary Members.*—William Cuthbert, Esq., of Beaufront, and the Rev. Blythe Hurst, of Collierly.

RESOLUTION.—That the use of the great hall of the castle be granted to the Volunteer Rifle Corps for the purpose of extra drills of the more recent members.

Monthly Meeting, 7 December, 1859.

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

COMMUNICATIONS.—*By the Chairman.*—A paper on the Public Amusements in Newcastle. Printed.

The Chairman reported the following additional subscriptions towards a museum:—Lord Ravensworth, 50*l.*; Robert Ormston, Esq., 50*l.*; Sir E. Blackett, Bt., 10*l.*; Albert Way, Esq., 5*l.*; Dr. Gibb, 5*l.*; W. H. Charlton of Hesleyside, Esq., 5*l.*; Hugh Taylor, Esq., 5*l.*

Dr. Charlton referred to the objects given by Sir John E. Swinburne to the Society in 1813, and then described in the list of donations as “a Roman copper vessel and some pieces of copper which had apparently belonged to it, two fibulæ, and a ring, all found in a tumulus near Capheaton.” Mr. Way had lately noticed their exact correspondence with the brass basins described in Fausset’s *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, pp. 55, 78, and there figured in plate xvi. The supposed fibulæ were ornamental loops (as in the plate) *soldered* to the sides, allowing three rings to play in them as handles. One of these loops is quite polished by the friction of its ring. Under the vessel are the fastenings of a circular ornament as in the Kent examples, which were furnished with small brass trivets or stands. Traces of rich gilding occur. It is obvious that all these remains are Saxon, not Roman, and that they would not bear the heat of a fire. It has been suggested that they were used on the table. [Our members will not overlook the desirability of a severe comparison of Saxon relics in the North with the peculiar types of the Jutes in Kent, as they may form important evidence on the question of how far the early Jutish settlers of Lothian extended their range.]

Dr. Charlton drew attention to the Italian romance, “*Fortunatus Siculus, ossia l’avventuroso Ciciliano, di Busone da Gubbio*,” written in 1311, and published by G. F. Nott, F.S.A., in 1832. A copy had been lent to Dr. C. by Mr. Bligh Peacock, of Sunderland. The adventurer comes to England, and the floods of 1290, recorded by Walsingham and in Pope Nicholas’s taxation, are mentioned. The rest is romance, relating to a rebellion against Edward I., the conspirators taking possession of the castles of Newcastle and Durham. The former by the copyist is oddly written “*Castello nuovo sopra Tino, in Orto, in Berlanda*.” [Northumberland.] At Newcastle we also find mention of “*Magione di Dio, o di nostra Donna di Capo di ponte*.” Several

persons present at Newcastle are enumerated, but they are furnished with names hopelessly corrupt, and are perhaps as fabulous as their doings.

Dr. Bruce reported that a fragmentary Roman inscription had been found at Birdoswald, and read some extracts from a letter of the Rev. Geo. Wilkinson of Whicham, Whitehaven, now superintending the excavations at the Moresby station, ordered by Lord Lonsdale, who is erecting at Lowther a receptacle for Roman remains.

“We found the south gateway at the first opening; but only its foundation-stones. On each side of these there were a few flags, and a building stone here and there, as if thrown out of their places. . . . The outer walls have almost wholly disappeared. On the west side, near the gateway, we traced a well covered drain for many yards, until it led us to a building very similar to the *smaller*, marked A in your western portion of the camp [of Bremenium]. It is 31 feet by $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet. . . . In another part we are tracing the eastern flagged way towards its angles, so as to determine the exact size of the camp. I am inclined, however, to believe that what I call a ‘flagged way’ is the foundation of the eastern wall, though not a stone is left on the flags. . . . We have not yet found half-a-dozen coins. . . . The large slab which I found nearly 40 years ago on the eastern side of the station, under a large heap of building stones, taken in conjunction with coins of Constantine found here, will serve to show that Roman soldiers occupied this station for some centuries.”

Dr. Bruce read the following letter from Mr. William Hawkes, 5, Vicarage Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, and stated that bricks were not found along the Wall, but only in the stations:—

“I think that I mentioned to you, I was, at the request of others, continuing my experiments upon the strength of bricks, when subject to a transverse strain, and that I stated the great strength of the Roman compared with any more modern-made bricks in this country. I dare say you are aware of the many inventions that have been brought out for tempering, dressing, pugging, &c., the clay, previously to its being moulded into bricks. Over 240 patents have been taken out in the last 12 years for this purpose, yet up to the present time the strongest brick I have met with, in this country, is not half the strength of those made sixteen centuries since. The American bricks, both from Boston and Baltimore, come very close upon the strength of the Roman brick or tile. They are much thinner than those made in this country, but little exceeding 2 or $2\frac{1}{4}$ thick by $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 8, and they are kiln-burnt with wood, not coal. I am having samples sent me from India (Calcutta) and the south part of Africa. In both these quarters wood as well as coal is used. Are you of opinion that the Roman bricks and tiles were burnt with wood instead of coal? and could you refer me to any work where I can find a description of the kilns in which the burning took

place? I have C. R. Smith's Roman London, but he only describes the kilns for pottery ware. Vitruvius says that the sun-burnt bricks were dried five years before using, and the baked bricks exposed on the roofs of houses for one year, in order that the effect of weather upon them might be ascertained. Time then was not the costly element with all kinds of manufactures that it now is. I find in India that what we effect in four days (the kiln-drying or burning) they take from 30 to 40 days, although the temperature of the sun heat is 160° in the drying ground to which they are exposed before burning. I have samples of different kinds of bricks from Wroxeter, but it appears that all have been kiln-burnt. Have you met with any of the Roman sun-dried bricks along the Wall?

Mr. Cail stated that the American bricks were formed from clay which in a state of powder was spread out and exposed for some time to the sun, so as to be perfectly dry before compression into form.

EXHIBITIONS.—*From Mr. Way.*—Gutta-percha impression of Hotspur's seal. (See p. 183.)

From Mr. John Ord.—A collection of objects of every date, turned up by the plough on his estate at Newton Ketton, near Darlington. It lies near a most ancient road called Catkill Lonnin (see the Newcastle volumes of the Archæological Institute, i. 64.) which preserves the root of the name Ketton, anciently Cattun. The flint implements were very numerous, and in every stage of manufacture and finish, apparently for saws, knives, and warlike purposes, presenting, on a smaller scale, the rude forms of the "antediluvian relics" and their facile manipulations, up to the finished and more recent barb—evidence of a long continued British settlement. Mr. Ord had remarked the curious fact that no flints of natural form occurred on his farm, the rudest being at the least splinters in manufacture; and that the material must have been brought a considerable distance.

From Mr. Hunter Allgood.—One of three long leaf-shaped bronze swords found together at Ingram; the other two are at Alnwick Castle.

DONATIONS.—*From Mr. Way.*—Illustrated Catalogue of Antiquities, Works of Art, and Historical Scottish Relics, exhibited in 1856, at the Edinburgh Congress of the Archæological Institute, 1859.

From the Canadian Institute.—The Canadian Journal, Nos. XXIII., XXIV., Sept. and Nov. 1859.

From Mr. John Evans, F.S.A.—His Account of Coins found at ancient Verulam.

From Mr. Ric. Castell's Embleton.—Hexham's Translation of the Atlas of Mercator and Hond. Amsterdam, 1636.

From the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen.—Antiquarisk Tidsskrift, udgivet af det Kongelige Nordiske Oldskrift, Selskab, 1852-4.—Ditto, 1855-7.—En Vandring gennem Jagerspris's have og Lund, udgiven af det Kongelige Nordiske Oldskrift.—Sur la Construction des Salles dites des Géants, par S. M. Roi Frédéric VII. de Danemark.

From Mr. Joseph Cookson.—Engraving of the south porch of the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, as restored by Mr. Godwin.

ELECTIONS.—*Ordinary Members.*—C. J. Gibb, Esq., M.D., Westgate Street, Newcastle; Mr. George Clarke, 19 Westgate Street, Newcastle.

RESOLUTIONS.—That in order to promote the efficiency of this Society it is very desirable to secure a permanent increase in the number of its members: that, with this view, the gentlemen connected with the Northern Counties, whose names have been inserted in the list now in the hands of the Chairman, be invited to join it: and that a short statement be prepared of the objects and present position of the Society, to accompany such invitations.

That the back parts of the *Archæologia Æliana*, N. S., be published at 3s. 6d. each to new members, and that the Pipe-Rolls of Cumberland and Westmorland be sold at 7s. 6d., with the usual discount to booksellers.

Monthly Meeting, January 4, 1860.

William Kell, Esq., in the Chair.

COMMUNICATION.—*By Dr. Charlton.*—A paper on the early German versions of the Bible. To be printed.

EXHIBITIONS.—*By Dr. Charlton.*—Several early Bibles and books mentioned in the above paper, and the German edition in 1493 of the Nuremberg Chronicle.

From Mr. Brockett.—Vita di S. Oswaldo re di Nortumberland e Martire. In Udine per Antonio del Pedro, 1769.

By Mr. Longstaffe.—A photogram, by the Rev. J. W. Dunn, of sundry relics found in the upper portion of the north chancel wall of his church at Warkworth. They are chiefly Norman, but among them is a small headstone with a cross and interlaced knotwork, which Mr. Dunn correctly assigns to the Saxon period. Symeon, in mentioning the gift

of Werceworde with its appendages to the church of Lindisfarne by King Ceolwulf in 738, couples with them "the church which he had built there." The foundations of the early church have since appeared under the present floors, and we trust to give a full account from Mr. Dunn's pen of his discoveries.

From Mr. William Wylam.—A stone found on his estate of North Leam, near Gateshead, at about a field's distance north of the Roman road called Leam Lane or Wrekendike. It appeared at some depth in old grass land, which was in the same condition sixty or seventy years ago, and presents a fragment of conventional foliage in low relief, resembling that used in late Roman and Saxon times.

DONATIONS.—*From the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.*—Its Transactions, Vol. II., Part III., 1859.

From Mr. John Lindsay.—His Supplement to the Coinage of Scotland.

From the Kilkenny Archæological Society.—Its Proceedings, Vol. II., N. S., No. XXIII., Sep. 1859.

From Mr. Goold.—An old Scottish spur.

ELECTIONS.—*Ordinary Members.*—John Henry Hollis Atkinson, Esq., Angerton; The Rev. Dixon Brown, Howick Grange and Unthank; Joseph Pease, Esq., Southend, Darlington; Henry Silvertop, Esq., Minsteracres.

