

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY,

6 February, 1860.

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

ANNUAL REPORT.—*Dr. Charlton* read the 47th yearly summary of the Society's position. Its contents have chiefly appeared in the previous reports of proceedings. The chairman had liberally advanced the purchase money (1,000*l.*) for the site of a museum, free of interest for six months. 645*l.* had been subscribed towards this object, and the report appealed for further contributions. Among the donors of the year, Sir Walter Trevelyan was especially entitled to thanks for his valuable additions to the library. The report was unanimously adopted, and thanks were voted by acclamation to the chairman for his liberality.

LIFE MEMBERS.—*Resolved*, that on payment of ten guineas in one sum, any gentleman may become a life member.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.—*Patron*: His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G.—*President*: Sir John Swinburne, Bart.—*Vice-Presidents*: The Right Honorable Lord Ravensworth, Sir Charles M. L. Monck, Bart., John Hodgson Hinde, Esq., and John Clayton, Esq.—*Treasurer*: Matthew Wheatley, Esq.—*Secretaries*: Edward Charlton, Esq., M.D., and the Rev. John Collingwood Bruce, LL.D.—*Council*: The Rev. Edward Hussey Adamson, the Rev. James Raine, and Messrs. Thomas Bell, William Dickson, John Dobson, Martin Dunn, John Fenwick, William Kell, William Hylton Dyer Longstaffe (editor), Edward Spoor, Robert White, and William Woodman.

NEW MEMBERS.—The Rev. *Dr. Besley* of Long Benton, and *John Errington* of High Warden, *William Falla* of Crowhall, *Thomas James* of Otterburn Castle, *W. Roddam* of Roddam, and *Nicholas Wood* of Hetton, Esqrs.

**DONATIONS OF BOOKS.**—*From Mr. Dickson of Alnwick.* Pipe-Rolls of Northumberland, 1, 2, 3 Edw. I., 1273-4-5, and 4, 5, 6 Edw. I., 1276-7-8; privately printed at Newcastle, 1854-1860.—*From the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.* Lord Neave's address to its members, 23 Dec. 1859.—*From the Royal University of Christiania.* The following publications at Christiania, 1847-1859: Olaf Den Helliges Saga ved Snorre Sturlasson, 1853.—Fagrskinna, 1847.—Morges Historie i Kvrtfattet Udtog af P. A. Munch, Fjerde Udgave, 1858.—Almindelig Norsk Huus-Kalender med Primstav og Merkedage, 1859.—Tale og Cantate ved det Norske Universitets Mindefest for Kong Oscar, 1859.—Karlsmagnus Saga ok Kappa hans, 1859.—Nordmændenes Ældste Eude-og Helte-Saga, 1854.—Foreningen til Norske Fortidsminde-merkens Bevaring, 1859.—Personalier oplæste ved Hans Majestæt Kong Oscar den I's Begravelse i Kidderholmskirken den 8 de August, 1859.

**ALA PETRIANA.**—*Dr. Bruce* exhibited a drawing of an inscribed Roman stone recently discovered at Carlisle (in excavating foundations for new offices for the Journal newspaper). Mr. McKie, who, during the construction of the new sewerage, had charge of the works, had sent him the drawing, and also informed him that a perfect specimen of a Roman hand-lamp, with also a little god, beautifully carved, had been found in the same place. Dr. Bruce made the following remarks:—

The stone is about 5ft. 3in. long, and a foot thick. It is broken and imperfect, having suffered from that vengeance on the part of the Caledonians, on the occasion of a successful onslaught, which so many of the relics of Rome in these parts bear marks of. That part of the inscription, which no doubt told of the occasion of its being cut, is lost; but there can be little doubt that it was to commemorate the erection of some building of importance—probably a temple. The names of officials engaged in the work are also lost, with the exception of the fragments of four letters. Notwithstanding these ravages the stone is of great value, and that part of the inscription that is left gives us information which we did not possess before. The inscription may be thus read:—“LVCA-(NVS) PRAEF(ECTVS) ALAE AVGVSTAE PETRIANAE TORQ(VATAE) M(ILLARIAE) C(IVIVM) R(OMANORVM) D(E)D(ICAVERVNT); or, D(E)D(ICAUIT).—(This temple was dedicated to —, by Lucanus, the Prefect of the Petriana Cavalry, surnamed the Augustan, entitled to wear the torque, consisting of a thousand men, all Roman citizens.) The notices which we have previously had of the Ala Petriana have been very scanty. Its name occurs on the Rivingling rescript, along with other troops then in Britain, under the charge of Aulus Platorius Nepos. This rescript belongs to the eighth tribuneship of Hadrian, answering to A.D. 124. In Camden's day, a stone (which was lost before Horsley's time) had an inscription, which has been thus read:—“GADVNO VLP(IVS) TRAI(ANVS) EM(ERITVS)

AL(Æ) PET(RIANÆ) MARTIVS F(ACIENDVM) P(RO)C(VRAVIT).”—This stone was found at Old Penrith. Last summer, a carving upon the side of an old limestone quarry, near Lanercost, was discovered, which also mentions the Ala Petriana. The inscription may be read:—“I(VNIVS) BRVTVS DEC(VRIO) AL(Æ) PET(RIANÆ).” Lastly, we have in the Notitia list, after the mention of the Tribune of the First Ælian Cohort of Dacians at Amboglanna, the following entry:—“*Præfectus Alæ Petrianæ Petrianis.*” From this circumstance, it has been inferred that Walton House, the station next west from Amboglanna, is the Petriana of the Notitia. Unfortunately we have met with no stony record of the Ala Petriana at Walton House; though we have three of the Second Cohort of the Tungri, and one of the Fourth Cohort of the Gauls. Let us return to our new inscription. The letters are clearly cut and well formed; no ligatures are introduced; even the letters composing the diphthongs are not tied together. The style of the lettering indicates an early date—probably not later than the Rivingling rescript in the time of Hadrian. If, as seems probable from the size and character of the slab, it was attached to a building erected by the Prefect of the Ala, we may infer that this body of troops were at this time resident in Roman Carlisle. Had the inscription occurred on an altar, it might have been made when they were only resting there for a brief space. In no other inscription found in Britain, except this, are we informed that the Ala Petriana was entitled to the epithet of Augustan; that it consisted of a thousand men; that it was composed solely of Roman citizens; and for the first time, the epithet *torquata* occurs, as applied either to this body of troops or any other in Britain. As the troop was in Britain when Hadrian was, it may have received the epithet of Augustan for some deed of valour done in his presence. Permission to wear the torque was no doubt another token of bravery. An inscription found in Italy gives to this Ala the title of *bis torquata*. This body of men must have been much reduced in size when it came to be quartered in the camp at Walton House, which has an area of only  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acres. It seems also to have lost its ennobling titles. This inscription, though it does not confirm the supposition that Walton House was the Petriana of the ancients, is not inconsistent with that idea.

In connection with the epithet *torquata*, as applied to the *ala*, Dr. Bruce, after alluding to the surname *Torquatus*, given to T. Manlius, because he put on the neckchain (*torques*) of a Gaul he slew in single combat, produced a curious-looking double ring in bronze, about the size of a bracelet. He could not tell, he said, whether that article ever belonged to some *ala* entitled to the use of the epithet *torquata*: it looked very like a handcuff, but it might have been esteemed ornamental in those days. It was found at Birdoswald by Mr. Thomas Crawhall.—*The Chairman* had hitherto preferred the inference, drawn from the Notitia, that Walton House was Petriana, to the opinion which, from a merely monumental inscription, identified it with Old Penrith. The new discovery complicated matters exceedingly.

WARKWORTH CHURCH.—*Mr. Longstaffe* read the following paper by the *Rev. J. W. Dunn*, vicar of Warkworth, on the vestiges of Saxon work revealed during the renovation of his church :—

The church of Warkworth before the extensive repairs which were recently rendered necessary by its ruinous condition consisted of a chancel and nave, principally of the later Norman style. At the west end an Early English tower had been added, possibly some hundred years afterwards; and upon this a spire of doubtful date.

The greatest alteration would seem to have taken place during the Perpendicular era. At this period the pointed roofs had been removed, the south front of the nave taken down, and a south aisle (with porch and parvise) added, which was connected with the nave by a series of pillars erected upon the site of the south front, and forming a graceful arcade. The walls of the nave had been raised, so as to allow of the introduction of a flat roof and of clerestory windows above the arches.

The clerestory wall must have been somewhat carelessly built, as of late the tokens of decay became so marked and threatening, that last July the structure was pronounced no longer safe for public worship.

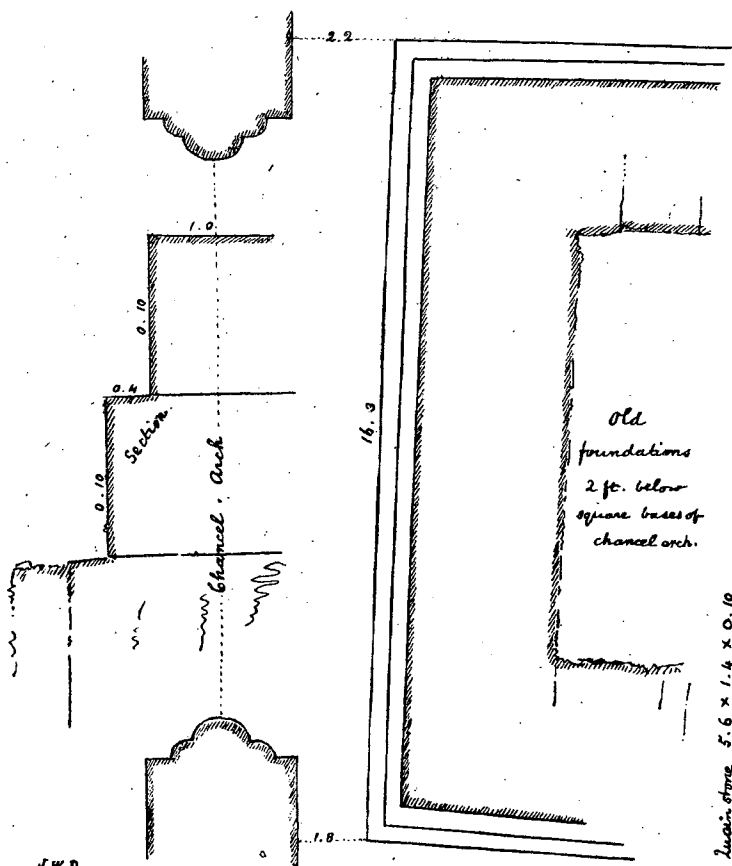
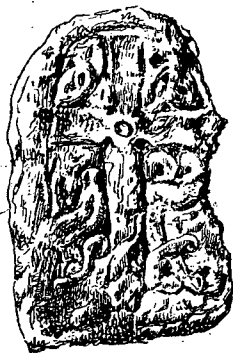
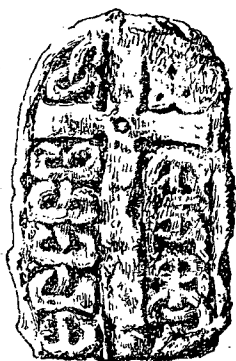
In entering upon the restoration of this venerable fabric, one of two courses was to be followed—either to adopt the Norman type or to adhere to the Perpendicular. The former was finally decided upon, and under the direction of a careful and experienced architect, Mr. Dobson of Newcastle, the open roof has been returned to, and the unsightly accumulations upon the north and south walls have been removed.

As the work proceeded it gradually became more interesting; for it soon appeared that the stones which had formed the Norman south front had been re-used as far as they would go, particularly on the north side, in raising the walls of the nave to the required height. Accordingly on lowering these walls, mouldings, and shafts, and portions of corbel courses, and grotesque heads, and sometimes monumental fragments, turned up day after day in picturesque confusion.

The most notable of these remains I caused to be carefully grouped, and was fortunate enough to obtain a photograph of them before the space on which we piled them was needed for other purposes. Many of them were quite fresh and sharp, having masons' marks as distinct upon them as if they had been carved but yesterday.

There was one relic, however, which surpassed all the rest for interest. It was a sort of small headstone of undoubted Saxon workmanship, which carried the mind far back into the dim and hazy distance of an age long anterior to the clank of the Norman hammer. Could this old stone, I asked myself, have served to decorate the church at Werceworde which Ceolwulph, when he entered Lindisfarne, is said to have granted to the Church of Durham in the year of grace 738 ?<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 738. "Intravit autem [Rex Ceolwulfus] Lindisfarnense monasterium Sancto Cuthberto secum conferens thesauros regios et terras, id est, Breghesne et Werceworde cum suis appendiciis, simul et ecclesia quam ibidem ipse edificaverat : alias quoque quattuor villas, Wudecestre, Hwitingham, Eadulfingham, et Eagwifingham." (Sym. Hist. Eccl. Dun., 79). 868. "Denique Osbertus Wercewrde et Tillemuthe, Ælla vero Billingham, Iledclif, et Wigecclif, Crecam quoque sacrilego ausu ipsius ecclesiæ abripuerant." (Ib. 94.)



J.W.D.  
W.N.D.L.

Saxon remains, Warkworth.



Week after week we examined stone after stone, but there was nothing further which we felt justified in pronouncing of the Saxon era. And so the time passed on, until the subject became all but forgotten.

At length, in some excavations which became necessary in the interior of the nave, at a considerable depth, the foundations of a wall at least four feet in thickness were discovered, consisting of stones many of them to all appearance water rolled, and all very rudely dressed. This was in itself so curious, that a further search was at once determined upon.

To continue the excavation westward was found difficult, and almost impracticable, by reason of interments of old date; and I therefore decided upon digging down on each side of the chancel arch, in order to ascertain whether these foundations had any connection with the Norman building.

The labours of our willing workmen were soon rewarded. As if by instinct they soon laid bare the angles of the east end of what I believe to be that for which I had long been so anxiously searching, the pious toil of Ceolwulph of old.

Two courses of stone above the footing were quickly exposed. The masonry was rude, and the dressing more the product of the pick than the chisel; but the whole work told of men of heavy burdens and untiring energy. At the south-eastern corner of this ancient relic a huge stone lay extended to form the first or lowest course. As this is the usual point at which coins or records are found, I could not resist the sacrilege of raising it. Its removal disclosed to us a longitudinal cavity in the stone below it, exactly such as at the present time is made for the reception of documents. Our anxiety and eagerness may be well imagined, as we dived hastily and breathlessly down to the bottom of this treasure hole in hopeful search for coins or other relics. A reasonable feeling was entertained that our belief would be made certainty by the discovery of some record of Ceolwulph himself. We were doomed to be disappointed! We were too late by hundreds of years! The opening was filled up with rubbish, and not a trace remained of what we were willing to believe it once contained. The probability is, that the Norman builders of the nave and chancel had known of, and themselves ransacked this hiding place of their Saxon predecessors, and had gloried, in their comparatively early day, over the disinterment of what, even to them, must have been ancient memorials.

After obtaining measurements and sections of the remains, these old stones were again unwillingly consigned to their dark repose, never again probably in the time of those who stood curiously watching their rapid burial—never again, it may be, for generations to come—to see the day. Be that as it may, there, within the nave of the old church of Warkworth, they lie, and years hence they will be found, if sought for, but little changed I warrant after this their latest exposure.

Should any doubt be entertained as to the antiquity of these remains, I may state that the lower courses of our Norman chancel are composed of stones which without question formed a part of the earlier structure, inasmuch as they are identical in shape and working with those which yet remain *in situ* some two feet below them.

Another, and yet more curious evidence may be adduced, for which I am indebted to the sharp eye of our head workman. The base courses shewed no appearance of having been chamfered, but there was a distinct and decided divergence from the straight line in that portion which had been subjected to the action of the weather—a divergence which many years exposure to the elemental strife even of this ungenial strip of our island can alone explain.

**FLINT IMPLEMENTS.**—*Mr. Thompson*, of Jarrow, through *Mr. Longstaffe*, exhibited a large flint implement,  $7\frac{1}{4}$  in. by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. at the broadest part, like an axe-head, beautifully formed, broadest near the front and partially polished at that sharp-edged but somewhat truncated part. The flint is of a deep ochreous colour. Also an implement of white flint  $5\frac{1}{4}$  in. by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. at the broadest part, of a more acute form than the other. These interesting objects were both discovered projecting from “waves” or swellings of alluvial soil at the æstuary of the Don near Jarrow, which had been forced up by the weight of heaps of ballast at a little distance. Some have supposed that they were brought in the ballast, as it is said that an implement similar to the first was found in another heap of ballast itself; but this is not forthcoming, and the Rev. Wm. Greenwell states that he has an object, smaller but very similar, which was found at the æstuary of the Yorkshire Don near Thorne.

[In a letter to Mr. Lyall, of South Shields, acknowledging receipt of a photograph of the larger flint, Mr. Evans of Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead, says:—“It seems to be a very fine example of its kind. I should be inclined to attribute it to the ordinary stone period of this country, as it is precisely of the same character, as far as I can see, to numerous other specimens which have from time to time been found in various parts of England. I have seen a considerable number of them from Norfolk, one as much as nine or ten inches in length. As far as I can judge, this from Jarrow has been fractured at the more pointed end. Though not so carefully ground as at the cutting part, the axes of this class usually have the asperities in other parts, which are left in roughly chipping them out, partially smoothed down by smoothing. The form, as you observe, is quite distinct from that of the implements from the Drift, and there is no reasonable doubt but that it belongs to a much later period.”]

*Dr. Bruce*, in allusion to the occurrence of older flints in the Hoxne and Amiens drifts (see Vol. IV., 153), called attention to a letter in the Gentleman’s Magazine, stating that in excavating the gravel at the Rotherhithe entrance of the Grand Surrey Dock, in 1859, clay tobacco-



pipes were found at from 20 to 30 feet below the present surface. [*Mr. Edward Tindall*, pipe-maker, of Bridlington, the writer of the letter, has since addressed Dr. Bruce on the subject. He states that Mr. Dinsdale, who gave him the pipes, had himself brought them from the gravel bed. Mr. Anfield of Bridlington Quay also gave him a tobacco-pipe shortly after it was brought up from a depth of 36 feet from the surface. But it seems that this find was only in deepening Mr. Anfield's well 6 feet, and is readily accounted for; as is the occurrence of many flint objects of Mr. Tindall's extensive collection at 5ft. 7in. below the present surface and from 3 to 6 in. deep in the upper part of the drift gravel on which Bridlington town stands: Some of them are very similar to the specimens figured by M. Boucher de Perthes.]

DENISESBURN.—*Mr. Longstaffe* read a paper by *Mr. William Coulson* of Grindstone-Law, near Matfen, relative to the site of this battle, fought in 634 by King Oswald against the British invader, King Cedwalla; prefacing it with the scanty documentary evidence.

Nennius names the battle Catscaul, which an annotator queries *Catisgual*, the battle within the Wall. The annals of Wales call it *Cantscaul*.

Beda says that Cedwalla was slain "at a place called in English *Denisesburna*, i. e. *Rivus Denisi*." The place was shown to his day where Oswald, being about to engage, erected a wooden cross, and to the same day men cut chips off this relic and gathered moss from its surface. The cross being fixed, the army, at Oswald's desire, knelt in prayer, and advanced towards the enemy with the first dawn of day. "The place in the English tongue is called *Hefenfelth*, which may be rendered into Latin as *Cælestis campus*, which name it anciently received from a certain presage of future events, signifying that there the heavenly trophy was to be raised, the heavenly victory begun, and heavenly miracles be wrought to this day. It is a place near that Wall, to the north, with which, to restrain the attacks of the barbarians, the Romans girt Britain from sea to sea." Thither the brothers of the church of Hexham, which was near, repaired annually on the day before that of Oswald's death and watched all night, and since that custom spread they had lately built a church there.

Leland says that "There is a fame that Oswald won the batelle at Halydene a 2<sup>3</sup> myles est from S. Oswaldes Asche. And that Haliden is it that Beda caullith Havenfeld. And men thereabout yeet finde smaule wod crossois in the grounde."

Camden (ed. 1587) reads thus:—"If Cilurnum was not here [at Chollerford], in which the second wing of the Astures had their station, it was in the neighbourhood at *Scilicester in Muro*, where, after Sigga, a

<sup>2</sup> "Unde dicitur: 'Cædes Cedwallæ Denisi cursus coarctuit.'" (Hen. Hunt.)

<sup>3</sup> In the proportions mentioned in vol. iv. p. 56, this measurement would be nearly three modern miles, and suits the real distance.

nobleman, had treacherously slain Elfwald, king of the Northumbrians, a church was erected by the faithful in honour of Cuthbert, and of Oswald, whose name has so outdone the other, that, the old name being obliterated, it is now called *S. Oswaldes*. This Oswald, king of the Northumbrians, slew in just battle, near this place, Cedwalla. — That place of victory *posterity* called Heafonfield, *i. e.* campus cælestis, which to-day, in the same sense, is called *Haledon*." And then follow some verses from a metrical life of St. Oswald to Beda's effect, that then was known the cause why the place had *previously* been called Heavenfield as a presage of such a battle, and that the brethren of Hexham there constructed a chapel in honour of St. Oswald. That the present St. Oswald is the locality meant by Camden is obvious from his placing it between Colterford, where the Wall, he says, joined by an arched bridge, and Portgate.

Symeon (de Gestis, under 788), in mentioning the death of Elfwald "in the place which is called Scytlescester near the Wall," certainly states that on the spot where he was slain a church was built to the honour of God and SS. Cuthbert and Oswald. And as his body was taken for burial to Hexham, with a great company of monks and the chanting of clergy, it may be inferred that Scytlescester was not far off.

In more modern times St. Oswald's rather than Halton has been identified with Heavenfield, and Scytlescester has been forgotten.<sup>4</sup> A field close to St. Oswald's, but south of the Wall (the chapel being on the *north* of that barrier), called Moulds close or the Mould close, is traditionally pointed out as the scene of battle; sculls and swordhilts (?) having, as it is said, been ploughed up there. Wallis (ii. 113) says that near the chapel was found a silver object like the Durham seal, which comprised insertions of a head of Jupiter (for St. Oswald) and a cross.

Halton has its burn and chapel, but some have thought that neither at St. Oswald's nor Halton was the battle fought very near to the site of any chapel, but that Beda's language favours, or at least leaves room for, the belief that Denisesburn was some little distance from Heavenfield. Of Dilston, (from a dim similarity between Devilswater and Denisesburn,) Cockley, Hallington, Bingfield, and the Erring-burn, each has had its advocator.

Mr. Coulson, from tradition, features, and names, considers that the district about three miles north from Halton, comprising Duns-moor, was the scene of action; that the dene north of it, through which a burn flows into Erring-burn, was Denisesburne; and that a burial on Grunston-law, which is immediately contiguous, may probably be that of Cedwalla. The following is Mr. Coulson's description:—

Grindstone-law, locally Grunston-law, is in the most eastern nook of Saint John Lee parish. It forms a link of a chain of hills which stretch from north-east to south-west, and divide the plain extending eastwards to the sea from the mountainous district on the west.

The gently-sloping elevation of its southern side terminates abruptly

<sup>4</sup> A defaced Roman altar stands or stood in the chapel-yard.

in the outcrop of its strata, and its northern surface is thereby formed into a rugged and precipitous outline, which, when viewed in profile at a distance, has been aptly likened to that of a human face. On the north this promontory is confronted by another hill of similar conformation, the summit of which is called Moot-law, situate in the parish of Stamfordham. A defile is formed at the junction of their bases, in which flows westward to Erring-burn a burn whose name has fallen into obscurity.

The top of the Grunston-law is encircled by an excavation or ditch, and, on the southern edge of this enclosure, which comprises an area of about two acres, a conical mound or hillock swells to a point elevated a few feet above the adjacent plain surface.<sup>5</sup>

In substance Grunston-law consists of alternate layers of limestone, coal, freestone, and shale, and this series is twice repeated in the extent of its whole height above the vale. The summit is limestone, so broken off from its fellow on the opposite hill as to form a rounded promontory. Immediately below this limestone is a thin seam of poor coal, and several openings have been made on the line of the entrenchment on the north-west side, apparently to get at the coal. Some sandstone, too, has recently been taken out to build a dike. This top freestone, being very impure in composition, is the worst of the series for grinding purposes; the best of which, however, do not possess the qualities essential to an efficient grindstone. As any sandstone may make a grindstone at a pinch, it is quite possible that a grindstone may have been made from it; but that it ever enjoyed the most contracted local celebrity as a grindstone quarry, is quite incompatible with the obvious extent of the workings, and beyond the fair limits of probability.

I have often stood on the mound, counting the sheep on an evening in ignorance of my position, and might long have continued to do so but for the information derived from a stranger who requested me to accompany him to Duns-moor, where, according to tradition, a battle had been fought in ancient times, and to point out to him the marks upon it said to have been used for entrenchments on that occasion. We passed over Grunston-law, and he detected the ditches and explained their purpose. After shewing him the moor, he informed me that, as Duns-moor bore a closer affinity to Denises-burn (where the battle was chronicled as taking place) than any known spot within the vicinity, he had purposely come to inspect its appearances. He now concluded that the excavations on the moor had never been intended for nor used as fortifications, and abandoned the identity he had expected to prove. His visit however led me to assume that, after all, the historical event might really be that which hitherto had only been known to me though the obscure traditions of the battle of Duns-moor.

Duns-moor lies insulated from Bingfield by a distance of nearly two

<sup>5</sup> "About a mile east of Bingfield is another small entrenchment on a hill called Grinstone-law; the north-east part has been destroyed in quarrying for stone, and the whole thing is very obscure, but it seems to have been nearly square, about two acres, with an entrance on the west side, which was defended by a tumulus. There are two ditches, diverging from each other, on Duns-moor, which seem more natural than artificial." (Macaulay's Watling Street, accompanied by a plan of the Law.)

miles, and is simply an extension of Grunston-law. The plot of poor land, to which the term applies, reaches within 200 yards of the camp, and, until the modern fence, which now appends its western portion to Bingfield-comb, had been set up, Duns-moor and Grunston-law-moor would know no distinction. For all purposes involved in this enquiry they are identical, as Duns-moor.

The legend says that the moor took its name from a General Dun who gained a victory there against great odds. Concealing his army in the trenches which yet stretch across the moor, and which traversed his adversaries' path, he attacked and routed them by surprise. These marks are unadapted to the purposes of warfare, and history is silent in reference to General Dun, but had the name been merely descriptive of the colour of the herbage, it would have been Dun-moor, or Brown-moor, of which there are several instances.

At the bottom of the hill, and at the distance of about 400 yards from the camp, a point of the substratum projects from beneath its barriers to the extent of about 200 yards, and forms the breadth of the plain. This piece of land, being incumbent on limestone, has always been dry, and lies a little above the adjacent surface. Its area may be about 6 acres, and its site is encircled on its east, north, and north-west sides by a lair of peat earth, the unquestionable relics of a former lake, or morass. On the east side of this tablet, between it and the bog, there formerly existed an upshot spring of considerable volume, called Hell's-cothern (caldron). It was supposed to be unfathomable, and the boiling-like motion of its water was attributed to its connection with subterraneous fire. In connection with this spot, the following story is extant :—Once upon a time, a team of oxen, yoked to a wain, were engaged on the top of the hill, when, from some unexplained cause, the beasts became unmanageable, and furiously dashed down the bank towards the Cothern. On passing over the brow of a declivity midway between the top and the bottom some accident brought the stang (pole) into violent collision with the ground, producing a deep laceration, from the bottom of which a well that yet remains first sprang up. Unarrested by this obstacle, onwards the oxen swept down the bank (the abrasion occasioned by their wild descent being still traceable in the course of the well strand) towards the infernal Cothern, in which oxen, wain, and driver sank for ever, the horns of the oxen alone excepted, which were shortly after cast out by the unusual surging of the fountain. Such is the legend. About fifty years since the two landlords of the estates divided by the burn deepened its channel, and having cut through a stratum which lay across its bed and below the level of the Cothern, the water which was wont to boil to its surface found a subterranean outlet to Denises-burn. Grass covers its site, and the tradition is sinking into forgetfulness, living still, however, in the memory of many. Some there are who have seen the Cothern in its pristine state, and remember the awe which the story imparted to a sight of it. [Mr. Coulson thinks that the death of Cedwall on the Law, and the consequent flight of his army, may be dimly shadowed in the tradition; the wain being the baggage, the oxen the army.]

This cradle of the church, unknown and disregarded as cradles generally are by adults, now offers to be the handmaid to Hygeia, to become the channel of the life-sustaining water of fountains on its west side to the heart of the coalfield on the east. Denises-vale presents the only practical medium of communication, the projected aqueduct supplementary to the Whittle-dean waterworks passing right through it.

On my breaking through its thin covering of sward, the mound was found to consist of a mixture of earth and stones. At length the point of a fast sandstone was reached. While clearing this of its covering, some human bones were found. The stone was a rough elliptical block, without inscription or tool marks,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet in mean diameter, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick. Unable to dislodge it without help, I cut it into portable blocks, and found the granulated limestone of the native rock beneath. Through this I sank, and soon came to another freestone. In endeavouring to raise it it broke, and one end fell into the tomb below. Taking out a wedge-shaped stone from the other end to admit light, I obtained a distinct view of the interior. Nothing appeared above the lair of soft earth with which the bottom was lined but a shoulder blade and a rib. I then crept through the aperture into the inside, and proceeded to the north end, where, from a niche in the rock, I drew out the front part of the skull and a jaw, in which the teeth were perfect and close set. These I returned to the niche, and, on my way backwards, probed the earthy stratum and found the joints of the spine, the hip, and thigh bones, which lay crosswise. The body seemed to lie in a sleeping position, with the head to the north. The length of the tomb is about  $6\frac{1}{2}$ , the breadth  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , and height  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The roof consisted of three strong stones like 'throughs,' one end of which rested on a ledge of the limestone rock in which the tomb is cut, and the other on four upright stones which formed the other side. I replaced the broken cover, and returned the earth, &c., over it.

If history avers nothing to the contrary, it may be fairly assumed that these bones are the remains of Cedwalla. The south side of the camp, unfavoured by natural protection, would present the most vulnerable point of attack. There Cedwalla would fall, and there nature's patrimony of ground be assigned to him. The usage of exposing the body of a fallen enemy would not weigh with Oswald in his first act as a politic king and an obedient Christian.

The source of Denises-burn has been chosen for the joining point of three lords' lands, three townships, and three parishes, Stamfordham, Corbridge, and St. John Lee, by an abrupt deflection of their boundaries. At the same point the vale is crossed by an old Roman way called Cobb's-causey, a name which it has transferred with its office to the existing road between Ryal and Whittington. Tradition says that one General Cobb, marching his army across here, and stopped by the bog, caused the causeway to be laid across the vale. Hence the present road, and the association of his name with it, the well, the fields, and every point of interest in the vicinity of the spot, where some remains of the causey may still be seen. The place held a very prominent position amongst favourite ghost haunts.

Hallington township has its 'holy well,' but no legends in reference to it. Its soil is fertile, its aspect southern, its boundary well defined, and it is curiously appended to the parish of St. John Lee.

Bingfield village was probably for long the only inhabited place in the township of the same name. Grunston-law and Duns-moor, occupying its eastern boundary, would form a portion of the 'town-land,' and be depastured in common by the occupiers of Bingfield 'in-field.' The farm lying to the west of the Law is termed Bingfield East-quarter.

St. Oswald's, commanding in position, and contiguous to the Roman barrier, is a probable scene of conflict during the Roman occupation. Human bones and rusty armour at such a place afford no reliable testimony. Except the 'strand' of the Crag-well, St. Oswald's has no water of any kind north of the Wall at a less distance than two miles. Indeed the river Tyne is nearer than either the Swallow or the Erring, and, in a description of the place, would not have been overlooked by the most imperfect delineator.

St. Oswald's chapel stands on a level with, and at the distance of 130 yards from the Well.

At the point where the road from Halton to Hexham crosses Watling Street there stands an old house called the Chantry.

## MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY,

7 March, 1860.

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.* Their Transactions, Vol. XI., 1858-9. — *From the Canadian Institute.* The Canadian Journal, January. — *From the Abbé Cochet.* Carte Archéologique du département de la Seine Inferieure.

BOOKS PURCHASED BY SUBSCRIPTION.—Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire, 1655-6, Surtees Society. The Gentleman's Magazine.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS.—*Resolved*, that all papers announced in the circulars convening meetings shall take precedence of miscellaneous business.

FLINT IMPLEMENTS.—*Mr. Thomas Cape*, of Bridlington, through *Mr. W. H. Brockett*, exhibited a number of ancient implements of flint and stone, portions of the collections of *Mr. Barugh*, an intelligent farmer and *Mr. Thomas Fox*, of Bridlington.<sup>1</sup> A perforated axe-head 8

<sup>1</sup> An axe of yellowish and brown flint, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, was found on 16 June, 1860, at Sewerby, near Bridlington, by *Mr. Fox*.

inches long, found near Lisset, near Skipsea, was remarkably fine. Among the flints there were a circular knife and a small white flint arrowhead with only one barb.

ENGLISH COIN.—*Mr. Joseph Garnett* presented a half-crown of Charles I., found at Newcastle, and bearing the mint mark of a bell.

FURTHER DISCOVERIES AT CARLISLE.—*Dr. Bruce* exhibited drawings of British and Roman remains lately discovered at Carlisle, communicated by *Mr. McKie* of that city. Amongst them were lamps and a sculptured sacrificial figure with a palm-branch. There was also a palstave, found at Aspatria. He then read the following paper:—

At our last monthly meeting, I had the pleasure of laying before the members an interesting fragment of an important Roman inscription discovered at Carlisle. Since that period another inscribed stone has been exhumed on the same spot. As usual, the stone is fractured. In the last example we had the lower lines of the inscription complete. In this case, the fracture is vertical, and the right hand portion of the stone is altogether wanting. Hence, though we have a portion of every line of the inscription, we have not one complete. In all probability, the present fragment is only half of the original. When whole, it has, seemingly, been a square tablet, with a circular recess at the bottom. It may have been placed over a statue, the head of which occupied the recess. The stone, as we now have it, is 1ft. 11in. long, 1ft. 3in. broad, and 4in. thick. The sides are panelled. The margin of the face of the tablet is tastefully adorned by a moulding of the cable pattern. The letters of the inscription are very clearly cut, and possess a beauty of form well worthy the attention of modern type-founders. The following is the inscription:—DEI HERC. . . .—VICTI COI. . . .—TIBVS PRO S . . .—COMMILITON . . .—BARBARORV . . .—OB VIRTV . . .—P SEXTANIV. . . .—TAT TRAI. . .

Some ligatures (or tied letters) are introduced in the inscription, but they are of a very simple description. They are indicated in the foregoing copy by a smaller type. Judging from the character of the letters and the simplicity of the ligatures, the inscription is probably not later than the time of Heliogabalus. The inscription is quite new in its character; and hence, if complete, would probably present some fresh phase of society in Roman Britain. Judging from the portion of the circular recess at the bottom which is deficient, we have as yet only got the half of the inscription. It is a hazardous, and, for historical purposes, an unsatisfactory thing, in such circumstances, to draw upon the imagination for the remainder. The stone was probably set up in a temple of Hercules, who amongst his other titles, reckoned those of *Invictus* and *Conservator*, traces of which appear in the inscription. One peculiarity of the stone is that the name of the deity is in the genitive case. The word governing it is wanting, so that we do not know the precise form of dedication.

Perhaps the word *numini* (to the deity) is to be supplied; or perhaps the dedication is to some fellowship of the priests or worshippers of the god—*Sodalicio cultorum Herculis*; or it may be that the word *fanum* is on the missing part of the stone; in which case the first lines of the inscription would simply announce the fact that this was a temple of Hercules. Our chairman, Mr. Clayton, informs me that he saw at Verona a slab containing the words *Fanum Herculis*. This slab, or the statue which probably accompanied it, has evidently been set up “for the safety” (*pro salute*) of some individual or body of men. If we take the words as they stand before us, they read, “For the safety of our foreign fellow soldiers, on account of their valour.” In this case the inscription has been made by Italian troops, in honour of some auxiliary cohort or ala with whom they had co-operated. This interpretation breathes a more kindly feeling than we would expect from Latin soldiers. The word *barbarus*, as applied to foreign troops, is exceedingly rare in Roman inscriptions—if, indeed, another example besides this can be found. It is not impossible that, should the remainder of the inscription be found, the occasion of its erection may prove to have been a successful onslaught of the Romans on the barbarians of Caledonia. It will be in the recollection of most of us, that at Kirkandrews, a village to the west of Carlisle, there is an altar which has been erected to some deity whose name is lost—*ob res trans vallum prospere gestas*—on account of achievements prosperously performed beyond the Wall. Of the remainder of the Carlisle inscription little is certain, excepting that one Publius Sextantius or Sextantius seems to have had some hand in it. This is not a name known in Roman story. The discovery of another inscription, so soon after the one described at our last meeting, shows how rich the site of Carlisle is in historic relics of the Roman era. Should any event, toward or untoward, require the rebuilding of the present city, a mass of historical lore would probably be disinterred which in real value would amply repay the cost of the operation.

*The Chairman* remarked that thus much might be gathered from what remained of the inscription: That it was a votive tablet erected in the temple of Hercules by Publius Sextantius, a Roman soldier, for the safety or wellbeing of his foreign fellow-soldiers out of respect for their valour. The garrisons of the Roman Wall were all composed of foreign troops, but the officers were Roman. The term used in the inscription, “*barbari*,” was applied by the Greeks to all other nations but their own:—by the Romans, to all nations but those of Greece and Rome. A photograph of the stone was exhibited by the chairman, and it was suggested that less than one-half of the inscription was wanting.

DRINKING TRIPODS.—*Mr. Fairless*, Hexham, had sent for exhibition a tripod bronze vessel, about 11 inches high, and 5 inches in diameter at the bowl. The spout is destitute of ornament, but round



the bowl is a belt of raised ornamental Lombardics of the fourteenth century, similar in design and treatment to those used on bells. It was discovered in draining a field in Hexhamshire, near the old road passing the Linnels and by Ladycrossbank into the county of Durham. The founder's stock of letters for casting, which *Mr. White* explained were, as at present, used like moveable types, has not been extensive, the inscription being the following benison:—✠ *BENE SEIT KI BCN BEIG* for *Bene seit ki bein beit, Beni soit qui bien boit.* (Be it well with him who drinks well.)

This rhyming phrase [writes *Mr. Way*,] shews us that the tripod was used in festive potations—a mediæval toddy-kettle in fact;—whereas I have generally supposed such tripods were used as ewers, in accordance with the legend on one I saw in Norfolk, *VENEZ LAVER*, “Come and wash,” the ablutions at table after meals being a matter of more marked observance when forks were not in fashion.

We have not many objects of this class bearing inscriptions. All such, however, perhaps with one exception, known to me, have legends in old French, which may probably present some dialectical peculiarities from which a skilful philologist might fix more closely the origin of these works in metal. I have a notion that they were produced in the northern parts of France, or else in those parts of Flanders where French was the prevalent language. Dinan is a town which I have conjectured may have produced many of them. Your county has produced not a few, but generally not ornamented.

The late Col. Howard had a remarkable bronze cooling vessel, or caldron, of the same date as *Mr. Fairless's*, and with highly ornamented letters, almost identical in character. It bears the name of the maker, in Latin: *VILELMVS ANGETEL ME EECIT FIERI*, and the following French distich:—

✠ Je sus pot de graunt honbur  
Viaunde a faire de bon savheur.

*i. e.*

Je suis pot de grand honnuer  
Viande à faire de bon saveur.

(14 Arch., plate 52.) A brass ewer was found in Roxburghshire, and is preserved in the museum at Kelso, to which I would invite attention, as bearing a bilingual inscription which seems to throw some light on the question of the country where these metal vessels were manufactured. On this example we find the words *Neemt water*, “Take the water,” much as the “*Venez laver*.” These words are followed by the French *Prendes leave* (*Prenez l'eau*), equivalent to the former.

On a mazer of the fifteenth century I find the notion of a good drinker thus quaintly expressed—

Sit ye still, and kepe at rest,  
Drinke ye may, among the beste;  
Hoso wyllleth God to plesse  
Let hys neybor syt at ese.

I wish Mr. Fairless's toddy-kettle could yield some aroma of the olden times to reveal to us what was the cheering liquid which the vessel was destined to dispense. Was it mead, or the favorite celia, or freshly seethed ale in which our forefathers so much delighted?

[*Mr. Fairless*, in a subsequent communication, states that Mr. Wylam Walker has three or four uninscribed vessels of the same material, found on cutting the railway west of Haydon Bridge. One is rather similar to Mr. Fairless's, a second is a kailpot, 15 in. height by 15 in. diam., a third is another, 5 in. height by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. diam., and a fourth is a thin pan, 15 in. diam., by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. height.]

*Dr. Charlton* added the following remarks on this class of vessels generally :—

The bronze tripod vessels, in shape very closely resembling our modern coffee-pots, have been frequently assigned to a very early period, from the rudeness of the workmanship, the localities in which they have been found, and the general tendency to ascribe all objects in bronze to a Roman or Celtic period. In the Society's collection there are three of these ancient tripod vessels, and two of them have the spout terminating in a rude serpent's head, such as is generally supposed to indicate Scandinavian workmanship. We are not ourselves inclined to regard these objects as either Scandinavian or Roman. They have not the peculiar features of Scandinavian design, and they are assuredly wanting in the elegance of form and perfection of workmanship so characteristic of old Roman art. Very few, if any, of these tripods have been discovered in direct proximity to undoubted Roman remains; but, from time to time, they have been found associated with relics which we usually refer to the Celtic period. The absence of inscriptions on these vessels have always rendered their age a matter of question; and, moreover, so few bear any ornamentation at all, that little can be determined from this feature. We might be inclined to believe that some of the better and more ornate examples are Roman, while the ruder ones were cast at a later period, in imitation of these examples. These tripod vessels, from their small size and the imperishable nature of the thick bronze of which they were composed, have resisted the inroads of time, bad usage, and weather, better than most other materials which may have been hidden with them. They have often, therefore, been found alone, buried deep in peat mosses, far away from any present habitation; but, more than once, the articles found in their immediate vicinity have belonged to the mediæval period of our history, rather than to a more remote antiquity. Thus, about eight years ago, a bronze tripod vessel of this character was found in the Sharo Moss, near Bellingham; and close to it were about 400 silver coins of the Edwardian era, with coins of Alexander III. of Scotland, and several from the mint at Durham and Newcastle. The mere fact of the coins being found near the tripod vessel would suggest that it was at all events in use at the period referred to, but did not prove that it was not manufactured at a much earlier

date. We can now, however, produce a bronze tripod vessel, of the usual coffee-pot shape, but of undoubted mediæval workmanship.

[Dr. Charlton, in addition to this Hexham instance, refers to Col. Howard's, mentioned by Mr. Way.] Both these must be admitted to belong to mediæval times; and we see no reason why the others, without mark or letter, should not be referred to a similar recent period of our history. A curious confirmation of the correctness of our views regarding these bronze tripods is to be found in a MS. of the fourteenth century, now in the British Museum. Here numbers of these bronze tripod caldrons are depicted as in daily use, some of them being exactly similar in shape to that bearing the old French inscription, and figured in the *Archæologia*. Moreover, in this same MS. we have a figure of an attendant carrying a tripod (coffee-pot) shaped vessel, exactly similar to those now in the Society's collections. In the other hand he bears a dish or platter; and possibly warm drink, or spiced wine, was handed to the guests in these vessels. The inscription on the Hexham tripod vessel would in such case be peculiarly appropriate.<sup>2</sup>

GOTHIC *v.* CLASSIC.—*Mr. F. R. Wilson*, architect, Alnwick, exhibited large drawings by him of the Forum of Rome, restored, as a creditable type of the classic styles of architecture; and of a cluster of mediæval cathedrals, churches, and domestic buildings existing in England. The object was to afford a fair means of judging between the styles in reference to modern adaptations. York and Durham cathedrals justly take a prominent position. [Mr. Wilson has since obtained very handsome photograms of these drawings.] He also exhibited a restored view of Brinkburn interior, and drawings of buildings, old and new, upon which he has been professionally engaged, including Cheswick House, the arrangements at Alnwick Cemetery, Kyloe Church, buildings at Alnmouth, &c.

CHIBBURN PRECEPTORY.—*Mr. Wilson* also presented detailed views and elevations of this interesting building, and read some "new notes" thereon. A previous paper, alluded to by Mr. Wilson, was read by Mr. Woodman, at the Newcastle Congress of the Archæological Institute, and, since the reading of Mr. Wilson's, has been published in 17 *Arch. Journal*, 35. Mr. Woodman observes that the establishment was possibly founded by the Fitz-Williams, the tenants in chief, or by the Widdringtons, who held under them in the twelfth century, and whose arms may be intended by a defaced quarterly escutcheon over the chapel doorway. He then cites the following evidences:—1. Bishop Kellaw's return (in his Register) of the Hospitallers' goods in 1313, before the

<sup>2</sup> See an article by Mr. T. Hudson Turner on Drinking Customs, in the *Archæological Journal* for 1845.