

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

October 3, 1862.

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

DEATH OF SIR JOHN SWINBURNE.—*The Chairman*, before entertaining other business, would call upon the members of the Society to unite with him in an expression and record of their regret at the decease of their honoured and venerable president, Sir John Edward Swinburne. Although any greatly prolonged term of life had been improbable, yet his departure at this time had on the whole been unexpected and sudden, and his friends had previously had well founded hopes that he would have survived his century of years. In this they had been disappointed. But they would remember, with satisfaction, his noble character, example as he was of an intellectual and highly cultivated gentleman, always ready to bear part in the support of every public institution, charitable or literary. He would move that the Society record in its minutes an expression of regret on the occasion.—*Dr. Charlton* seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

DONATION OF BOOKS.—From the *Kilkenny Archæological Society*. Its Proceedings, March, 1860, Vol. iii., No. 26.

IMPLEMENTS OF THE SAXON PERIOD, FOUND NEAR LANCHESTER.—*Dr. Charlton* exhibited a singular assemblage of objects, military and peaceful, the nature and discovery of which are best detailed in his paper given below:—

The articles that we exhibit this evening, through the kindness of Mr. Balleny of Little Greencroft, near Lanchester, on whose property they were recently found, are of a miscellaneous character. They were discovered in the bank of a small rivulet that flows past Greencroft, by a man who was fishing in the stream. Their position was about four feet, we believe, below the present soil; and his attention was called to them by observing one of the axes sticking out of the bank. All the articles now exhibited are apparently of iron, unless the broad and perfect double-edged sword be of bronze. The articles are eighteen in number, and comprise two swords — one, a broad-edged sword, and with the hilt perfect; the other, much corroded, single-edged, and ornamented down the blade. Of axes, there are four — three of one form, but different sizes, and the fourth of another shape. There are four scythes; a double-headed pick, like the miner's pick of the present day, but much smaller;

a single-headed mattock; and two other instruments of iron. We have likewise a pike-head, a ring of iron like that of a bridle bit, and the remains of a buckle. We believe that all the articles discovered are here, except one axe head. We will now examine these articles in detail.

The large sword, which has not suffered, or at least, only in a slight degree, from corrosion, and is of a metal more resembling bronze than iron, is $34\frac{1}{2}$ inches in total length. The hilt, from the cross-piece to the top of the knob, is five inches. The blade, which tapers gradually to a point, is $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches at its broadest part near the hilt. Two distinct ribs or elevations run down the blade at about half an inch from either edge. The cross-piece is crescent-shaped, its end projecting about half an inch from the blade, and tending forward about three-quarters of an inch. The knob-piece is likewise crescent-shaped; but the hollow of the reversed crescent is filled up by the knob itself of elongated form. The second sword is of iron, without the hilt, and greatly corroded. Its length is about 30 inches, of which the blade measures in inches about 26. It is single-edged, and along the blade, in two lines, there runs an inlaid ornament, apparently composed of alternate inlaying of copper and gold, and about one-eighth of an inch in breadth. From some indications in some parts of the blade, we are inclined to think that on the upper side of the blade this line was double. One of the axes is what is called the taper-axe in Anglo-Saxon documents—or at least it bears a resemblance to the axes found in Anglo-Saxon graves, though it is straight, not curved, as in Anglo-Saxon specimens. The other three axes, one large, and two smaller, have a long blade extended parallel to the direction of the shaft upwards and downwards. The blade of the largest one is exactly 12 inches in the cutting-edge. The mattock and pick require no particular description, except that both are exceedingly small. The other two iron instruments are formed of bars of iron about half an inch in diameter, square, and terminating in the one instance in a spear point at one end, and a gouge-shaped, or rather spoon-shaped formation at the other. The other, which is about 18 inches long, is pointed-shaped at one end, and more obtuse at the other. The four scythes are almost exactly alike. The blade is straight, or nearly so, with a right-angled crook to attach it to the shaft. Each blade is about 16 inches long, by half an inch in breadth. The large iron ring and buckle may possibly have formed a portion of horse-furniture. In endeavouring to assign a date and a period for these articles, the peculiar form of the swords and axes will be of material assistance. Though found in the immediate vicinity of the Roman camp at Lanchester, they do not resemble the arms of that great people. The Anglo-Saxon swords were long and broad, like the one before us, but they had hardly any cross-piece; and in no instance that we are aware of has a hilt been discovered of the peculiar shape before us. The bronze swords preserved in the Royal Museum of Copenhagen, and considered there as of the Heathen period, and belonging to the so-called Bronze Age, are exactly of this pattern. Among the many beautiful examples figured in the Atlas of Northern Archaeology, which we have brought here with us to-night, there are many with the crescent-shaped cross piece, and some, too, with the reverted crescent towards the knob. It may be urged, however, that most of the swords are of

bronze, while this one before us is possibly of iron. Granting this, we may observe that the iron swords found in the tombs of the Vikings in Norway, along with gold bracelets and coins of the later Roman and Byzantine emperors, are of exactly similar pattern. The iron axes, too, and especially the taper axe, already spoken of, closely resemble those of Norway. The scythes are the same pattern as those used in Norway at the present day. There are numbers of these scythes in the Christiania museum. In Norway, it may be observed, iron seems to take the place of bronze, the latter metal being of rare occurrence. The straight, one-edged sword with the inlaid pattern along the blade is not so easily assigned. We read of some such weapons having been found in France, and along the Rhine, but they are rare in the Anglo-Saxon graves of the South of England. As to the other implements, they present no very characteristic features. We have little doubt of the larger and more perfect sword being of Scandinavian origin; and that the iron axes and scythes may possibly be from the same locality. On the other hand, the sword may have been wrested in battle from the hands of some sturdy Norse Viking, and have been preserved as an heirloom in some Saxon churl's family to a period long subsequent to the amalgamation of the Danish and Norse with the Anglo-Saxon population. In a sudden alarm or incursion these weapons may have been hidden in the bank of the stream, and the premature death of their owner may have caused their place of concealment to be forgotten. It is probable that we have here a real relic of that turbulent period when the Norseman rode triumphant on the waves along our eastern coast, landing to spoil the inhabitants, and burn the churches and monasteries, and when the very names of the Danes created terror through the length and breadth of the land.

Mr. White noticed that two of the axes indicated the direction of the handle, and which part was uppermost. Some of the implements were probably agricultural; and one at least seemed, from the bearing of the handle, to have been a hoe, and not an axe.

THE CARR MS.—*Dr. Howard*, through *Mr. Longstaffe*, desired to place on the Society's records the last appearance of this famous book. It occurs in the catalogue of a sale of books by Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson, on the 29th of August last. The following is the entry of it:—

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—A Catheloge of all the Maiores and Sherifs of His Maiestye Towne and Countye of Newcastell-upon-Tyne, with theyre Cotes of Armes, and the Reignes of the several Kinges and Queenes of this Lande with sarton brefes of Chronicles that hapned in theyr several Reignes sence Anno Dom. 1432, *MS. the arms in their proper colours, binding broken; circa 16...* A HIGHLY INTERESTING MS. of all the Mayors and Sheriffs of Newcastle, from 1432 to 1633, excepting the years 1528-9-30, and 1624-5-6, for which leaves are inserted. The Catalogue of Names is continued from 1633 to 1802 in more recent

handwritings. The volume appears to have been executed by W. Robinson, Deputy Herald, under Norroy King at Arms, and was in the possession of Robert Carre, Esq., of St. Helen Auckland, 1730, whose name is impressed on the sides. It is VERY PROBABLY THE ORIGINAL MS. alluded to in Bourne's History of Newcastle, p. 121, which was in the Town's Chamber, when Trollop built the Town Court, and which he never restored.

It was arranged that Mr. Longstaffe should endeavour to ascertain the present custody of the volume. [Messrs. S. and W. sold it to Mr. Kerslake of Bristol. It had previously been knocked down at a small price at Mr. Alexander George Gray's (of Gateshead Park House) sale, and subsequently belonged to Mr. Shepherd of Newcastle.]

BOOK COVERS.—*Dr. J. J. Howard*, through *Mr. Longstaffe*, exhibited some rubbings from early stamped bookbindings. No. 1, of the 16th century from the library of Winchester Cathedral, presented a female figure gazing up to the cross among the clouds, "*Meritum Christi*," the words *Spes, Charitas, Fides*, a tradesman's initials, I. P., and mark, and quotations from the 70th and 90th Psalms. No. 2, from the library of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, was stamped with the fleur-de-lis of France, and castle of Castile, with a tradesman's mark and initials, N. S. Mr. Longstaffe stated that a much larger book of the same character, and with more badges, pointing to the time of Henry and Catherine, was purchased from Dr. Raine's library for the Rev. E. J. Midgley. No. 3 presented a bold tradesman's device of G. W. It was from the library of Salisbury Cathedral. No. 4, from the library of Exeter Cathedral, gave a tradesman's mark, and the fleur-de-lis of France, the rose of England, the portcullis of Tudor, the castle of Castile, the pomegranate of Arragon, and the quartered arms of France and England, in bold tooling. Dr. Howard referred to the curious examples in the libraries of Lincoln Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, and several rare specimens of the 15th century in the British Museum and Bodleian Library, and lamented that in many libraries the books have been rebound, and the old bindings, of course, destroyed.

TUMULUS NEAR MIDDLETON-ONE-ROW.—*Mr. Trueman*, through *Mr. Longstaffe*, exhibited a drawing made by the late Mr. Matthew Thompson of Durham, in 1844, of the mound near to the Dinsdale Hotel, in the property of C. W. Harland, Esq. of Sutton Park, Yorkshire.

BEACONS IN 1804.—*Mr. Trueman* also communicated Mr. Thompson's drawing of the beacon on Pittington Hill, 1804, with his remarks

on such objects, which had been placed by order of the then Government on the sea-coast to alarm the inhabitants in case of invasion. Gateshead Fell, Pittington Hill, and Quarrington Hill, were the selected places in the county of Durham. The beacon at Pittington consisted of a long pole, strongly fixed in the earth. There were projecting pieces of wood for steps on this. A cast-iron horizontal beam went across, at a distance from the top, acting upon an iron bolt or pin, so as to cause the lights to revolve conspicuously when the beacon was fired; and the beam was pulled round by a chain at one end. At each end of the beam was suspended an iron grate, containing a small barrel of combustibles, mixed for prolonged combustion. Two private soldiers were stationed to protect the beacon, and to take observations by a fixed telescope of the one at Gateshead Fell. They attended alternately, day and night, and had a small wooden house, with a fire-place, and a very neatly-kept garden. They were very civil men, and many visitors walked to the place. One of the soldiers was a shoemaker, and got work from Durham; and, what with his work, and frequent visitors, spent his time very comfortably, and is said to have saved money. Mr. Thompson enlarges upon a false alarm by some burning whins, which we need not detail.

ELECTION FAVOURS AND CHAIRS IN DURHAM.—*Mr. Trueman* also communicated Mr. Thompson's coloured drawings of the favours or cockades used by several members of parliament for the county and city of Durham since 1796, and of the election chairs of Sir H. T. Liddell, Bart., (now Lord Ravensworth,) as member for the county, and Mr. Thompson's remarks.

This sketch applies to all the old chairs, as they were all similar, except in the various colours of the different members.

It appears, from the earliest recollection, that the members, when chosen, were taken from the hustings to the inn where they were residing, in a chair trimmed with laurel and ribbons, elevated on men's shoulders. These chairs, formerly, were splendidly decorated, and an antique elbow chair was generally chosen. It was covered in the back, seat, and elbows, &c.; a kind of frame work was erected at the back, and then branches of laurel were fastened to it, bringing the small ends of the branches to hang over at the top, so as to make it represent a bower. The laurel was tastefully interspersed with rosettes of satin ribbon, the colours of the member, and, when brought out into the streets, the laurel ends waving and the bright satin cockades had a most magnificent effect. But there was a great evil attached to these chairs. The mobility took a great pride in getting the rosettes off, and it was also an invariable practice to break the chair all in pieces. They let the chair go quietly the regular routine it had

to go, but, on its return to the inn, when coming near the entrance door, the mob usually closed in, and snatched at the ribbons; and many times the members were obliged to leap out amongst their friends, as the chair was cracking in all directions. As soon as the occupant was out of the chair, it was seized on all sides, and completely broken to pieces. The scene may be compared to when the huntsman throws up a fox to the hounds—it disappears in a very short time; so it was with these chairs. The constables were always stationed round the chair, and, although they used their staves freely, still they did not deter the mob, who used to parade through the streets, some carrying a piece of the chair-back, some a leg, and others pieces of the laurels, and in procuring these they had various cuts in their heads, and many an ugly blow from the constables' staves. These chairs were used until the election in 1812, when Lord Barnard and Sir H. V. Tempest were returned for the county. Sir Henry had been chaired once or twice before for the city, so that he was quite aware of the circumstances. At this time, he was unwell, and had a partial attack of the gout, which altogether made him nervous; but his friends prevailed on him to have a plain chair for the ceremony, and Lord Barnard having agreed to use the same, he was reconciled. Sir Henry's chair was a plain circular back chair, stuffed inside, covered with dark purple cloth, and tufted with yellow tufts. Lord Barnard's was a large elbow-chair, japanned black, and covered with scarlet moreen. In these chairs they were taken quietly round the part to their respective inns, and were lowered down at the door, and carried into the entrance, without any attempt to touch the chair. After that time these kind of chairs have usually been used ever since; but in the year 1832, Mr. Hedworth Lambton, and Sir Hedworth Williamson, instead of being chaired, were drawn by four horses, in an open phaeton, from the County Courts round the Market-place, and then back to Mr. Alderman Robson's. Lord Dungannon was always chaired. Mr. Grainger, and also Mr. Bright, went the usual tour in an open phaeton, drawn by four horses, not using any party colours at all. Favours or cockades worn at the different elections for the county and city of Durham, for the different members, may thus be described. The Whig colour has been invariably light blue, and has been used by the Lambton family from earliest recollection. Purple-and-orange was always taken by what was termed the third man, or third candidate. Such was the case with Rowland Burdon, Esq., and Richard Wharton, Esq. Mr. Matthew Russell's were considered the most sombre colours ever chosen, being a dark coffee-brown, and a dark-red, at that time called "cocklico." It was a rich ruby colour. It was said, formerly, that the colours for gentlemen's liveries, as also jockey-jackets at races, and colours for electioneering purposes, were invariably taken from the two prevailing colours in the field of arms; and if any metal was used in these arms, such as gold or silver, the one so used in the arms was taken for the trimming of their liveries. This is very little regarded now. There are, however, some old families who still adhere to the ancient custom. George Allan, Esq., when he contested the city, first used the red-and-white colours as the Tory colour, which have ever since been used by all the Tory candidates to this day, as also the blue has

been used by Mr. Granger as the Whig colour." [As early as 1698, the Bishop's Registrar speaks of "Will Lambton," alias "Old True Blue."] The colours of favours or cockades used for the different members of Parliament for the county and city of Durham since the year 1796 are thus enumerated:— "*County Members*:— Sir Ralph Milbank, Bart., Seaham, red and light blue; Rowland Burdon, Esq., Castle Eden, purple and orange; Sir Henry Vane Tempest, Bart., Wynyard, lilac and yellow; Lord Viscount Barnard, Raby Castle (now Duke of Cleveland), black and pink; John George Lambton, Esq., Lambton Castle, (late Earl of Durham), light blue; the Honourable William John Frederick Vane Powlett, Raby Castle, crimson and white; E. R. Braddyll, Esq., green and white; Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., Whitburn, dark navy blue and deep yellow; Sir Thomas Liddell, Bart., and the Honourable Henry Liddell, red and white.— *City Members*:— Matthew Russell, Esq., Brancepeth Castle, dark brown and dark red (the latter colour was called "cocklico"); Ralph John Lambton, Esq., light blue; Michael Angelo Taylor Esq., light blue and white; Richard Wharton, Esq., purple and orange; Robert Eden Duncombe Shafto, Esq., Whitworth Park, light blue and yellow; George Allan, Esq., Grange, near Darlington, red and white; Sir Henry Hardinge, Bart.; (now Lord Viscount Hardinge), red and white; Sir William Chaytor, Bart., and W. R. C. Chaytor, Esq., light blue and white; William Charles Harland, Esq., light blue and buff."

NEW PERCY SEAL.—*Mr. Way* had forwarded to Mr. Longstaffe an impression from a large silver ring of the 15th century, found in Wiltshire, ornamented with two tau-crosses, and bearing the crescent enclosing a locket of Percy. It might probably be ascribed to the 4th earl.

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

November 7, 1860.

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

NEW MEMBERS.—ORDINARY MEMBERS. *Sir Walter Buchanan Riddell, Bart.*, of Hepple, Northumberland, and Woolsley House, Staffordshire. — *Sir Walter Charles James, Bart.*, Betteshanger, Kent. — HONORARY MEMBER. *Signore Giovanni Montiroli*, of Rome.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From Mr. C. Seymour Bell*, as a memento of an old member, the Catalogue of the late Mr. Thomas Bell's Library, 1860: large paper, folio.—*From Mr. C. Roach Smith*. His *Collectanea Antiqua*, Part iii., Vol. v., 8vo. His Review in the Gentleman's Maga-

zine of the Society's Catalogue of Roman Stones in its possession, 8vo. Character of the Liverpool Town Museum, by the Rev. Dr. A. Hume, 1859, 4to. The Lancashire Lieutenancy under the Tudors and Stuarts, edited by John Harland, F.S.A., for the Chetham Society, 2 Parts, 1859, 4to. Remember, Remember, the twelfth of November! or a Lay of Leasowe, Birkenhead, 1859, 8vo.—*From the Smithsonian Institution.* Annual Report for 1858 of its Board of Regents.—*From the Canadian Institute.* The Canadian Journal, N. S., No. 29.—*From the Kilkenny Archæological Society.* Proceedings and Papers, Vol. iii., No. 27.—*From the Liverpool Architectural and Archæological Society.* Proceedings, 11th Session.—*From the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.* Proceedings, Vol. iii., Part I.—*From Mr. John Lindsay, of Cork.* His notices of Remarkable Coins in his Cabinet.

NEWCASTLE NEWSPAPERS.—*Mr. Hinde* presented the *Newcastle Journal* for 1750, 1761, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1768, 1773, 1775. These volumes complete the set of the *Newcastle Journal* in the library of the Society from 1744 to 1782 inclusive, with the exception of the years 1745, 1748, 1774, and part of 1776. There is also a set of the *Newcastle Courant*, beginning likewise in 1744, and extending to a more recent period than the *Journal*, but not so complete. Besides which, there is a set of the *Newcastle Gazette* for the years 1746, 7, 9, 51 and 52; and a set of the *Newcastle Intelligencer* from 1755 to 1759.

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.—*The Duke of Northumberland, K.G.*, through *Mr. Clayton* and *Dr. Bruce*, presented one of three admirable facsimiles of the unique and highly curious piece of silver plate in his Grace's possession known as the Corbridge Lanx. This reproduction has been prepared by one of the most skilful operators in the electrotypic art, and having been silvered, presents not only the minutest details of workmanship, but also the general appearance of the original. There is a separate cast of some marks on the reverse, supposed to indicate the weight. There is no accurate engraving of the Lanx, and previously the Society had only a cast in plaster, which failed to give the minuter features, but is worth keeping as evidence of certain irregularities of surface which time or ill-usage had caused, and which in the finer facsimile are levelled.

Dr. Bruce read the following notice of the Lanx by *Mr. Way* :—

A few notices in regard to the Lanx, its discovery, and the various conjectures which have been suggested in the attempt to explain the mythological scene which it represents, may, I hope, be interesting

to the Society on the occasion. I must, however, observe that I have no new or satisfactory interpretation to offer, although I have bestowed some pains upon the endeavour to gain some light upon the subject of mythology which is represented upon the Lanx, and have consulted with several distinguished archæologists both at home and on the Continent, in the prosecution of the enquiry.

The Lanx was found, as you are well aware, in 1734, on the bank of Tyne, near Corbridge. The precise circumstances of the discovery are thus stated in a record preserved at Alnwick Castle, of which, by his Grace's kind permission, I am enabled to give you the following extract:—"In the month of February, 1734, as a young girl named Cutter, a daughter of one Cutter, a blacksmith in Corbridge, in the county of Northumberland, was going along the river Tyne to gather sticks and fetch water, on the north side of the river, about two hundred yards below the bridge, where some small whins or furzes grew (which spot lies within the Duke of Northumberland's manor of Corbridge), she discovered a corner of a piece of plate appearing white out of the earth, which she pulled up and carried to her father, who, a few days afterwards, cut off a ring from the back of the plate, and carried it to a goldsmith in Newcastle, and he purchased this ring from Cutter for 1*l.* 16*s.*; and on the first of March following, Cutter sold the remaining part of this ancient piece of plate for 31*l.* 10*s.*" The plate and ring weighed 148 oz., so that the purchase was made at the rate of 4*s.* 6*d.* per ounce.

It were needless here to detail the particulars, so well known, regarding the claim forthwith made by the lord of the manor at that period, Charles Duke of Somerset, and the ultimate recovery of this unique relic of Treasure Trove, which was delivered up to his grace in 1735. These facts have been stated more or less in detail by the writers who have treated of Roman times in Northumberland, and especially by the talented historian of that county, Hodgson; more recently also by our valued friend, Mr. Fenwick, in his very interesting treatise entitled "Treasure Trove in Northumberland."

In regard to the special use for which this sumptuous relic was intended, I regret that no satisfactory or conclusive suggestion can be offered. The wealthy Romans had, as we believe, services of plate wrought with mythological and other subjects, and destined for use at their luxurious entertainments. There appear to have existed also vessels of silver, used in their ceremonial solemnities; and it seems highly probable that this splendid salver may have been destined for some sacrificial use, and for the purposes of pagan worship. It will not be forgotten that certain remarkable altars have been found at Corbridge, especially one now in the British Museum bearing a dedication in Greek to Hercules.

Some antiquaries have been disposed to conclude that the plate may properly be designated a *Lanx*, in which, as we read in Virgil, the reeking entrails of the victims were offered to the gods; whilst, according to other authorities, it may have been one of the dishes used in solemn feasts in social life among the Romans. These dishes of silver were of enormous size, since we learn from Horace that one of them

was of sufficient capacity to hold a wild boar, and Pliny mentions such dishes weighing from 100 to 500 pounds.

It may deserve mention that on previous occasions two pieces of Roman plate, of smaller dimensions, had been found near that spot; one being a small bason ornamented with foliage, and the christian monogram composed of the initials Chi and Rho; the other was a little two-handled cup, which was sold for a guinea to a brother of Mr. Howard, at that time living at Corby Castle. The weight of the former, of which a rude sketch only has been preserved, was 20 ounces.

But to proceed to the subject represented in low relief upon the Lanx: the work being in part hammered up, and finished with the tool, the intervening spaces occasionally engraved with small strokes of the burin, or strippled ornaments (*opus punctatum*). The scene is composed of five figures. 1. Diana, with an altar before her; under her feet an urn, from which water flows, as if typifying the source of a river, and under the altar is a hound, looking upward at the goddess. 2. Minerva, wearing a helmet, the Gorgon's head upon her breast; she stands under a spreading tree, in the branches of which is an eagle, with other birds. 3. Juno, under whose feet is a dead stag; but this may possibly be referable to Diana, goddess of the chase. 4. A seated goddess, her head is veiled; this has been conjectured to be Vesta, on account of the altar flaming, seen under the figure, which may, however, portray Latona. 5. Apollo, standing under a canopy, or open temple, with Corinthian columns; under his feet is his usual attribute, the gryphon. Between Apollo and the seated goddess there is a peculiar pedestal or altar formed of eight steps pyramidally arranged, and behind this is a spiral column surmounted by a globe, reminding the numismatist of the pillar seen on coins with the reverse of *Securitas*, as Mr. Akerman has pointed out, observing also that this symbol may possibly suggest the interpretation of the subject, which may be referable to the security of the province of Britain in some period of peace; an explanation to which he thinks some colour of probability is given by the circumstance that the figure of Security is seated, whilst the deities around her are standing. It would doubtless greatly enhance the interest of this remarkable relic of Roman times in Britain, if we could satisfactorily establish its connection with any events in our own country: this is, however, scarcely to be expected. According to another suggestion the subject represented may refer to a very different matter, and present a symbolical allusion to the period of the year when the sun passes the autumnal equinox. A learned archæologist in France, whom I have lately had occasion to consult on this subject, is disposed to consider the scene as allusive to Latona, with her two children, after the evil influences of the serpent Typhon were defeated; and that she here appears accompanied by Minerva and Juno, assisting at the triumph over the perils by which she had been threatened. Another, and, I think, not improbable, explanation has suggested, in this remarkable mythological group, the apotheosis of a Roman empress typified under the figure of one of the chief heathen goddesses.

COINS FOUND AT NEWCASTLE.—*Dr. Bruce*, by permission of *Mr. Young*, silversmith, exhibited eight silver pennies, part of a large deposit which lately occurred in a stone in property at the Butcher Bank, Newcastle. They are of Edward I. and Edward II. Among those of the former is one struck at Waterford. The rest of the eight are struck at London, Canterbury, and Bristol.

THE TWENTIETH LEGION.—*Dr. Bruce* stated, that hearing there was at the Pitti Palace, Florence, a standard of the famous 20th legion of Roman soldiers, so much connected with Britain, he had taken means to procure a drawing, and was horrified by a question received from Florence, whether the legion in question was one of Napoleon the First's! The palace being a large one, and the objects of interest numerous, a more exact reference to the standard was required.

MUSEUM.—Some conversation on alterations of plan took place, and meetings with the Town Surveyor and the Directors of the Railway Company were arranged.

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

December 5, 1860.

The Right Hon. Lord Ravensworth, V.P., in the Chair.

COIN OF ATHENS.—*Mrs. Graham*, 35, Eldon Street, presented a silver coin brought from Egypt by a Newcastle captain. *Obv.*, the head of Minerva. *Rev.*, an owl with a branch of olive.

THE NEW CASTLE.—*Mr. Dodd* presented the original drawing by Jefferson of the Old Gate of the Castle, which he had purchased at the sale of the late Mr. Thomas Bell's effects. It is facsimiled at page 98 of vol. iv. of this series.

ROMAN COINS.—*Dr. Bruce* exhibited a number of enlarged drawings, by Mr. Mossman, of Roman coins of historical interest.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.* Its Transactions, Vol. xii.

BOOKS EXHIBITED.—*The Chairman* exhibited a mediæval illuminated MS.; also a copy of Plautus, Witteberg, 1612; of Beaumont and

170 DAGGER FROM MUGGLESWICK.—CHALICE FROM HEXHAM.

Fletcher, 1646; and of *Explanatio Notarum et Literarum*, &c., Paris, 1723.

PRESIDENT.—*Resolved*, that Lord Ravensworth be requested to allow himself to be nominated at the Annual Meeting as President of the Society. *Lord Ravensworth* stated that he would consider his election to that office as a compliment.

ANNUAL MEETING.—*Dr. Bruce* gave notice of a motion for changing the time of holding the Anniversary Meeting.

DAGGER FROM MUGGLESWICK.—*The Rev. John Cundill*, of Muggleswick, presented the remains referred to in the following remarks by *Dr. Charlton*:—

We exhibit this evening to the Society a portion of the hilt of a dagger or knife of the Edwardian period. It was found at the south-eastern side of the moorland in Muggleswick parish, where the moor meets what is now at least enclosed land, and just about the line that a party of horsemen crossing from Durham towards Edmondbyers would be likely to take. No other traces of arms were discovered in its vicinity to warrant the idea of its having been lost in a skirmish. It may just as well have been dropped in the little hollow where it was found by some retainer of the chapter of Durham, as there was a park at Muggleswick belonging to that body. It was found by a workman preparing the ground for the foundation of a house, and when discovered had a considerable part of the blade and handle attached to it, but these had been nearly quite removed when it came into the hands of the donor. What remains is sufficient, however, to shew the shape of the blade; and we have also the ring of massive silver by which the blade was fitted to the haft. This ring is nearly half an inch in breadth, and upon it, in letters about a quarter of an inch long, is the inscription ✕ JHESVS NAZARENVS. From the form of the letters we can with tolerable certainty assign the date of the weapon to the fourteenth century. Below the lettering, and next the hand, is a raised cable moulding, which would give greater security to the hand, preventing it from slipping over the weapon in the absence of cross guards when a blow was struck. The lettering is in niello work, the interspaces of the metal having been cut out and afterwards filled in with a black enamel. Such daggers were often worn by knights, and bore the name of "Misericorde daggers," as, from their peculiar shape and great strength, they were well fitted for piercing between the joints of the armour of a prostrate foe who refused the proffered mercy. The best workers in niello in the fourteenth century were the Italians, and especially the armourers of Milan.

CHALICE FROM HEXHAM.—*Dr. Charlton* made the following remarks upon another object which he exhibited:—

We also exhibit a small copper gilt chalice, which was found recently in the transept of Hexham Abbey, while digging a deep trench there for a warming apparatus. Large quantities of bones were then thrown out, and no doubt this is one of the copper gilt chalices that it was customary to bury with dignified ecclesiastics. In shape it closely resembles those sculptured on the great slab at Blanchland, and on that of the thirteenth century at Gainford. A similar form of chalice on a stone at Bakewell, in Derbyshire is referred by antiquaries to the twelfth century. The height of this chalice is $2\frac{3}{4}$ in.; the diameter of the bowl, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.; do. of the foot, 2 in. Between the knop and the bowl is a small toothed moulding. It was customary at the burial of an ecclesiastic to place upon the breast a chalice and paten, which generally were made of pewter or of tin, and sometimes of earthenware. Several such chalices have been found at Hereford and elsewhere. We think it probable that the present example was placed in the tomb of a dignified ecclesiastic, probably a prior of Hexham, and that its date is perhaps of the twelfth or thirteenth century. It is seldom that these mortuary chalices are so carefully and heavily gilt as in the present case. We did not hear of any paten being found along with it.

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

January 2, 1861.

William Kell, Esq., in the Chair.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the University of Christiania.* Gamle Norske Folkeviser, Samlede og udgivne af Sophus Bugge, Kristiania, 1858. Strengleikar eda Liodabok, Christiania, 1850. Index Scholarum in Universitate Regia Fredericana, nonagesimo quinto ejus semestri anno MDCCCLX ab Augusto mense ineunte habendarum, Christiania, 1860. The like, nonagesimo quarto ejus semestri anno MDCCCLX a xvii. kalendas Februarias habendarum. De vi logicæ rationis in describenda Philosophiæ Historia, ad Eduardum Zellerum professorem Marburgensem celeberrimum epistola quam scripsit Marcus Jacobus Monrad, Professor Christianiensis, Christianiæ, 1860. Foreningen til Norske Fortidsmindesmerkers Bevaring: Aarsberetning for 1859, afgivet i Generalforsamling den 26 Juni, 1860, Christiania, 1860. Cereemoniel ved deres Majestæter Kong Carl den Femtendes og Dronning Wilhelmine Frederike Alexandra Anna Louises Kroning, i Trondhjem, Aar 1860. Cantate ved H. M. Kong Carl den Femtendes og H. M. Dronning Wilhelmine Fredrikke Alexandra Anna Louises Kroning, i Thronhjems Domkirke den 5 August, 1860. Sang ved HS. Maj. Kongens fest paa Kroningsdagen for Christiania Garnisons Under-

officierer og Menige. Veiledning for Deeltagerne, i Kronings-processionen ved Indtagelsen af deres Pladser i Kirken. Norske Bygninger fra Fortiden (Norwegian Buildings from former times) i tegninger og med text udgivne af Foreningen til Norske Fortidsmindesmerkers Bevaring, Første Hefte, pl. i.-iv., 1859.— *From the Canadian Institute.* The Canadian Journal, Nov. 1860.

NORWEGIAN MEDAL.—*The University of Christiania* presented a beautiful bronze medal. *Obv.* Portraits of the king and queen in profile. CAROLUS ET LOUISA NORV. SVEC. REX ET REGINA.—G. LOOS DIR. *Rev.* A graceful figure of Minerva accompanied by the owl. VOVENS ET MEMOR. UNIVERSITAS REGIA FREDERICIANA.

ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS.—*Dr. Bruce* postponed his motion to change the date of these until the anniversary meeting in February.

OLD PIPE HEAD.—*Mr. C. D. Barker* presented an old pipe head of unusual form, found by him on the beach at Cullercoats. As is frequently the case, the pipe is balanced and the head flattened on the under side, so as to lie with the mouth upwards.

NORTHUMBRIAN CHURCHES.—*Mr. F. R. Wilson, A.R.S.A.,* architect, Alnwick, exhibited two volumes of his surveys of the churches in the Archdeaconry of Lindisfarne. They comprised the rural deaneries of Norham West, and Bamborough. The present state of each church is illustrated by plans, drawings and sections, distinguishing ancient from modern work; and, considering the confusion that will arise from the *restorations* of these days, the value of such records must necessarily be very great. *Mr. Wilson* stated that he jots down other buildings of antiquity, especially peel-towers and castles; and that his series, when complete, will give very complete data for the architectural history of the North. He thought of reviewing the Norman remains on some early occasion; and at all times would be proud to give information about any particular building to any persons interested in it.

SWORD.—*Mr. Joseph Ogilvy*, of South Shields, exhibited a basket-hilted sword in its leathern sheath, marked with S H on an animal like a fox or dog, and a crown over some curved initial or figure.

CORRUPT ORTHOGRAPHY OF LOCAL NAMES.—*Dr. Bruce* read the following suggestions for amended local appellations in the Ordnance maps of Northumberland, by *Mr. Ralph Carr* of Hedgley:—

It has been ascertained that the Ordnance authorities would be willing to receive any suggestions from such a body as the Antiquarian Society, for the correction in the Ordnance map of Northumberland (and Durham) of vulgarisms such as now disgrace the spelling of several township-names.

For instance—

Adverbial Vulgarities.—Ly for Ley, in terminations—very frequent. Softly for Softley, Gladly for Gladley, Weatherly for Weatherley, Beanly for Beanley, Crawly for Crawley, &c. This is a large class, and would be easily corrected with general approbation.

Sartorial Vulgarisms.—Coat for Cote, in terminations. Coldcoates for Coldcotes, Carrycoates for Carrycotes, Cullercoats for Cullercotes, Coats-yards for Cotes-yards. Cote, of course, is cottage, and all such names require to be brought to the analogy of Kingscote, Heathcote, Shipcote, and scores of others, all over England, which are correctly spelt.

Prandial Vulgarisms.—Cold-pig for Cold-Pike, Thropple for Throple, Caudle for Caldwell.

Post-prandial Vulgarisms.—Wallbottle for Wallbotle, Newbottle for Newbotle, Lorrbottle for Lorbotle, Shilbottle for Shilbotle, Harbottle for Harbotle.

Sputatory Vulgarities.—Spittle, in Tyneside, for Spital; Spittle, near Morpeth, for Spital.

Decanal Vulgarisms.—Dean *passim* for Dene, as Crawley Dean for Crawley Dene.

Finally, mere *Mountebank Vulgarisms*, vulgar illiterate curtailments. Swinhoe has resumed its proper form, but we have Cambo for Camboe (Cambhoe), Shafto for Shaftoe (Shafthoe), Stoco for Stokoe (Stokehoe), Duddo for Duddoe (Dudhoe), all from *hoe*, that is, *heugh*, of which *hoe* is the old English terminal form. Swinhoe is right.

Surely all this trash ought not to be stereotyped in the Ordnance map of Northumberland. A committee of the Antiquarian Society, and a little correspondence with a few owners of property, would rectify it all. We are yet in time.

Mr. White suggested that Thropple was Throp-hill, *thorp* being *thorp*, a village. Ley is a pasture. In illustration of bottle, *Dr. Bruce* instanced Bosworth's quotation from the early translation of the Scriptures, where Pharaoh is said to go *into his bottle*; and *Mr. Wilson* stated that persons were wont to tease the vicar of Shilbotle (anciently Shiplingbotle), by calling the place *Spillbottle* and *Swillbottle*. *Mr. Henry Turner* complained of the looseness with which the survey was completed, instancing that St. Anne's Close, near St. Anne's Chapel, Newcastle, which some twelve years ago became famous for dog-fights, was

marked *Battle-field*; but some doubts were expressed as to so very modern an origin of the name, and whether the surveyors could justifiably reject a recognized name, however absurd and modern it might be. *Dr. Bruce* referred to the fact that the surveyors kept a register of their authorities, and of ancient and modern names as they ascertained them. [But no regular consultation of local works seems to have been made. Even the famous "Blue Stone" on Tyne Bridge is unnoticed in the maps of Gateshead.]