

with arrows," on "the steeple head and leads" of Hexham, is well known, through Mr. Hinde's pages. It is interesting to detect the traces of his dwelling, which comprises the modest schoolroom in which the said historian and the wood engraver of Cherryburn and a host of North-country worthies received their education. There is, in situ to the east, the little square Decorated window of two trefoiled lights which is fairly attributed to the oratory of the successive masters of the cell, and there are interior walls of wicker work filled in with mud. The kitchen possesses a noble fireplace, with wide chamfered arch, on which ornaments like the nail-heads of an earlier period occur at intervals. Upstairs there is a richly moulded cornice of Elizabethan aspect, with the letters I. M. repeated all round, and above the south door is a date 1694—I. A., referring to one of the Addisons, owners of the lay-rectory. In fact, this house is parcel of the lay-rectory, not of the perpetual curacy. The family of the present incumbent possess the tithes. The door has, in lieu of a knocker, the old screw-ring and screw-post, forming the "door-rasp," now nearly extinct in England, the sound whereof may form a worthy accompaniment to pipe-music. On the side of the steps leading from the garden to the river are two memorial stones:—"Height of the Flood, Nov. 17, A.D. 1771," and "Height of the Flood, Dec. 31, A.D. 1815." These bring us into modern times; and we may venture to note the pleasure with which we view Mr. Bigge's admirable specimen of the clocks manufactured by a neighbouring pitman, Isaac Jackson, of Wylam. It is a marvel of accuracy.

MONTHLY MEETING, 6 AUGUST, 1862.

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Author.* Flint Implements in the Drift, by John Evans, F.S.A. F.G.L. — *From the Society of Emulation of Abbeville.* Their Memoirs, 1857-1860. — *From the Author.* An Account of the Colony of South Australia, by Frederick Sinnett.

NEW MEMBER.—*Mr. George Atley Brumell*, Eldon Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

THE BECKERMONT INSCRIPTION.—*Mr. John Dixon*, of 23, Lowther Street, Whitehaven, having volunteered to present to the Society his

cast from the Saxon inscription at Beckermont, which was previously exhibited, and another cast for transmission to Copenhagen if desired, the Society gratefully accepts his considerate offer, and determines, in slight acknowledgement of the same, to present him with the parts of *Archæologia Æliana* containing papers on Saxon sculptures.

ANCIENT PIPE MUSIC.—*Mr. White* reports that *Mr. Stoker* has kindly copied for the Society, from the books borrowed from *Mr. Baty* of Wark, and *Mr. James Reed* of North Shields, all the tunes worth preserving. *Mrs. Oliver*, 24, Windsor Street, Neath, the sister of the latter, has also offered to supply anything useful from her other MS. collections. *Mr. White* also makes some remarks on the various buildings of interest lately visited by him in a southern journey.

THE LATE TREASURER.—*The Chairman* speaks in feeling terms of the loss of *Mr. Matthew Wheatley*, a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, who retained "*inter fumum et opes strepitumque*," his predilection for the study of classical antiquities, and whose services as Treasurer were admirable.

SHACKLES FROM GATESHEAD.

MR. LONGSTAFFE reports that in digging below *Mr. Golightly's* property in Grosvenor Street, Barn Close, Gateshead, a fetterlock (similar to that seen in the celebrated badge of the House of York), with the accompanying circle for the other leg, from which two or three sets of chains proceed, was discovered. *Mr. G.* having kindly presented the articles to him, he now transfers them to the Society's better custody.

NEW PERCY SEAL.

MR. LONGSTAFFE also exhibits a deed of 1482, by which *Henry Percy*, the fourth Earl of Northumberland, and *Thomas Calvard*, gent., quitclaim to *Albered Cornburgh*, esq., the manors of Dagenham and Cokerelles, and lands in Haveryng at Bowre, in Essex, which they lately held jointly with *Cornburgh* and with *Ralph Hothom*, esq., deceased,

by grant of Richard Illyngworth, knight, Rowland Kerkeby, esq., John Trevilian, esq., Roger Lekenfeld, clerk, and William Gysbrugh. The witnesses are Thomas Mountgomery, knight of the body of our Lord the King, and Steward of Lady Elizabeth, Queen of England, of her manor or lordship of Haveryng, Richard Isham, sub-steward of the same, John Kyng, bailiff of the Queen there, Richard Barley, esq., Philip Coke, esq., Thomas Herde, John Piers of Haveryng, and others. The document is dated at Haveryng, 9 Nov., 22 Edward IV. [1482]. It bears an unusually fine signature of the Earl, "*H. Northumberland*," and his seal (hitherto unknown), of which the broken obverse presents the coat of Percy and Lucy quarterly, the crest of a lion passant (tail drooping), of a savage lion rampant as the sinister supporter, and the hoofs of the unicorn which formed the dexter supporter. The counter-seal or signet is a seated lion, with the celebrated word "*Esperance*." Curiously enough, Calvard's seal never was attached to the document, but it contains his signature "Thomas Calverd," and the additional ones "Clyfford" in the hand of the body of the instrument, and "J. Newton," to both of which the usual scribe's knot is attached. On the back of the deed are three other signatures, possibly of witnesses to a livery of seisin, if such were given, "*Hugh Hastynges chr. — John Cartynghton. — Stephan⁹ Coppyndale*." The deed is kindly lent by the Rev. William Greenwell.

THE SOUTH POSTERN OF THE CASTLE.

MR. LONGSTAFFE reports that Mr. Turner and he have been afforded an opportunity of meeting Mr. Dickson, the accomplished Clerk of the Peace for Northumberland, the County Architect, and one or two magistrates on the *locus in quo*. There did not appear to be any intention of removing the portal itself, but the ragged walls above, some of which seem to be comparatively modern, could scarcely remain with safety. A portion of the old Castle wall may already be discerned, and as the improvement proceeds westwards, antiquaries must be on the look-out.

THE ORKNEY RUNES.

BY E. CHARLTON, M.D.

It had always been a matter of surprise that the Northmen, who so long held absolute sway in Orkney, who built there a magnificent cathedral, still the pride and glory of the Isles, left behind them no one Runic inscription similar to those so frequent in Scandinavia. In Shetland there was formerly, and, indeed within the last 30 years, a tombstone with Runic letters at the Cross Kirk, in Northmavine, but Orkney had not, until last year, a single Runic letter to attest its connection with Norway. Within the last twelve months, however, a series of Runic inscriptions, of much interest, have been discovered in the interior of Maeshow, a huge bowl-shaped tumulus of early date, situated a little to the north and east of the Loch of Stennis, and about a mile from the celebrated circle of gigantic monoliths known by the names of "The Stones of Stenness." The whole vicinity of this Druidical circle, if we may call it so, abounds with large tumuli, perhaps of Celtic origin, but possibly to be ascribed to a still earlier period, to the primeval inhabitants of these islands. Whatever their real age may be, it is certain that they were in existence before the Northmen occupied Orkney; and, from some recent investigations, it would seem that their origin goes back to the most remote antiquity. Many, if not all, of these tumuli have been originally sepulchres; and we are glad to see that Mr. George Petrie, the most eminent authority upon the archæology of Orkney, is decidedly of opinion that the chambered subterranean dwellings termed "Pict's houses," or "weems," were in reality chambered tombs.

Some of these chambered dwellings may subsequently have been occupied by the Celtic race as temporary dwellings, or as refuges from sudden hostile incursions; but for the purposes of defence they would be of very little avail, as the blocking up of the narrow entrances, with the application of fire, would soon have caused the death of the miserable inmates.

We regard these huge tumuli as relics of the same people that raised the monoliths of Stenness; for they have employed, in the construction of Maeshow, stones of 15 and 16 feet in length, by 4 in breadth, and fully equal, therefore, in size to those still standing at Stenness.

During the past few years several of these tumuli have been opened by James Farrer, Esq., M.P., a gentleman who takes a warm interest in Orkney antiquities, and whose labours have been most ably seconded by Mr. George Petrie, of Kirkwall. One of the most extensive proprietors in Orkney, Mr. Balfour, of Trenabie, has also readily co-operated in the good work. It is on this gentleman's estate that Maeshow is situated, and through his liberality the chamber within the mound has been restored as nearly as possible to its original condition. Maeshow is a tumulus rising 36 feet above the plain, and is about 90 feet in diameter. It had evidently been opened before, but at a remote period. The work of examination was commenced by Mr. Farrer on the 6th of July, 1861, and the passage leading to the central chamber was almost immediately discovered. This passage is 52 feet in total length, and extremely narrow, being only 2 feet 4 inches at its entrance, and at its widest part only 3 feet 3 inches, and about 4 feet 4 inches in height. The great central chamber into which this passage leads is about 15 feet square at the level of the floor, with projecting buttresses faced by huge single slabs of stone at each angle. Branching off from the central chamber there are three cells, one on each side, and one facing the entrance, which form sepulchral recesses that would hold two or three bodies each. A huge block of stone, which no doubt had been employed for closing the mouth of the cells, was found lying before each of them. The roof at the height of 12 feet is gradually contracted by the projection of the successive layers of stone, and eventually it would, when perfect, be reduced to a narrow aperture, which would be closed with a slab, and then finally overlaid with a heavy covering of clay. When first opened by Mr. Farrer, the interior of the tomb was filled with *debris* from the roof, and while this was being removed, the Runic inscriptions were discovered on the huge slabs which formed the walls. The whole of the stones employed in the construction of the chamber are of gigantic size; one of the slabs in the passage is 19 feet long, by 5 feet broad, and 4 inches thick. Indeed, it has been suggested that the missing stones of Stenness have been worked up into this building, were it not that they are very probably of contemporary date. At all events it is quite certain, we believe, that this tumulus and chamber are not of Scandinavian origin. The Runes were found cut on various portions of the walls, and some certainly by different hands. On one of the great upright buttress slabs was found the figure of a dragon or monster, carved or outlined with great skill and spirit. Of this remarkable figure, a photograph was fortunately secured; and we regard both this and the "Worm Knot" below as of an earlier date than the other Runic inscriptions. The stone around

the dragon is much worn and polished, as if it had been subjected to the fingering of some generations, while many of the other Runes are excessively sharp and fresh. In order to ensure accuracy in the reading of the Runes, which it was hoped would cast some light upon the character of the building in which they were discovered, most careful transcripts were taken by Mr. Farrer and Mr. George Petrie, and subsequently fresh copies of them were taken, and lithographed by Messrs. Gibb of Aberdeen. At a subsequent period, excellent casts in gutta-percha were made by Mr. Petrie, and these, with the lithographs, were submitted to three of the best Runologists of the north—Professor Munch of Christiania; Rafn of Copenhagen; and George Stephens, also of the latter city. The lithographs were also sent to several of the English Runologists, but without any satisfactory results. It had been Mr. Farrer's wish that each individual to whom the Runes were sent should translate them separately, and transmit his rendering of the inscriptions directly to Mr. Farrer himself. This was, however, frustrated by our northern brethren, principally, we believe, to satisfy the great excitement caused among the Scandinavians by this discovery. Mr. Petrie had forwarded some tracings of the Runes to Professor Rafn, and on the 11th of September a portion of the translation appeared in the Danish papers. In December, Professor Munch of Christiania published an almost complete version, as far as could be obtained from the lithographs forwarded by Mr. Farrer, and finally accurate casts of the Runes were forwarded to Christiania and Copenhagen. The priority of giving the translation of the inscriptions must, we think, therefore, be given to Professor Munch. Recently, in the month of July, 1862, Mr. Farrer has printed the three translations by the gentlemen above named, in a volume intended for private circulation, containing also an elaborate plan, sections, and views of Maeshow, with lithographed copies of the Runes, corrected according to the latest observations. It will be seen, however, that these still require further emendations, as we ourselves found one or two additional letters, which materially influenced the sense of the inscriptions. We spent a whole day at Maeshow last month (July, 1862) in company with Mr. Farrer and Mr. George Petrie, and we were glad to find that the tumulus has been repaired, the roof replaced over the sepulchral chamber, and the whole secured by a door, the key of which is kept by the neighbouring farmer. Having been originally favoured by Mr. Farrer with a lithographed copy of the Runes, and having failed to satisfy ourselves of the meaning of the longer inscriptions, it was with the greatest interest that we read those given by Professor Munch in the "Illustreret Nyhedsblad," or Illustrated News, of Christiania, for December 1st and December 8th, 1861.

These, however, did not reach us till the month of March last; but on examining them we felt at once that the Norse historian had in almost every instance rightly seized the meaning of the Runes, for his readings were so according with common sense, and so devoid of any far-fetched explanations, and our own knowledge of Runes told us that this was the case in almost all the ancient Runic inscriptions. The version given by Professor Rafn is very analogous to that of Munch's, while that of Professor George Stephens of Copenhagen is materially different. Our object is here to lay before the Society our own version of the inscriptions, founded upon a careful comparison of the readings of the Danish and Norwegian professors with the originals of Maeshow. The greater part of the inscriptions are brief, containing often only the names of the parties who wrote them. Professor Stephens seems to be of opinion that some of these inscriptions date from the 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries, or from the Pagan era of Norse occupation of these islands, while Professor Munch believes the letters to be almost all of one date, viz., the 12th century of our era. We had come to a similar conclusion ourselves before we saw Munch's essay, though not exactly for the same reasons as are given by the learned Norse historian, who observes—"From the form of the Runes it is evident that they belong to the style used in Norway in the years 1100 to 1150, when the punctated letters were already partially employed. The *whole* of the punctated consonants, however, are not to be found here; they belong to a still later age. The orthography almost exactly resembles that of the earlier Icelandic manuscripts, viz. of 1150."

Most of the inscriptions in Maeshow are cut within easy reach of the floor, but one or two are 10 or 12 feet above its present level, and these of course were the first that were detected, as the rubbish was gradually cleared away from above. We give the inscriptions in small capital letters, as the Runes cannot be given in the text, but are lithographed in the accompanying plates.

I.—THAT IR VIKINGR . . . AKOM UTIR HIRTIL

This inscription is one of the few imperfect ones, the centre word or words having being obliterated, most likely by the fall of the roof stones, as it is too high up to be reached by any person from below. The first word is read by Stephens as a proper name, but Munch and Rafn read it as "That which," or "This is." VIKINGR, "The Viking," and then would come the obliterated name, which plainly terminated in A, as that letter is attached to the succeeding KOM ("came") UTIR HIRTIL ("out here to," or "come out is hereto"). The word Viking has been occa-

sionally, but very rarely, used as a proper name. We translate this "This is the Viking . . . a, is come out hereto."

The Sea-king, or pirate's ship, lay perhaps in some of the neighbouring sounds, and he, to pass away the time, made an excursion to Maeshow, which he has recorded high up upon the walls. Possibly this occurred after the chamber had been broken in by other explorers, and when the rubbish had accumulated sufficiently on the floor to enable him to reach this height.

II.—THOLFR KOLBAINSSON RÆIST RÚNAR THESAR HAUA

"Tholfr or Tholf Kolbainson cut these Runes." The last word HAUA is of difficult explanation; but Munch suggests that it is probably HAERÁ (hereon), as in roughly cut Runes the difference between R and U, is very slight. In the Runes in Carlisle Cathedral, which are probably nearly of the same date, we read A' THISI STAIN, (upon this stone). The letters of the Carlisle Runes are very similar to those of this inscription, which is also placed about 10 feet above the level of the floor.

III.—BRAE HÖH THANA

Professor Rafn declines to translate this, believing it, we presume, to be incomplete. Munch gives an explanation, "Broke this tumulus," which is at variance with the appearance of the stone, for it is complete and in its original position, and no portion of the inscription is wanting. Professor Stephens, we think, renders it correctly and simply, but makes a strange mistake about the third letter A or E, which he says is the most ancient form of A and extremely rare, and is an indication of the great antiquity of the inscription. The first word is the proper name BRA or BRAE, the Danish BRAHE, and the whole is read thus—"Brahe hewed this."

IV.—VEMUNTR RÆIST

"Vemuntr or Vemund carved these Runes." This was no uncommon name in Scandinavia, but we are not ingenious enough to identify the hero here named.

V.—FUTH ORK HNIAS TBMLY

This is the Runic Alphabet or Futhork, so called from the first six letters. It is very lightly cut, so lightly indeed that we can only detect the faintest traces of the letters in the photograph, which gives Nos. 4, 13, and 12 very distinctly. The ignorance of the Rune cutter has transposed one or two of the letters; thus he has placed M before L, and inverted the letter so that it forms the letter X, and the next letter N has the Rune mark of N.

VI. AND VII.

These two inscriptions are close together, one below the other, on the north side of the chamber. No. VI. is very distinct,

ORKASONR SAHTHI A RUNON THAEM IR HAN RISTU

"Orcason said in those Runes which he cut," and we may, consequently, suppose that the saying of Orcason is inscribed on No. VII. Unfortunately, however, this line is almost illegible. It has been cut with a very sharp instrument, and the first part of it is nearly obliterated. A strong lamp-light might perhaps render the characters legible, but this we had not at our disposal. We, however, satisfied ourselves that the reading proposed by Professor Stephens could not be correct; for instance, that the penultimate letter of the first half, which he makes to be *n* is undoubtedly *h*, and of the succeeding letters *i* and *r* there is no trace.

The second part of No. VII is rather more distinct, and is certainly not exactly as it is given in the lithographs of Mr. Farrer.

KIAEBIK VIL SAEHIAE (K)IR(S)OMOTR

We cannot attempt to translate this, though Professor Stephens offers a translation founded on the certainly erroneous representation in the lithograph,

"Hiaebik will tell you more."¹

The *s* and the *k* between the brackets are very doubtful; the former is almost certainly produced by the axe slipping while the writer was forming the line above. Neither Munch nor Rafn attempt to translate No. VII., but the former is in error when he says that No. VI. is a fragmentary inscription. It is quite complete. Would not Orcason be the "tenant" of Orkhill, mentioned in another inscription? The Orkhill is not an unfrequent name in Orkney. It was at the Gaard or farm house of Orcahaug that Earl Harold passed the Christmas of 1154, almost the very year in which many of these Runes are supposed to have been written. The present farm of Orkhill is about half a mile or a mile to the south-east of Maeshow.

VIII.

Is a fine large-lettered inscription, cut on a great block of stone close to the entrance of the northern cell.

INKIBIORH HIN FAHRI A(E)HKIA
MORHK KONA HAEFER FARET LUTU IN
HIR MIHKIL OFLATI

¹ Before this are the words, tolerably distinct, KURIR FALHI. The latter word means a falcon. I read the last part of the sentence "EK VIL SAEHIA IR OMOTR," "I will say is unwearied."



XIX

1/1. * 1 N * R. M R Y A R M I B I T * Y 1 R
 A I R A R I * A T 1 I R. I Y 1 A R *
 M I R R R. I R Y I Y A * I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y
 I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y
 I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y I Y

XX

M A P B R A Y R I A T R. * T T I R
 Y T T. I Y T T I R A R * Y A R I I R
 I A R I M Y I M R B R M A R Y * N * M Y A Y M I I R
 N * Y I R * I R M R Y I Y A * Y I R T I I
 I T T R Y I R Y I M Y M I T A R * I Y I Y I Y
 * Y * M Y A B I R Y I A R * N * I Y I Y

XXII

I A * R M I T O P R I A R K A T O Y K A

XXIII

I Y I T R P I R K A T T I Y M I Y



The translations by Munch and by Rafn are almost identical.

"Ingebjorg, the fair widow; many a woman has come bending in here meikle proud."

The word loot "to bend" is still used in Orkney.

Every woman entering the How would have to stoop in traversing the narrow and low passage leading to the central chamber. Ingebjorg was no exception to the rule. Munch cannot get rid of the idea that the tumulus is of Norse origin, and believes that Ingebjorg, the fair and proud widow, was probably buried there.

The six cryptic or bough Runes immediately below this inscription may possibly have a concealed meaning, but it is quite as probable that the inscriber merely meant to cut the chief vowels A E I O Y U, and he evidently was not well up to his task, for he has given a bough Rune which cannot have any existence. It is well known that this cryptic style of writing is identical in arrangement with that of the Irish Ogham, the number of strokes on each side of a central line determining the letter and the class to which it belongs. Thus, according to usual reading, these letters would represent A Y O I : Y, the penultimate Rune being a *sixth* letter of the third class, in which class there are only five. It is possible that the inscriber may have wished to impress the bystanders with his deep knowledge of the cryptic Runes, and thus left on record his own ignorance.

In the first of these letters a cross stroke is put on the stem to signify AE.

Ingebjorg was a frequent name in Orcadian history; we have, however, no means of identifying the present fair lady.

IX.—THORNY SAERTH

HÆLHI RÆIST R

Thorny is a female name, and occurs in the Landnama Book. The second word, "Saerth," is not satisfactorily explained. Does it come from the word "Sarda"—to polish or make smooth? Or may it not be a mis-spelling for "Saehdi"—dictated?

Helge, who cut the Runes, only imperfectly completed his task, for he only cut the first letter of the word Runes. Helge was a name not uncommon in Orkney; thus the bonder or farmer Helge lived about 1150 at Höfn, in Westray. Helga was a very common female name.

X.—THORER FOMIR

Munch considers this to be probably a simple name; Stephens that it may also signify "Thorer follow me," and Rafn has "Thorer fa me"

—obtain for me—referring to the large cross sculptured below. We incline to Munch's opinion, that it is simply a proper name.

XI.—RÆIST RUNAR THESAR
OFR ALFR SIHURTHSONR

“Cut these Runes over (in memory of)
Alfr. Sigurdson.

All the three Northerns read the words OFR ALFR as one, and make it OFRAMR; a name proper, but one hitherto unknown in the North. OFRAMR, however, though not a name that is known, is an adjective, and signifies modest, not forward. To us, after most careful examination, the words appear to be as I have written them above. Moreover, none of the Northerns take notice of the fact that some letters did exist before the word RÆIST. The first of these letters was probably *r*, but the other two or three are nearly illegible in the lithographs, while the whole inscription is now, we regret to say, to be numbered among the things that were. Fortunately, before it scaled off from the stone on which it was cut, Mr. Petrie had made most accurate drawings of the inscription, but at present not a vestige of it remains. It is, however, almost the only Runic inscription cut parallel to the stratification of the slabs; almost all the others are upon the edges of the stone, or at right angles to its bed.

The word Inge would answer to the traces shown on the lithograph.

The numerous crosses, seven in number, may have been of later date; but in our opinion, the inscription is in memory of a fallen comrade or relative. The mythico-historical Alf Sigurdson, the brother of Signy, in that noblest of all historic ballads, “Hagbart and Signy,” would hardly answer to this inscription.

XII.—TOTAR FILA RÆIST RUNAR
THISAR

Two of the Scandinavian authorities concur in this being an unknown name. May not the first stroke before the O be a failed one, the stone having partially scaled off with the stroke of the axe? Stephens reads the name Otar or Ottar, and just before this time there was Jarl Ottar in Thurso, who died in 1138, and who was brother to the famous Frakaurke. The word FILA I believe to be a bye-name. The whole translation is

“Otar Fila cut these Runes.”

XIII. AND XIV.

There is very little doubt but that these form one inscription. They are written from right to left, a rare style of inscribing Runes, and the only instance of the kind in Maeshow, and they are both placed on the great projecting buttress slabs, one close to the western entrance, and the other directly facing it on the east. We procured an excellent photograph of this inscription when in Orkney, which has been of material assistance to us in the translation.

XIII.—THAT MAN SAT IR EKI SAEHI AT FE VVAR
FOERT ABBOT THIRM NOTTOM VAR FE
BROET FORT HAELETR AEN THAEIR

XIV.—IORSALAMEN BURTU HAUK THAENA

"It is true, as Inge said, that the treasure was carried away. Three nights was the treasure carried away before that the Jerusalem men (Crusaders) broke open this tumulus."

In reference to Nos. XIX. and XX. this inscription is of great importance; but it would be premature to enlarge upon this point until we have arrived at the numbers above referred to.

XV.—ARNFITHR MATR RAEIST RUNAR
THAESAR

"Arnfidr, the greedy, cut the Runes."

We doubt much whether any Norseman would willingly cut for himself such a memorial. May he not have erred, and wished to inscribe MATTKR, "the mighty," or, perhaps, he used really the word MATR, "strength," and boldly made an adjective of it.

This name is identical with ARNFINN. A chieftain of this name, curiously enough, was taken prisoner by Earl Harold, on the 6th of January, 1155, as he advanced from the farm of Orkhill, where he had spent the night of Christmas, to surprise the Earl Erlend, in the island of Daminsey.

XVI.

This inscription belongs either to No. XV., which is the breadth of two slabs above it, or to No. XVII., which is immediately beneath it.

MAETH THAERI OEHSE ER ATI
KO(R)UKR TRAEINILSONR FYRIR
SUNAN LANT

"With this axe, which Gauk Trandilson owned, on the south side of the country."

Munch and Rafn are agreed upon this version. Stephens, unnecessarily we think, makes the word Gaukr into two, and destroys altogether the historical import of the word. For Gaukr Trandilson was a historical character; he was the foster-brother of Asgrim Ellidagrimson, in the south part of Iceland, and he lived about the year 970. The Nials Saga says of him, "Gaukr Trandilson was the name of Asgrim's foster-brother; he was above all a right handsome and active man, but it fared ill with him, for Asgrim slew Gaukr." Gaukr is also spoken of in the *Islandingadrapa* as a leading chief. The inscriber himself was probably an Icelander, as he speaks of Gaukr living "southwards in the land," and, perhaps, he was a descendant of the great chief, and had inherited this, the worthiest heritage of a warrior, the famous axe that Gaukr wielded in war. The name of the inscriber was either Arnfinn in No. XV., or Harmuntr in the succeeding inscription.

XVII.—HAERMUNTR HARTHIKSI RÆIST RVN

"Hermund Hardaxe cut these Runes."

Surely no man was better entitled to the name of Hardaxe than he who possessed the weapon of Gaukr Trandilson. To judge from the inscription, even after the lapse of so many centuries, the axe must have possessed wonderful temper. The use of this weapon, however, has tended no doubt to confuse the inscriptions, from the repeated slips the axe must have made, and the difficulty of rounding certain of the letters.

XVIII.

On this stone, which is a large square block on one side of the southern cell, we have first ten palm or bough Runes (*Kvistruner*), and then the inscription in the ordinary character. Professor Stephens is the only one who attempts to decipher these bough Runes, and we have no doubt but that in this instance he has been successful. The ten cryptic Runes represent the two words (*THISAR RUNAR*) RIST SA MATHR ER RUNSTR ER FYRIR VÆSTAN HAF ("These Runes engraved that man who is best skilled in Runes to the west of the sea"). The inscriber may have been an inhabitant of the Western Isles, but he would hardly be the Icelander alluded to above in No. XVI.

In the bough Runes, the 5th, 6th, and 10th are identical, while the 4th and 9th are also alike, and these correspond in their position exactly to what we find in the words "*thisar runar*." We believe that the writer only wished to show off his knowledge of the cryptic art of writing; while, on the other hand, his name may possibly exist in the

long and important inscription on the opposite side of the cell. Although the three Scandinavian Runologists are unanimous in their reading of this inscription, yet we would submit that the second and third words "sa mathr" are by no means clear, and they might be read "risti alfathr," thus providing a name for the Rune cutter. We do not, however, believe that this is the case; we prefer the other reading because it is so much the more simple.

XIX. AND XX.

The two first lines in these, the longest and most important inscriptions, must be read straight across the two stones; but for all that, we are by no means certain that there are not two, if not three, inscriptions altogether here. Professor Stephens separates the two stones, and of course constructs out of the dissevered inscriptions a very different story. Stephens throughout seems impressed with the idea that the mound was a shelter for pirates, but it is on the shore of an inland fresh water lake, and a considerable distance from the sea. Munch and Rafn are as usual nearly agreed in their reading and interpretation.

SIA HÖUHR VAR FYR LATHIN HÆLTR
 LOTHBROKAR SYNER HÆNAR
 THAIR VORO HUATER, SLET VORO
 MAEN SÆM THAIR VORO FYRI SER
 UTNORTHE ER FE FOLHIT MIKIT THAET VAR
 IORSALAFARAR BRUTU ORKÖUH
 LIF MLT SALLATARLS
 LOEFTIR HIR VAR FE FOLHKIT MIKIT RÆEIST
 SIMON SIHRK
 IN ROINOE
 SIHRITH
 SÆL ER SA ER FINA MA THAN OUTH HIN MIKLA
 OK(T)ONAEKN BAR FE YR OUHI THISUM²

"This How was formerly raised to the hero (ine?) Lodbrokar. Her sons were brave; hardly were there men such as they were, for themselves. To the north-west there is much treasure hidden. It was the Jerusalem travellers (*i.e.* Crusaders), broke open the Orkhill (in the lifetime?) of the fortunate Earl. Left here was hidden treasure much. Cut the Runes Simon Sihri Sihrid in Roinoe. Happy is he who may find that great treasure.

O'Conachan bare away treasure from this How."

² We think it extremely probable that the two last lines were written by O'Conachan himself; they are crammed into one corner, and we think are evidently both by the same hand. It is possible, too, that the line above, "left here was hidden treasure much" was by the same.

It is plain that the last line was inscribed previously to those above, for the latter are distorted to fit the contracted space. The reading we have given assimilates very closely to that of Munch and Rafn, but they were both misled in the first line by the word *HÆLR*, which they were inclined to render "a sorcery hall," but which we discovered to be most plainly *HÆLFR*, "a hero or heroine." The two last words of the third line are also hardly correct in the lithograph. They are *THAET VAR*, and not *THAT ER*, and we differ from Munch in the sequence of the lines, though not materially in the sense. After the words, "The Jerusalem men broke up the Orkhow," then comes the word *LIF*; but the next three letters, which apparently are *MLT*, do not make sense, but we suspect they mean the word "lifetime" of the Earl. The name of the Earl is not given, but it would be very natural for a Crusader to speak thus of his leader, Earl Ronald, who was afterwards murdered by Thorbjörn Klerk in Caldale, in Caithness, in 1158.

Stephens reads the word in Roinoe, as in Rinansey, *oe*—in the Island of Rinansey.

XXI.

This is a very simple inscription.

ARNFITHR RÆIST RUNAR THISAR
SONE STAINS THROKR LIT

"Arnfinn the son of Stain cut these Runes. Thoruk caused."

XXII.

Is a very curious inscription in cryptic Runes, very similar to some that have been found near Baffin's Bay. Rafn imagines that these Runes refer to some signs in the calendar, and says that similar ones are to be seen in Iceland. Stephens gives a full translation, but which to us does not seem fully borne out by the Runes. "Blood-money is also to seek both in Gothland and in England."

XXIII.

IKIKAERTAR ER KUAENANA IN UAENSTA.

"Ingigerd is the prettiest of women." We are naturally now led to think of Ingigerd, the daughter of Earl Ronald the Crusader, and who was married to Eric Slagbreller.

The dragon and worm knot, so admirably sculptured on one of the buttresses, is, we think, very possibly of an earlier date than the Runes. They are certainly the work of a superior artist.

We have stated that from the form of the letters, the inscriptions date from the middle of the twelfth century, and it was precisely at this period (1152-53), that a party of Norsemen arrived in Orkney from Hordaland, in Norway, under Earl Rognvald. They were a numerous and powerful body of soldiers, all of whom had taken the cross in Norway, and had vowed to proceed to the Holy Land under the Earl before named. It seems, however, that their conduct in Orkney was hardly befitting the sacred character of their expedition. The Orkneyinga Saga, an almost contemporary history, tells us that the Crusaders of 1152 were in constant warfare with the inhabitants among whom they were quartered in Orkney, on account of the robberies they committed and the violence they offered to the women. The same history records a special instance of their rude behaviour in the instance of one Arne, a Norseman, who having obtained goods from one of Svein Asleifson's tenants, refused payment when it was asked, and striking the tenant with the back of his axe, bade him go and seek aid of his master Svein, of whose prowess he had boasted so often and so much. The peasant went straight to his master and told him of the occurrence.

"And one day in spring (1153) Svein went forth to collect the land tax, and four men with him, in a ten-oared boat. And their way lay by the isle where Arne dwelt, and that hour the tide was nearly out, '*fiara var á mikil*—' 'there was much shore.' Svein landed alone, and he had with him an axe with a short handle, and no other weapons, and he bade his men look to the boat, so that the tide should not leave it dry. Arne was at that time in the store-house, near the sea, and Svein went into the store-house and there sat Arne with four men, and they greeted Svein, who took their greeting, and spoke to Arne, saying that he should settle the complaint of the peasant. Arne said there was plenty of time for that, but Svein besought him to hear his words, and do it at once. Arne said he would not settle the affair at all, and then Svein spoke out that he would ask no more; and with that he drove his axe into Arne's head, so that the iron was buried therein; and losing hold of the axe, Svein leaped out of the store-house, and the companions of Arne followed him fast down to the shore. Svein ran quickly through a deep miry place; but one of Arne's men was swift of foot, and came up to Svein. And at the spot where he reached him, there lay large roots of sea weed upon the mud, and one of these Svein snatched up and dashed it in the face of his pursuer, who stopped to cleanse his eyes from the mud, and Svein thereby gained his boat and pushed off for Gairsay."³

There can be no doubt but that at the period referred to, the belief of treasures of great value being buried in the Pagan tombs was universal, and even at the present day, when most of the conspicuous tombs have

³ Orkneyinga Saga, p. 276.

been rifled ages ago, we occasionally come upon sepulchral chambers in which a certain quantity of treasure is still concealed. Not only was the belief in buried treasure universal, but the idea of a guarding genius, or the spirit of the departed owner of the treasure, keeping watch in the tomb, was generally accepted. In Pagan times this was implicitly believed, and even among the earlier Christians the same fear of the spirits of the departed chieftain evidently prevailed, and prevented many from violating the dwellings of the dead. The Pagan guardian of the tomb was however no disembodied spirit, but a living being, often endowed with supernatural strength, and who sat brooding over his treasures in a kind of trance until some adventurous mortal dared him to deadly combat. Such a genius of the tomb was by the old Norsemen termed *Haugbuie*, or the indweller of the tumulus, and it is very remarkable that the tradition in Orkney has been preserved of a monster termed the "*Hogboy*," which inhabited the mound of *Maeshow*. This was the current belief long before it was made known last year, that *Maeshow* really contained a sepulchral chamber. We have thought it well, in illustration of this belief, to make a few extracts from some of the little-known Icelandic Sagas in which the incidents of breaking open the tumuli of the dead, and despoiling them of their treasures, are mentioned. Hardly one of these Sagas has as yet been translated into English, and we have not in all cases been able to avail ourselves of the Icelandic originals, but have used the Danish versions, which are usually accurate, though, from the character of the language, they are immeasurably inferior in vigour to the old Icelandic.

Hörd Grimkjeldsons Saga is the first we here notice. It was written, at the very latest, in 1250, but the events that it details belong to the year 1000 or 900, and though some fable is intermixed, the main details of the story are probably historical.

We have not seen the Icelandic original; we translate from a Danish version, published at Christiania in 1849.—*Chapt. 14, et seq.*⁴

"In the autumn, *Hroar* came back from his plundering expedition (*Vikingetog*), and he was well received, and *Hörd* yielded to him his place at table, and very soon *Hörd* and *Hroar* were the best of friends; and thus it went on till Yule. And on the first afternoon of Yule, while men were seated at table, *Hroar* stood up and spoke, 'Here stand I forth, and vow that before another Yule comes round I will break open *Soté* the Viking's cairn.' 'That is a bold vow,' quoth the Earl, 'and it would be ill for you to be alone in the undertaking, for *Soté* was a mighty wizard while he was in this life, and he will be doubly dangerous now.' Then *Hörd* stood up and spoke, 'Might it not be permitted

⁴ The scene is at Earl Harald's house, at Halland, in Norway.

to follow thy example; I vow to go with you, Hroar, into Soté's cairn, and not to leave without you.' And Geir 'vowed to follow Hörd whither soever he should go, and not to part from him till Hörd himself desired it.' Helge swore to follow Hörd and Geir, and to esteem none greater than they while they were in life. Hörd said, 'It is not certain that you will both of you be long of this mind; see that you are not the cause of both our deaths, and perhaps of many other men likewise.' The Earl (Harald of Gautland) took great pleasure in Hörd, and he said his son Hroar's honour was best forwarded when Hörd was present.

"And when it was spring, Hroar, with twelve others, set forth to Soté's cairn. They rode through a thick wood, and in one place Hörd's eye fell upon a small hidden path that struck off into the forest. This path he followed till he came to a cleared spot, where there stood a house both large and handsome. There stood a man before the house clad in a kirtle edged with blue, and he addressed Hörd by name. Hörd answered him freely, and enquired what he was called; 'for' said he, 'I know you not, although you seem well to know me.' 'Björn is my name,' quoth the man, 'and I knew you so soon as I set eyes on you, though I never have seen you before, but I was a comrade of your friend's, and therefore will you now reap the benefit thereof. I know that you wish to break open Soté the Viking's cairn, and if you are all of one mind in the work it will not be hard, but if it comes to pass, as I expect it will, that you do not succeed, than I bid you return to me.' Then they parted, and Hörd rode back to Hroar. And early in the morning they came to the cairn, and began to break it up, and by the afternoon they had nearly reached the timber work, but the next morning the cairn was as when they began. And so it came to pass the following day. Then Hörd went back to Björn, and told him how matters stood. 'It has been as I expected,' replied he, 'for I knew how great a wizard Soté was. Here is now a sword that I will give you; stick this into the opening of the cairn, and see then whether the cairn will close again or not.' Hörd went back to the cairn, and now Hroar and several others said it would be better to depart, and have no more to do with this demon. Hörd exclaimed, 'It is not thus that we should keep our vow; we shall yet make another trial.' And so, for the third time, they began to break up the cairn; and when they came down to the timbers, Hörd thrust in the sword 'Björnsnaut' through the opening, and then they slept at night, and in the morning nothing was changed. And on the fourth day they broke down the long balks, and on the fifth they had come to the door. Hörd now bade his men beware of the poisoned air and stench that issued from the cairn, and he himself stood behind the cairn while the stench was strongest; but two of his men perished from this cause, for they were too curious, and would not follow Hörd's advice. Hörd now spoke up, 'Who will go down into the cairn; it seemeth most meet for him to go down therein who made the vow to conquer the wizard Soté.' But Hroar spoke not a word. Then as Hörd saw that none would venture into the cairn, he drove two stakes into the earth, fastened a cord unto them, and said, 'I will myself go down into the cairn, but on condition that I may choose from the treasure I get there any three things of price.' And Hroar and all the others agreed thereto. Hörd

called upon Geir to hold the cord, for that he relied upon him most of all; and Geir did so, and Hörd descended. He found no treasure in the cairn; wherefore he called to Geir to come down and bring with him fire and wax lights, 'for both these things have great power,' said he, 'against evil spirits.' Hroar and Helge were to hold the cord, and Geir then descended. Hörd, now searching about, espied a door, which they broke up. And when the door fell, the earth shook terribly, and the wax lights were extinguished, and a fearful stench issued from the side chamber. And looking in, they saw a slight glimmer in the corner of the chamber, and there stood a ship full of much gold, and Soté sate at the helm thereof, and was fearful to look upon. Geir stood at the door of the chamber, but Hörd went in to seize the treasure. Then Soté sang:—

'What caused thee,
Hörd, to break
The honoured grave,
At Hroar's prayer.
Never brought I sorrow,
In deadly fight.
I swung not my weapon
To others' bane.'

Hörd replied:—

'For this I came hither
To find the wizard,
To rob the King,
The old one.
Never in the world,
As all men say,
Did weapon touch
Worse carrion than thou.'

Then up sprung Soté, and rushed upon Hörd. There was a deadly struggle, for Hörd was mightily strong. Soté gripped him so fast that the flesh was crushed upon his bones. Hörd bade Geir then light the wax lights, to see what influence this would have upon Soté; but when the light shone upon the wizard, he lost his strength and fell back. And when Geir advanced the light to him, Soté durst not abide it, and fell flat upon the earth; and so they parted. Hörd and Geir now took away all the treasure chests full of gold, and bore them to the cord with all the other goods they found in the cairn. Hörd took the sword and helmet that belonged to Soté, and they were right costly articles. They pulled at the cord, and then were aware that the people had gone away from the cairn. Hörd clambered up by the cord, and then Geir fastened the treasure thereunto, and so it was drawn up. And of Hroar and Helge it is said, that when the earthquake was felt all the men outside were terrified except Hroar and Helge, and these had to hold fast of each other. And when they saw Hörd and Geir, it seemed as though they had come back from Hell itself. And Hörd gained great honour from his descent into the cairn."

A similar history is given by Müller, from the hitherto unpublished Saga of Olaf Geirstadalf, and again we find it also in a Saga which we

know to have been sung in verse, and to have been received with great applause at a remarkable feast in Iceland in 1119. Most of the old Sagas, if not all, were in measure, and the verses we still meet with in them are the remains of their primitive forms. The Saga in question is that of Hromund Gripson, and the details of the fight between Hromund and the wizard, or "Haugbuie," are given at great length, but they are singularly devoid of spirit. We shall content ourselves with a brief *resumé* of the incidents of the story.

"King Olaf sailed to the Western Isles (Hebrides), where he plundered the peasants along the shore. An old chieftain upbraided him that he should prefer to harass the peasants along the shore, rather than break open King Thrain's 'Hoi,' and venture a battle with the evil spirit there to win the treasures buried with the King. Following the old man's advice, King Olaf sailed for Valland, and reached it after six days' sailing to the south (north?). Here he immediately found the 'Hoi,' and after four days' hard work they effected an entrance. And now none would offer to descend into the cairn for fear of the grisly gold-clad figure that they could dimly see seated on a throne in the midst of the chamber, and casting out fire on all sides. Hromund now offered to go in on condition of his receiving three of the richest ornaments he might obtain there. He was let down, and after collecting much treasure, he seized a fine sword that hung against the wall, and rushed upon the seated figure. The latter, however, upbraiding him for using steel, challenged him to mortal combat without weapons, which Hromund immediately accepted. Hromund got the monster down, hewed off his head, and carried off the treasure."

The last example of this incident in the Sagas is taken from one of the noblest of the old Icelandic histories, the Saga of Grettir the Strong. This Saga was probably written in or about the year 1300, but it had existed as a ballad or versified story long before. Grettir lived about the year 1000 of our era. We know of no Saga, not even that of Nial, so admirably translated by Mr. Dasent, which abounds in wilder adventures than those of the persecuted and outlawed Grettir. Grettir had landed on the island of Harham, near the coast of Norway, after a fearfully stormy voyage from Iceland; and the isle was then the property of Thorfinn. We translate this from the original Icelandic, which is to the modern Danish, as strong beer is to milk and water.

"One afternoon, when Grettir was about to go home, he observed a bright flame to rise from the Ness that lay to the north of Oedun's farm. Grettir asked 'what this might be,' but Oedun said, 'it was of no importance to him to know.' 'It would be said in my country,' replied Grettir, 'if such a sight were seen, that it burned over a treasure.' Oedun said that, 'if any person were afraid of fire, it would not be to his benefit to

enquire into the matter. 'Yet would I know about it,' quoth Grettir. 'There is a cairn upon the Ness,' said Oedun, 'which is both large and built up with heavy balks of timber, and therein is laid Kǫrr the Old, the father of Thorfinn. Father and son at first owned only one farm on the island, but since Kǫrr died he hath so walked again that he hath driven off all the bonders who owned farms here; so that now Thorfinn owns them all; but none of these bonders came to hurt over whom Thorfinn held his hands.' Grettir said he had spoken well, and 'I shall come here in the morning, and have those tools ready then to dig.' 'I warn you,' replied Oedun, 'not to meddle with the matter, for I know that you will therewith expose yourself to the hatred of Thorfinn.' Grettir said, 'he was willing to run the chance of that.' The night passed, and Grettir came right early, and Oedun had the tools ready, and followed him to the cairn. Grettir now broke up the mound, and he worked right well till he came down to the timber work, and by that time day had begun to appear. And then he tore up the timbers. Oedun now earnestly besought him not to go into the cairn, but Grettir bade him attend to the cord, 'for I will learn,' said he, 'who dwells in this mound.' Now Grettir went down, and it was dark therein, and by no means a good smell. He felt about to know what kind of place it was; and first he found the bones of a horse, and then he stumbled on the corner of a throne, and became aware that a man sate thereon. There was much treasure in gold and silver heaped around the throne, and a chest full of silver served the figure for a footstool. Grettir took all the treasure, and bore it away to the cord, and as he made his way out of the mound, something gripped him fast from behind. Grettir dropped the treasure, and turned upon his assailant; they grappled, and a sharp struggle ensued. All that they came against flew to pieces. The 'cairn dweller' attacked furiously, and now Grettir saw it would no longer avail to spare his strength. And now both exerted themselves to the utmost, and they struggled till they came to the spot where the bones of the horse lay; and here the fight was long and desperate, and first one and then the other was brought upon his knees, but at length the 'cairn dweller' fell backwards over, and a fearful sound was heard in the cairn; and Oedun ran off from the cord, for he thought that Grettir was certainly dead. Grettir took now the sword, Jökuls-naut, and cut off the head of his opponent, placing the head behind the body to hinder him from walking again; and he went to the cord with the treasure, but found that Oedun was gone. He therefore climbed up the cord, hand over hand, having fastened the treasure to the end thereof, and then drew it up after him. He was quite stiff in all his limbs from the struggle with Kǫrr. Grettir now went home with the treasure to Thorfinn's house, and all there were seated at table. Thorfinn looked angrily upon Grettir as he entered the drinking hall, and asked 'what he had to do so urgent that he could not come in to meat with other folk?' Grettir replied, 'Many small things happen late in the afternoon;' and he laid upon the table all the treasure he had brought from the cairn. And there was one precious thing amongst the treasure, and on which his eyes were fixed, and that was a short sword, so good a weapon that he said he had never seen a better, and this he laid last upon the table. Thorfinn raised his

eyebrows when he saw the sword, for it was a family weapon, and had never been out of the possession of his race. 'Where got you these goods,' quoth Thorfinn. Grettir sang:—

'Thou gold-eater,
The hope of spoil
Failed not in the cairn;
Folk soon will learn,
And eke I trow
That few Kjemps
Now will seek
There after gold.'

Thorfinn answered, 'You are not easily frightened by trifles, and none before thee thought of breaking open the How;⁴ but because I know that that treasure is ill bestowed which is buried in the earth, or concealed in a cairn, so will I not blame you, and the more so, as you have brought me all your treasure.'⁵

After reading these passages from the old Sagas, from legends that were in existence undoubtedly at the very period when these Runes were cut, we can realize the feelings of the Crusaders of 1153, when they broke into the chamber at Maeshow. Even at the present day, when we are supposed to be so enlightened by modern science as to repudiate all such sensations, it is, we confess, the "eerie" place we ever entered. The inner chambers, too, roofed with a single huge slab of stone, and too low to allow of a person even sitting upright, are most ghost-like receptacles, and it is a relief to get out of them after deciphering the few Runes that they contain. We are, however, by no means sure that the chamber of Maeshow was in a perfect state when it was first explored by the Norsemen who wrote the inscriptions. Mr. Petrie, in a recent communication, observes—

"The walls exhibited abundant evidences to the careful observer that they had been long decaying before the Runes had been cut on them. Many of the stones had been cracked, and the instruments with which the Runes had been made had apparently slipped when they reached the edges of the cracks, carrying bits of the stone with them. The walls appear to have been in a condition similar to those of the Brochs and Piet's houses, which, after having been covered up for ages from atmospheric influences, have, within a recent period, been opened and exposed to the weather. Within a few years, in such cases, the stones became more or less cracked, according to the nature of the material. Maeshow presented such an appearance when opened, and it may therefore be fairly attributed to the same causes, viz. to the opening of the top of the building, and the exposure of its interior to the atmosphere, which had previously been

⁴ "En fyrir því at ek veit, at that *fe* er illa komit er *folgít* er i jörðu. edr i *hauga* borit." We have here the identical words used in reference to hidden treasure that occurs in the Nos. 19 and 20 in Maeshow, "*fe folgít*"—treasure hidden.

⁵ Chapt. 18.

excluded for a long period. While the walls of the central building are in so dilapidated a state, the surfaces of the stones in the entrance passage, and in the three cells, or smaller chambers, appear nearly as fresh and sound as if they had been recently removed from their original bed. This marked difference can only be accounted for by the supposition that the central chamber had been opened at the top, and left in that exposed condition for a considerable time, while the walls of the cells and entrance passages were sheltered from the weather. There is every reason, therefore, to suppose that when the Runes were cut the building was roofless; and indeed it is nearly impossible to suppose, after a careful examination, that they could have been cut by the aid of any artificial light introduced into the building."

We own ourselves to be quite of Mr. Petrie's opinion on this point. We believe that this tumulus belongs to the age that saw the erection of the giant circle of stones at Stenness; that it was, in a word, of Celtic, or more probably of prehistoric date, and that it was a sepulchre for some man of note. If treasure were really found there, and taken away by O'Donaghan, or O'Conachan, it would most probably consist of rude rings of gold, and not of the elaborately-worked silver ornaments, brooches, and all that belong to the Scandinavian age, and of which such fine examples were discovered in Sandwick, in 1858. From age or from design, the roof of the great chamber had been destroyed; the materials, the large slabs of stones which formed it, had fallen to the bottom, and the labour of raising or moving these would be even greater than that of opening into an unviolated tomb. The lower portions of the tomb, perhaps for five or six feet in depth, were filled with soil and stones, and on their surfaces the disappointed Northmen would cut their names, and would acknowledge the truth of what Inge had told them, that the treasure had been carried away three nights before they came thither (*v. No. 14*). Shortly after their departure, it is probable that a fresh fall took place from the roof, and filled the chamber to a considerable depth, perhaps to so great a depth as to allow of a person standing on it to inscribe his name at the height of twelve or fourteen feet from the floor, as in Nos. I. and II.

We may dismiss at once the idea of Maeshow having been a sorcery hall for the witch "Lodbrokar," as the word "HÆLTR," is now found to be HÆLTR—hero. The termination Lodbrokar is feminine in Icelandic, and hence perhaps rose the mistake of the writer that Lodbrokar was a female. Lodbrog's sons were almost as famous in northern story as old Ragnar himself. Munch has proved that there were at least two Ragnar Lodbroks, the one the contemporary of Charlemagne, the other who flourished at least a century later. None of the histories of Ragnar Lodbrok, or of his sons, speak of his death in Orkney.

THE ORKNEY RUNES.



We regard the discovery at Maeshow as one of the most important that has taken place within the present century. The situation of the mound, the wondrous architecture of the interior chamber, and the Runic inscriptions on its walls, all contribute to render it an object of surpassing interest. The zealous labours of Mr. Farrer have been at length gloriously rewarded, and Mr. Petrie, to whom we before owed so much, has it now in his power to boast, that he can exhibit in his far-away isle an archæological treasure beyond any that we know of in the British kingdom.

MONTHLY MEETING, 3 SEPTEMBER, 1862.

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Society of Antiquaries.* Archæologia, Vol. XXXVIII., Part 2. Proceedings of the Society, Vol. I., Second Series, Nos. 2 to 7. Lists of the Society, 1861 and 1862. — *From the Canadian Institute.* The Canadian Journal, N.S., No. 39. — *From Mr. C. Roach Smith.* Collectanea Antiqua, Part 1, Vol. VI. — *From Mr. Michael T. Morrell.* History of Needle-making.

NEW MEMBER.—*Cuthbert George Ellison*, of Hebburn Hall, Esquire.

ALNWICK CHURCH.—*Mr. F. R. Wilson*, architect, Alnwick, has presented the Society with five photograms of the exterior and interior of the old parish church of Alnwick, the appearance of which he thought was worthy of preservation previous to the intended alterations. One of them shows the Georgian fantracery of the chancel, which, barbarous as it is, forms a curious chapter in the history of art.

THE BECKERMONT INSCRIPTION.—The duplicate cast of this venerable monument having been received from the donor, Mr. Dixon, of Whitehaven, it is resolved that it shall be forwarded to the Copenhagen Museum, with a request for Professor Stephens' reading.

SALVAGE FROM THE MELTING-POT.

THE REV. JAMES EVERETT has presented to the Society several curious articles, with which he had been favoured, out of a brassfounder's store near Bristol. There is an Egyptian statuette; a mediæval figure, with a book; a small mediæval seal, with the Virgin and Child, "AVE MARIA GRACIA;" a circular piece of brass, with a talbot dog in relief, the field having been enamelled; a cockpit ticket, "JOHN WATLING — ROYAL SPORT;" two early pipe-stoppers, with flat oval handles, one with the

heads of Charles I. and Henrietta Maria, another with a hammer crowned, and other smiths' implements, HET SMEDE GILDT. 1670. — HET . BLOYEN GAST . HVYS ; and other objects. The stoppers fit some of the old pipes in the Society's possession.

THE SOUTH TRANSEPT OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

MR. EDWARD SPOOR, who is entrusted with the works at present going on at St. John's, Newcastle, presents the stone which appeared above the great window of the south transept, and commemorated the munificent donor to the churches of Newcastle in the fifteenth century. The stone is thus alluded to by Bourne, "It is supposed that the steeple of this church was either built or at least beautified by him, as also the south cross of the church; for his coat of arms, as also these words, *Orate pro anima Roberti Rhodes*, are upon both of them; which indeed makes it somewhat probable." At present, the arms (three annulets, on a chief a greyhound) are tolerably perfect. Above them are the words *Orate pro a* and below them the *o* of the surname, with indications of the letters on each side.

The above windows, with thirteen others, have been renewed in their original form. The above stone has also been replaced by a new one. The works include the removal of galleries, and the plaster ceilings which for some years have encased oak roofs. The latter are in some parts moulded and carved, and are to be repaired and made perfect.

Brand mentions divers "skin marks" in the windows of the chancel. Mr. Spoor sends a copy of one of these merchant's distinctions.

EARLY REMAINS AT BIRTLEY, NEAR HEXHAM.

THE REV. GEO. ROME HALL, of Birtley, forwards, through Dr. Charlton, general and detailed plans of the numerous early remains, most of them unknown to the Ordnance Surveyors, which have rewarded his observation close to his own village. The largest camp is in Countess Park, and covers no less than three acres. Hut circles are very distinct. Ravines flank it on the south and west; to the north there is a gentle acclivity towards Buteland House. In this respect there is a resemblance to the Celtic town at Greaves Ash. The Mill *Knock* camp, occupying an elevated "coign of vantage," retains its Celtic appellation. A cairn seems to stand on the opposite hill to the south. Two men, draining about High *Carey* House, came, some years ago, upon large

round stones, like mill-stones. Unable to remove them, they made a circuit, and discovered a cistvaen, with jar containing ashes. At High Shield Green the highest camp occurs, and here are numerous barrows, amidst traces of former culture. Dan's Cairn might easily be explored, as many of the stones have been led away.

All these camps are built of unhewn stones of white sandstone, of the lower group of the carboniferous limestone formation.

Ironstone delves, and heaps of scoria or slag of iron, occur in various places. The ancient workings have followed the base of escarpments of the mountain limestone, nodules of iron having recently been found. The chief place of smelting occurs in Birtley Wood, half-a-mile north-west of the village, and the "Cinder Kiln Hills" there contain hundreds of tons of scoria. Lime and charcoal are ready at hand.

Terraces, from 5 to 10 feet in height, stretch along the the faces of a platform of elevated ground between High Carey House Camp and the village. The intrenchments facing to the north-west are at least 400 yards long; those to the south west, which are at an obtuse angle to the others, are about 150 yards. Two other sides would have comprised an enclosure of 12 acres.

In respect of these distant works, tradition points safely to "troublesome times," and more doubtfully to defences against "the French," and signals between Birtley Castle and Wark Castle, and a great battle. A detailed paper is promised by the discoverer.

ANCIENT BRIEVIARY.

DR. CHARLTON exhibits a beautifully printed book, in the original stamped leather, printed by Thielman Kerver in Paris in 1505. It is "Breviarium Premonstraten," and may well have been used at Hexham Priory. On the fly-leaf is a little financial memorandum:—"Resaued the v daye of februarye In the x yere of the Ring of ow' souering ladye elyzabeth by the grace of god quen of england fraunces and Ireland Deffender of the faith &c that I Vsswan of Medffourth of ReRell [*Deffender erased*] gentellman." Here the unfortunate repetition of the word Defender seems to have aroused the ire of a tender conscience, for the document suddenly breaks off, and a new one is inserted, as below—"Resawed the v daye of Febrwarye In the x yere of the Reing of ow' souering ladye Elyzabeth by the grace of God quene of eingland, Fraunce and Iyerland that Vsswan of Medffourth of Ryyell gentell man the sowme of xvj^s iiij^d of Fefarme dew at Mechellmas last past—John Haryson hes sett to his hand."

MONTHLY MEETING, 7 JUNE, 1862.¹

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.* Their Proceedings, vol. iii., part 3. — *From the Archæological Institute.* The Archæological Journal, No. 72. — *From the Canadian Institute.* The Canadian Journal, N. S., No. 38. — *From Councillor William Newton.* Newcastle Directory, 1778.

NEW MEMBER.—*William Pears, Esq.,* Fenham Hall.

DR. THOMLINSON.—*The Rev. E. H. Adamson* exhibits two letters from Dr. Thomlinson, the founder of Thomlinson's Library, to Vicar Ellison of Newcastle, one of them going into minutiae of his experience of the Bath waters. "They are a palliating medicine in my case, as Sir John Floyer told me the constant use of common water would be."

VIRGIN MARY HOSPITAL.—The Society has received a present, from the Corporation, of a stone coffin, found in the precincts of St. Mary the Virgin's Hospital in Westgate, during the excavations for the Stephenson Monument.

MONTHLY MEETING, 1 OCTOBER, 1862.

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Canadian Institute.* The Canadian Journal, July, 1862. — *From the Kilkenny Archæological Society.* Their Proceedings and Papers, April, 1862. — *By Mr. Dodd,* to complete the Society's Sets. Newcastle Poll Books of 1832, 1835, 1837. Durham City Poll Books of 1761, 1800, 1802, 1813, 1831, 1832. Durham City Addresses, &c., 1813. Durham County Poll Books, 1761, 1790, 1832 (both divisions.) Addresses to Mr. Burdon. Addresses, Poems, Songs, &c., in the Durham City and County Elections of 1802. The Elector's Scrap Book, Durham, 1832. Berwick Rolls of Burgesses, 1806, 1821. Sir Cuthbert Sharp's Sunderland Tracts, Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Four Newcastle Tracts, viz. W. G. Thompson's Poetical Address to the Burns' Club, 1824. Reprints of the Scots' March from Barwicke to Newcastle, 1644. Lines to a Boy pursuing a Butterfly, 1826. Reprint of Chicken's Collier's Wedding, 1829. — *By Mr. Fenwick.* Eight of his Tracts, viz. Obits of Members of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, 1857. Obituary of Charles Newby Wawn, Esq., 1840.

¹ Out of chronological order, by accident.

Sketch of the Ship-boy Life of John Fenwick, F.S.A., 1856. Genealogy of the Family of Radclyffe, 1850. Memorial to the Senate of Hamburgh, &c., 1843. Cowper's Rose Bushes, 1829. Slogans of the North of England, 1851. — *By Mr. White.* His Poem, entitled the Tynemouth Nun, 1829.

NEW MEMBER.—*Captain Tho. Robinson* of Houghton-le-Spring.

THE TREASURES OF THE VATICAN. *Mr. Macpherson*, an artist residing at Rome, attends with a noble volume of his splendid photograms of the Vatican and its sculptures, and expounds their subjects.

MINOR ANTIQUITIES.—*Mr. H. Mennell* has sent an Irish penny of John, and a gold coin of one of the Venetian doges, for exhibition. — *Dr. Charlton* states, that a few days ago two stone coffins, containing the bones of children, were discovered in some excavations in the neighbourhood of the Castle, and that they will be placed, minus their contents, in the custody of the Society. He draws attention to the jeopardy in which the remains of the Roman Wall at the foot of Benwell Bank are placed, owing to the removal of the fence by which they had been surrounded. It is stated that the property in which the ruins are situated belongs to the Rev. J. Blackett Ord, and that that gentlemen will no doubt take measures for their preservation, if made acquainted with the circumstances. [The result justifies the expectation.]

BELLINGHAM DEEDS.

EXHIBITED BY MR. EDWARD MILBURN.

11 Apr. 1624. Rowlande Milburne the younger, of the Yatehouse, in Tindall, and Beall Milburne his wife—to Edward Milburne, alias Sandes Eddie, of the Yatehouse, yeoman—for 18*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*—All their landes att the Yatehouse, par. Bellingham—with all [*inter alia*] sommeringes and sommering places, turfegraftes, &c.

21 Apr. 1662. Bond to perform covenants in a deed of sale—from John Milburne of Combe, co. Nd., yeoman—to Edward Milburne, of Yatehouse, yeo.

12 Jan. 1691[-2]. Roger Robson, of the Burn Grains, co. Nd., yeo.—to Edward Milburne of High Green, in the said co., yeo.—Recital of a release [lease exhibited] bearing date the day before, from Milburne to Robson, of his fourth part of the messuage, tenement, or farmhold, called the Dunstead, in the chappellry of Bellingham. Acknowledgment of trusts. Mortgage for 35*l.*

MONTHLY MEETING, 5 NOVEMBER, 1862.

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Archæological Institute.* The Archæological Journal, No. 74. — *From the Kilkenny Archæological Society.* Their Proceedings, No. 37. — *From Mr. Rutland.* The Cyphering Book of Ralph Lambton, 1716, with scroll-work of great freedom.

NORTHUMBERLAND PIPE MUSIC.—The collections of the Society on this subject, having been handsomely bound, attract the attention of the meeting. Mr. Stoke has made another book of further extracts from Mr. Batey's collection, and presents it to the Society.

NEW MEMBERS.—*George Wigtwicht Rendel, Esq.,* of Benwell Little Park, and *John Peter Mulcaster, Esq.,* of Benwell.

MEDÆVAL SHOE.—*Mr. Thomas Craster* has presented the Society with the sole of an huge shoe, suitable to either foot, pronounced by a shoemaker to belong to a female. It was found in the ruins of Naworth Castle after the fire. Some merriment is created by the alleged sex, the size being so large, and the iron studs so heavy.

INCISED ROCKS.—*Professor J. Y. Simpson* of Edinburgh, through Mr. Henry Laing of the same place, has presented the Society with three casts from the concentric circles on the rocks of Argyleshire. Mr. Laing observes that one of these singular incisions has been found a few miles from Edinburgh. *The Chairman* remarks that this class of antiquities has also been recognised in Ireland.

THE TREASURERSHIP.—*Mr. Robert White* is appointed Treasurer *pro tem.* until the Anniversary Meeting. He suggests that some attempt should be made to secure in safe custody the pocket-books and other papers of Brand, the historian, which belonged to the late Treasurer, Mr. Wheatley, whose family was connected with that accomplished author.

PRINTING.—*Resolved*—That Miss Dickson's Index to Vol. I. of the quarto series of the Archæologia Æliana, and Mr. Dodd's elaborate Catalogue of the Library, shall forthwith be printed.

CREETING TROUGH.—*Mr. Charles G. Bolam,* of 4, Bentinck Terrace, has presented an unusually handsome stone mortar for domestic purposes. It is adorned with a stag and greyhounds.

OLD HOUSES.—*Mr. White* suggests that photograms ought to be taken of old buildings about to be pulled down in Northumberland and Durham, in order to be preserved in the Society's collections.

ALTARS TO ANTENOCITICUS DISCOVERED AT CONDERCUM.

BY THE REV. J. C. BRUCE, LL.D.

SOME important discoveries of Roman remains have been recently made at Benwell Little Park, the residence of Mr. Rendel, in a portion of the grounds lying just outside the eastern rampart of Condercum, near its south-east angle. Near the south wall two altars were found, lying obliquely, with their inscribed faces downwards (as is usually the case), and in various positions near the spot were several large stones, portions of a statue, and the fragment of an inscribed slab, which may be afterwards alluded to. At the same spot some burials seem to have taken place. Both the altars contain much that is new to the students of lapidary literature. The first altar is 4 ft. 4 in. high, and 16 inches wide in the body. It is formed of the sandstone of the district, and is in some places reddened by fire. The decorations upon it are of a highly ornate character, tastefully designed and skilfully executed. The face of the capital has been broken off; but a portion of the face was found close at hand. The altar, which is carved on all four sides, is provided with a focus; and the volutes on each side of it seem to have had for their model a bundle of the leaves of Indian corn. On the sides of the capital we have vine branches shaded with leaves and laden with bunches of grapes. The mouldings of the base are graceful; two of them are of the kind called the "cable pattern." One side of the altar has, in *basso relievo*, the sacrificing knife, the other the pitcher for holding the wine to be used in the sacrifice; and on the back is a circular garland. The inscription on the face of the altar is well cut, and the letters are of most tasteful form, but several of them are tied together after the manner of our modern diphthongs. These tied letters are generally understood to indicate a somewhat advanced period of the empire. The inscription, deprived of its complications, is

DEO
ANTENOCITICO
ET NVMINIB.
AVGVSTOR.
AEL. VIBIVS
PLEG. XX. V. V.
V. S. L. M.

which may be read, in English:—

"To the god Antenociticus and the deities of the Emperors, Ælius Vibius, a centurion of the twentieth legion, styled the Valerian and the Victorious, freely dedicated this altar in the discharge of a vow to objects most worthy of it."

The god *Antenociticus* is quite new to us. Prior to this discovery, we had no idea that any such demon as he graced the calendar of heathen Rome. The other altar is not nearly so ornate as the first. Neither its design nor its execution is good. The letters of the inscription are rudely formed. It has no focus. The inscription reads thus:—

DEO ANOCITICO
 IVDICIIS OPTIMO-
 RVM MAXIMORVM
 QVE IMPP. N. SVB VIB [VLP.]
 MARCELLO COS TINE-
 IVS LONGVS IN PRAE-
 FECTVRA EQVITV . .
 LATO CLAVO EXORN . .
 TVS ET Q D.

which may be translated:—

“Tineius Longus, holding office in the praefectship of knights, adorned with the broad stripe, and quaestor, dedicated this altar to Anociticus (*qu.* Antenociticus) in accordance with the decrees of our most excellent and most mighty emperors given under Vibius Marcellus, a man of consular rank.”

The first thing that perplexes us in this inscription is the similarity of the name of this god with that on the other, and yet they are different. Probably the same god is meant, and most likely the first A on this altar is intended to stand for ANTE on the other, though there is nothing to indicate it. The expression *Lato clavo exornatus* is new in the altars of the north of England. It no doubt indicates that the person possessed senatorial rank. In Rich's Illustrated Latin Dictionary we have the following explanation of *Clavus Latus*:—“The broad stripe; an ornamental band of purple colour, running down the front of a tunic, in a perpendicular direction, immediately over the front of the chest, the right of wearing which formed one of the exclusive privileges of the Roman senator, though at a late period it appears to have been sometimes granted as a favour to individuals of the equestrian order.” Near the south wall of the building, the remains of three skeletons had been found. They evidently had not fallen in unawares or by chance, inasmuch as they were lying in due order, pretty nearly parallel to the wall east and west. Then, besides these, at the other angle, there were remains of urn burials—fragments of charred bones, and fragments of land shells, which I conjecture were those of snails.

Mr. Clayton. I had this morning the pleasure of inspecting the altars. One of them is exceedingly beautiful. I do not know that there is another equal to it, excepting, perhaps, that in Lord Lonsdale's Castle, in Westmoreland. I agree with Dr. Bruce in his reading of this altar

— the first that he described — but ascribe it to the age of Hadrian. I think that it is too elegant for a later period; besides it mentions the 20th legion. Now we know that the 20th legion was in the North in time of Hadrian, but that afterwards it took up its quarters at Chester. I consider the expression, *Numinibus Augustorum*, which induced Dr. Bruce to ascribe the altar to a period when a plurality of emperors reigned, to refer, not simply to the reigning authority of the time being, but to the Roman emperors generally. I also agree in the main with Dr. Bruce in the reading of the second altar, which is much more inartistically constructed than the other, and the letters of which are rudely cut. But I am inclined to consider that it is dedicated not only to the local god, but to the judicial decisions (*Judiciis*) of the emperors. I think also, that a careful examination of the inscription will show that, instead of *Vibius Marcellus*, we should read *Ulpus Marcellus*. Now this will give us a date. Ulpus Marcellus was an able general who was sent over to Britain by Commodus, to restore this country to order, which was then in a most disastrous state. Unlike Tineius Longus, Ulpus Marcellus was a most modest man, and until the discovery of this altar not a single inscription has been found in Britain recording his name, excepting a much mutilated stone discovered at Chesters. The two concluding letters on the altar, I have been disposed to expand into *Quinquennalis Decurio*. — Dr. Bruce. My opinion in the first instance was that *Judiciis* should be read as Mr. Clayton has suggested. All sorts of abstract qualities were deified by the Romans; still, on second thoughts, it seemed too bold a thing to suppose that the judicial acumen of the emperors should be made a subject of worship; it may be so, however. I have searched for a precedent, but have not succeeded. Mr. Clayton's suggestion as to Ulpus Marcellus being the person intended is most valuable. As soon as I had seen the altars I wrote to Mr. Roach Smith, one of our best Roman antiquaries, asking for his opinion upon it. I had received a reply to that letter on my way to the meeting, in which Mr. Smith, says, "I am quite delighted to see such discoveries. I hope we shall be puzzled with them much more. Who the god Antenociticus was I expect will, after all our researches, be a question. It may be a typical name; or it may be an epithet applied to Apollo or the Sun. . . . I never before met with the *latus clavus* in an inscription."

Some objects which have been discovered during the works are exhibited by Mr. Rendel. Among them are a fibula, a handle of a chest, denarii of Nero and Severus, and other coins of Trajan, Antoninus Pius (head of Aurelius Cæsar on reverse), Faustina Senior and Valerian. There are also three coins of Lælianus, an usurper in Gaul in the time of Gallienus. His pieces are not common. The shells are evidently those of snails.

[Subsequent investigation has shown that Ulpus, not Vibius, is the prenomens of Marcellus. Besides the soldier who flourished in the reign of Commodus, there was an eminent jurist of that name who flourished in the time of Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius.]

THE LESLEY LETTER.

THE apocryphal letter of General Lesley to Sir Thomas Riddell "found its way first into a Newcastle newspaper." So says Surtees, writing to Mr. C. K. Sharpe in 1807. I am not aware (says Mr. James Clephan in a communication made to the Society) that the newspaper" referred to has ever been named. If not, it is now to be identified, for the first time, with the *Newcastle Chronicle*—in whose earliest volume, within the last few weeks, I have accidentally fallen upon the letter; and finding it to vary from all the copies that have ever come under my notice, I have thought that an exact transcript of the original might be acceptable to the members of the Society of Antiquaries, and worthy of a place in their Transactions.

It is a letter which is constantly re-appearing in print; and the *Gateshead Observer*, in an article on "The Riddells of Gateshead House" (September 19, 1857), contains some particulars of its history which may now appropriately be revived.

It is not alluded to in Bourne's History of Newcastle, which bears the date of 1736 on its title-page.

In 1775 it was communicated to Ruddiman's Edinburgh Magazine, by "G. A." of Darlington; and it appeared on the 18th of January, 1776, with annotations by the owner of those familiar initials.

The letter was impeached in the Gentleman's Magazine in 1777.—"Mr. Urban,—Permit me, through the channel of your Magazine, to desire the Editor of the Antiquarian Repertory to authenticate Sir John Lessley's letter to Sir Thomas Riddle, published in the 17th number of that work. He will be so good as give his authority, at the same time, for Newcastle being besieged in 1640, and Sir John Lessley's being *Crowner* of Cumberland and Northumberland the same year, and he will oblige—*VERITAS*."

No mention of the document is made by Brand (1789). He merely states that on Aug. 31, 1640, "General Lesley pitched his camp on Gateshead Hill, being half-a-mile to the south of Newcastle.—Sir Thomas Riddell, senior, knight, of Gateshead, suffered particularly by their encampment. See Nalson's Collections, vol. i., p. 441."

Surtees, in his letter of 1807 to his friend Sharpe, says of it:—"The original, or what is termed such, but which I suspect to be a waggish imposture (perhaps of date not much less ancient than the supposed

transaction), is now in the hands of William Ward Jackson, Esq., of Normanby, Yorkshire (gentleman commoner of Christ Church), whose father was once a dealer in corn, hops, &c., in Newcastle, and rescued said letter from a parcel of waste paper, or the wrapping of a parcel, which came to him in the way of business. He showed it to an uncle of mine, Ambler, a lawyer, Recorder of Durham, a man of great wit and humour, who sent a copy to the editor of a Newcastle paper, and bid Jackson preserve it as an inestimable treasure. It appears to be half of a letter-back, torn off; pale ink; no seal; strong, coarse hand."

In 1820, Surtees gave a version of the letter in the second volume of his History of Durham, page 127, preceding it with the words:—"I much fear that the following epistle from John Leslie to Sir Thomas Ridell during the leaguer of Newcastle is *not* genuine;" and he adds at the foot:—"The above notable epistle is said to have been found amongst some old papers in the warehouse of Mr. Jackson, hop merchant in Newcastle."

In 1848, it was reprinted in the second volume of The Fairfax Correspondence, the editor (Mr. G. W. Johnson) remarking—"Careful as the generals were to prevent any rapine upon the countrypeople, yet some of the officers managed to effect a little pillage on their own account, either in return for protection promised, or other favours. The following curious letter, written during the investment of Newcastle, affords an example of this." And we are told in a note, that it is "preserved among the MSS. of the Riddell family."

As this custody is what the lawyers would term the "proper" one for the document, Mr. Longstaffe, the editor, has put himself in communication with the present representative of the ancient race of Riddell, Thomas Riddell, Esq., of Felton Park, who has very obligingly sent his copy of the letter for the Society's inspection. It is on a half-sheet of paper (water-marked L V G.) of the foolscap size which displaced the old pot for MS. purposes. The hand is one of the last century, of a feeble Italian style. The copy agrees, save in the spelling, with the newspaper reading, except that "Siller Tacker" was originally written "Gatherer," and corrected in a hand of the period, but much stronger than that of the text, and the word "knight" is omitted in the last clause. This codex is copied below this article, No. 1.

Mr. Longstaffe has also obtained from George Hutchinson Swain, Esq., of Norton Hall, for exhibition, a copy of the letter addressed "To Francis Forster, Esq." (of Buston), his great-grand father. It is not perhaps earlier than Mr. Riddell's, though written in a bolder manner, and differing from all the other copies in the greater coarseness and number of the Scot's expletives, and the additional stipulation for all the cher-

ries of Sir Thomas's garden. It is printed below, No. 3; and the reader will understand that the words within brackets are interlineations, giving the letter very much the appearance of a trial sheet.

Mr. Swain also wished to oblige the Society by obtaining a sight of the Jackson copy. Unfortunately W. Ward Jackson, Esq., the present denizen of Normanby Hall, "never met with it, nor any memorandum of it, among any papers that have come into his hands from his elder brother, deceased. But it is just possible that such a relic may be in the house." After kindly promising a further search, which appears to have been unsuccessful, he continues—"Of course the Mr. Wm. Ward Jackson means my father, the date of whose private journal does not, however, reach back to within eight or ten years of that which is assigned as the period in which the letter aforesaid was in his possession. I should think it not unlikely that my father gave it away to Mr. Surtees of Mainsforth, Mr. Raine deceased, or some other antiquary at Newcastle or elsewhere."

In the *Memoirs of Surtees* (1852), the editor, the late Rev. Dr. Raine of Durham, observes (page 14):—"I have reason to believe that Mr. Ambler was the writer of the letter said to have been sent by Sir John Lesley to Sir Thomas Riddell of Gateshead during the siege of Newcastle in 1640. Mr. Surtees printed this letter in his *History* (ii., 127)—fearing, however, that it was *not* genuine. The humour which it displays is of a high order; but there is more than enough of internal evidence to prove its modern origin."

Ambler died about the year 1780; and it is in the *Newcastle Chronicle* of 1764, that Mr. Clephan finds the letter suspected by Dr. Raine to have had its origin in the head of the Durham lawyer. The *Chronicle* had made its first appearance on the 24th of March; and on the 16th of June, there is this intimation to a correspondent:—

"*The original letter, written at the siege of Newcastle by the general of the Scots army, is received: our thanks are due to the gentleman who favoured us with it, and the public may expect it next week.*"

Next week, accordingly, on the 23rd of June, the letter appears, taking the lead among the "Literary Articles" of the paper; and No. 2 is an exact copy of it, as originally printed (save the substitution of the short "s" for the long). The long "s" has partly given rise to a singular misconception. One of the variations, in Surtees, is "faw the mons;" and the phrase is interpreted to mean "strike the bargain;" but the original, it will be seen, is "saw the mains," and no explanation is needed.

The letter as it stands in the *Chronicle*, nearly 98 years ago, is termed

"the original," assuming it to be, as Surtees and Raine suggest, a fiction, and that it had not earlier "found its way" into print. It may chance, however, to turn up, at some future day, on a still older page.

No. 1.

Sir John Lesley's Letter to Sir Thomas Riddle of Gateshead, on the Siege of Newcastle by the Scots.

"Sir Thomas,

"Between me and G-d, it macks my Heart bleed Bleud to see the Wark gae thro' sae trim a Garden as yours."

I hae been twa Times wi my Cusin the General and sae shall I sax times mare afore the Wark gae that Gate. But gin aw this be deun, Sir Thomas, yee maun mack the twenty pound throtty, and I maun hae the Tag'd Tailed Trooper that stands i' the Staw, and the little wee trim-gaeing Thing that stands i' the Neuk o' the Haw, chirping and chirming at Neun Tide o' the Day; and forty Bows of Beer to saw the Mains with aw. And as I am a Chavelier of Fortune, and a Limb of the House of Rothes (as the muckle Kist of Edingburgh ald Kirk can weel witness for these aught hundred Yeare by gane), Nought shall skaithe your House within or without to the Valludome of a Twapenny Chicken. I am

Your humble Serv^t, JOHN LESLEY,

Major General and Captain ower Sax score and twa Men and some mare, Crowner of Cumberland, Northumberland, Murrayland, Niddisdale, the Merce, Tividale and Fife, Bailey of Kirkaldie, Governor of Burnt Island and the Bass, Laird of Libberton Tilly and wholly, Siller Tacker [*interlined, Gatherer struck out*] of Stirling, Constable of Leith, and Sir John Lesley to the Beut of aw That."

No. 2.

For the NEWCASTLE CHRONICLE.

Sir JOHN LESLEY's Letter to Sir THOMAS RIDDLE of Gateshead, upon the Siege of Newcastle by the Scots, in the Reign of Charles I.

SIR THOMAS,

Between me and Gad it maks my heart bleed bleud, to see the wark gae thro' sea trim a gairden as yours.—I ha been twa times wi my cusin the general, and sae shall I sax times mare afore the wark gae that gate: But gin aw this be down, Sir Thomas, ye maun mack the twenty punds throtty, and I maun hae the tagged tail'd trouper that stands in the stawe, and the little wee trim gaying thing that stands in the newk of the haw, chirping and chirming at the newn tide of the day, and forty bows of beer to saw the mains with awe.

And as I am a chivelier of fortin, and a limb of the house of Rothes, as the muckle main kist in Edinburgh auld kirk, can well witness

for these aught hundred years bygaine, nought shall scaith your house within or without, to the validome of a twa penny chicken.

I am your humble servant,

JOHN LESLEY,

Major general, and captin over sax-score and twa men and some maire, crowner of Cumberland, Northumberland, Marryland, and Niddisdale, the Merce, Tiviotdale, and Fife; Bailie of Kirkadie, governor of Brunt Eland and the Bass, laird of Liberton, Tilly and Whooly, siller tacker of Stirling, constable of Leith, and Sir John Lesley, knight, to the bute of aw that.

No. 3.

Sr Jn^o Leslie's Letter to Sr Tho^s Riddell, of Gateshead House.

"I vow to God, Sr Tho^s., it maks my very heart bleed blood to see the wark gang this gate thro' sae trim a garden [as] yours. I've been twa times with my cousin, the General, and sae shall I sax times mare before the wark gang syke a gate, but, before me and the Great God, Sr Tho^s., gin a' this be dune, you mun mak the Twenty pound thraty, and [the] tag'd Tail trooper that stands in the Stall, and the wea trim ganging thing that stands in the nook of the Hall, chirping and chirming at the noon tide o' the day, with a' the Sherrys in your Garden as a present to my Lady—mind you prove that . . . I Sr Thomas—[with 40 Bows of Bear to saw the mains with a',] and, as I'm a chavalier of fortune, and a limb of the House of Rothes, as the muckle maun Khest in Edinbro' auld Kirk can weal witness for this aught Hundred years, and mare bygane, the De'il Scowp in my gates gin ought skaith you or your House, [within or without,] to the valedom of twa penny chicken.—I'm yours—JN^o. LESLIE, Major and Captain-General of Sax Score and two men, Governour of Roxbro', Thruslebro', Muslebro', and Kirkadie; Crowner of Northumberland, Cumberland, Teviotdale, Nidisdale, Clidisdale, and the Merse; Bailie of Burnt Island, and the Bass, Sil'er taker of Stirling, and Constable of Leith, and Sr Jn^o. Leslie, Knight, to the Boot of a' that, Sir.

"To Francis Forster, Esq."

MONTHLY MEETING, 3 DECEMBER, 1862.

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Smithsonian Institution.* Annual Report of the Board, 1861. — *From the Archæological Institute.* The Archæological Journal, No. 74. — *From the Kilkenny Archæological Society.* Their Proceedings and Papers, No. 37. — *From Mr. W. H. Brockett.* Registers of the Electors for North Northumberland, 1849-50, 1853-4, 1857-62, and for South Northumberland, 1853-5, 1856-8, 1859-62. — *From the Canadian Institute.* The Canadian Journal, No. 41.

SOUTHERN BRASSES.—*Mr. Edward Spoor* presents several rubbings by his son, from important monumental brasses in churches of Suffolk and Essex, viz. Horksley in Essex, and Stoke and Nayland, co. Suff.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—The papers relating to the former meeting of that learned body at Newcastle, which were deposited in the Castle by the late Mr. Hutton, are placed at the service of the local Secretaries on this occasion.

DISCOVERIES AT BENWELL AND CORBRIDGE.

Dr. Bruce produces rubbings of two altars recently found at Benwell, showing clearly that VLP was the correct reading as suggested by Mr. Clayton. If however, *the* Ulpus Marcellus had been meant, he thinks that he would have been designated as Legate, and the stone, also, in his opinion, speaks of a plurality of emperors. But there was a Jurist of the name, the legal adviser of Antoninus Pius, flourishing during the period of the Divi Fratres, Aurelius and Verus, who were both Augusti in the years 161-169. There may be some connection between Jurist and the *Judicis* of the inscription. The Jurist seems distinct from the soldier of the reign of Commodus.—*The Chairman* observes, that the fact may be as *Dr. Bruce* states, but that the subject admits of argument.

DISCOVERY OF AN ALTAR AT CORBRIDGE.—*The Chairman* reads a letter from Mr. Coulson to Wm. Cuthbert, Esq., of Beaumont, announcing that the digging at Corbridge, under the auspices of the latter gentleman, have been rewarded by the discovery of a small votive altar to the god Vetturius.

PRINGLE THE EJECTED MINISTER.

MR. HENRY FRANCE, JUNIOR, exhibits a deed dated 30 March, 4 James II., from Timothy Davison of Newcastle, merchant, to William Bayles of the same town, merchant. It recites a lease for 39 years to Davison of the 6 February preceeding, from Henry Peareth of Newcastle, merchant, and Edward Greene of the same place, shipwright, of a yard garth or parcel of ground then in the possession of Mr. John Leamon; merchant, and used for "*a Raffe yard and laying of Raffe*;" bounding upon Trinity Chaire on the east, and upon messuages in "*a laine or chaire called the Broad-garth*" on the west; also a messuage, burgage, or tenement "*late in the occupation or possession of Doctor John Pringle*, and then in the occupation of William Stote, sailmaker," bounding on Trinity Chaire on the east, and a messuagè then in the possession of Alexander Campbell on the south, and containing in length 13 yards: and another messuagè and stable in the occupations of Mr. Robert Bower, merchant, William Blackett, fitter, and Martin Wilkinson, waterman, containing in length 22 yards, and adjoining upon the said Raffeyard on the south part of the said yard, and upon part of a messuage belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, widow, and upon a messuage in the possession of George Hankin, ropemaker, situate in the said Broad-garth on the west; all which said premises are in Peacock Chaire, near the Keyside. The lease includes liberty to pull down the demised messuages other than the messuage of William Stott, and "*digg the house and ground*" of the premises; and to place upon the ground and soyle thereof other buildings and "*furnaces and boyllaries*" therein. A declaration follows that as to one eighth part the name of Davison was used in trust for Bayles.

THE NAG'S HEAD INN, NEWCASTLE.

BY W. H. D. LONGSTAFFE.

It may be well to call attention, as a matter of local record, to the impending destruction of the old stone house at the foot of the Butcher Bank, called the Nag's Head Inn. Like many other of the better houses of the Newcastle burgesses, it possessed good carvings; and this circumstance, with its material, joined to a certain quaint and gloomy aspect, has given to it a celebrity not altogether justified. Traditions, which, when the ball is set agoing by the first inventor, soon acquire persistency, have claimed the house as the resting-place of a king, and as the mansion of mayors, before the use of the residence in the Close. Whether kings would sleep at this common hostelry is, perhaps, questionable; at all events we have the evidence of three Norwich travellers of 1634, that the house was already an inn, at a time, be it remarked, not long after its erection, its architecture being of the debased style which characterized the commencement of the seventeenth century. The writers identify it by speaking of it as opposite to a neat cross, which could only be the Cail or Scale Cross; and they were struck by its unusual character, when they breakfasted and took horse at it. The host was a Mr. Leonard Carr, who, or a successor of the same name; although he was never Mayor, seems to have been of considerable consequence, and to have fallen into grief by his loyalty. The articles against him may be seen in Bourne; and he still lives in Newcastle by the (now sorely reduced) charity which, in 1658, he charged upon this, his capital messuage, in the Butchers' Bank, other three houses on the east of it, and the house on the west of it. Judging from Mr. Hinde's able paper on the Old Inns of Newcastle, the Nag's Head does not appear to have been much in repute at the commencement of last century; but I am told that, not many years ago, it had resumed some portion of its older consequence. The tour of 1634 has twice been printed; but perhaps a portion of it may, in connection with the subject, be reproduced with advantage. "The towne is surrounded with a strong and fayre built wall, with many towers thereon. It hath 7 gates, and is governed by a mayor (Mr. Cole), then fat and rich, vested in a sack of sattin, and 12 aldermen. The last Mayor, (Sir Lionel Maddison), and now recorder (Sir Thos. Riddel) did both endure knighthood [whereby their pockets would be considerably lightened] in his Majestie's late progresse. Then did we take a view of the Market-place, the Towne Hall, the neat crosse, over against which almost is a stately princelike freestone

inn (Mr. Leonard Car's), in which we tasted a cup of good wine. Then, taking a view of the four churches in the town, and breaking our fast in that fayre inne, we hastened to take horse, and now are we ready to take our leaves of the progresse way, having no stomachs for Tweed nor those inhabitants." If it be thought that James or Charles might prefer the warmest welcome—that of an inn—then four progresses may appear to admit of claims for a visit to the Nag's Head, viz., that of 1603, when James, on his entrance to England, stayed three days here, and so transported the inhabitants that they bore all the charges of his household; that of 1617, when the King revisited his native land; that of 1633, when, on their journey to Scotland, Charles, accompanied by Bishop Laud and many nobles, were all entertained by the magistrates and town, and also returned this way; and that of 1639, when in his march against the Covenanters, the same unfortunate monarch was magnificently entertained, and stayed here twelve days. In the progress of 1603, however, we have it in evidence that James was entertained at the house of Sir George Selby, "the King's host." As to 1617, I have no means, in the libraries of Newcastle, of consulting the well-known book of Nichols on the Royal Progresses, and I am sorry that I cannot at present throw further light on the interesting tradition, which, however, will not prevent the house from giving way to a more useful purpose than that of a decayed tavern, or that of holding the "wise fools" of British history.

THE NEW PERCY SEAL.

On a more strict examination of Mr. Greenwell's seal, described on a former page of this volume, the supporters appear to be *two lions*.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE NAG'S HEAD INN.

By JAMES CLEPHAN.

It is King James—(who was in Newcastle in 1603, on his way to his English throne, and in 1617, when about to revisit his native land)—it is the “British Solomon” who is most emphatically associated, in the popular mind, with the Old Nag’s Head; and we shall confine ourselves, in our present notice, to the visits of that monarch to our ancient town.

In 1603, on Saturday, the 9th of April, James, travelling on horse-back, left Widdrington Castle for Newcastle; and on his arrival, on the same day, he was conducted, according to Stow (page 819, edit. 1631), “to a KNIGHT’s house, where hee was richely entertained, and remained there three dayes.” Brand, who quotes this statement of the chronicler, himself adds (ii. 450):—“The King was entertained *at the house of Sir George Selby*, who was probably knighted on that occasion.” Let us hear, however, what another authority has to say on the subject. Nichols, in his “Progresses and Processions of King James the First” (i. 69), borrows an account of his visit to Newcastle from “The True Narrative of the Entertainment of his Royall Majestie, from the time of his departure from Edenbrough till his receiving at London, with all or the most speciall occurrences; together with the names of those Gentlemen whom his Majestie honoured with Knighthood. (At London, printed by Thomas Creede for Thomas Millington, 1603.)” “When,” the author narrates, “his Majestie drewe neare to Newcastle, the Mayor, Aldermen, Counsell, and the best Commoners of the same, beside numbers of other people, in joyfull manner met him; the Mayor presenting him with the sword and keyes, with humble dutie and submission, which his Highness graciously accepting, he returned them againe; giving also to his Majestie, in token of their love and heartie loyaltie, a purse full of gold, his Majestie giving them full power and authority under him, as they lately held in her Majestie’s name, ratifying all their customs and priviledges that they were possessed of, and had a long time held. And so passing on, *he was conducted to the Mayor’s house*, where he was richly entertained, and remained there three days. Upon Sunday, being the 10th of April, his Majestie went to the church,

before whom the Bishop of Durham" [Toby Matthew] "preached. And that day (as it is his most Christianlike custome) being spent in devotion, he rested till Munday, which he bestowed in viewing the towne, the manner and beautie of the bridge and keye, being one of the best in the North parts. Besides, he released all prisoners except those that lay for treason, murther, and Papistrie, giving great summes of money for the release of many that were imprisoned for debt, who heartily praised God, and blessed his Majestie for their unexpected libertie. So joyfull were the townesmen of Newcastle of his Majestie there being, that they thankfully bare all charge of his household during the time of his abode with them, being from Saturday till Wednesday morning. All things were in such plentie, and so delicate for varietie, that it gave great contentment to his Majestie; and on the townesmen's part there was nothing but willingnesse appeared, save onely at his Highnesse departure; but there was no remedie. He hath yet many of his people by his presence to comfort, and forward no doubt he will, as he thence did, giving thanks to them for theyr loyall and heartie affection. And on the bridge, before he came at Gateside, *he made Mr. Robert Dudley, Mayor of Newcastle, a Knight.*"

This is the narrative of a writer whose book was published in the same year in which James made his journey from the Scottish to the English metropolis; and the corresponding passage of Stow (or his continuator) has the appearance of being an abridgement of it. But while the one makes the Mayor the King's host, and, giving his worship's name, informs us that he was knighted on the Tyne Bridge, the other is silent as to the accolade, and states that James was "conducted to a knight's house." How the alteration came to be made we cannot say, and will not conjecture. We may, however, observe, that the substituted words do not amount to a contradiction. They simply anticipate the honour conferred on the Chief Magistrate; and we think we may safely conclude that the King was Mr. Dudley's guest, and transformed him into "Sir Robert" at parting.

Returning to Newcastle, April 23, 1617, King James made a longer stay than 1603, remaining until May 5. Brand, whose record of the event is founded on the archives of the Corporation, does not name his host. But in Nichols's Progresses (iii. 280, &c.), "the royal lodgings at Newcastle" are stated to have been "in the mansion of Sir George Selby:—whence, on the day of the King's arrival" (we may go on to quote), "the Earl of Buckingham wrote to the Lord Keeper Bacon, that his Majesty, God be thanked, is in very good health, and so well pleased with his journey 'that I never saw him better nor merrier.' (Bacon's Works, iii. 518.) On the 1st of May, the King paid a visit

to Heaton Hall, in the parish of All Saints', Newcastle, the seat of Henry Babbington, Esquire, whom he then knighted. On the same day, Simon Clarke, of Salford in Warwickshire, was created a Baronet, being the 98th so honoured. On Sunday, the 4th of May, his Majesty, with all his nobles, dined with the Mayor of Newcastle" [Sir Thomas Riddell], "when it pleased him to be served by the Mayor and Aldermen. On the same day," Sunday, May 4, "either at or before the banquet, he conferred knighthood on Sir Peter Ridell, and Sir John Delaval of Northumberland."

We thus see that in 1603 King James was the guest of the Mayor, Mr. Dudley; and that in 1617 he was entertained by Sir George Selby. It is quite possible, nevertheless, that the tradition as to the Nag's Head may not be unfounded. What so likely as that, in 1603, when the "joyfull townesmen of Newcastle" bore "all charge of the royal household," or in 1617, when the King, with the Earl of Buckingham and other nobles, spent nearly a fortnight in the town:—what so probable as that the "fayre" and "stately princelike freestone inne," "the fairest-built inn in England," gave entertainment to several of the royal followers, and that his Majesty visited some of them under its roof? The royal gossip had Dudley and Selby for his hosts, but he may still have crossed the threshold of the Nag's Head; and we will leave the tradition to repose on the conjecture. It has this advantage on its side—that it is hard to prove a negative. It affirms that one of England's Kings was once entertained in this old hostelry; and to demonstrate the contrary is beyond our power, as it is foreign to our inclination. The Nag's Head may be reduced to ruins and swept away, but the tradition shall be suffered to survive; and it will certainly do so, whether we are willing or not.

* * * Sir William Brereton, travelling in 1635, bears this evidence to the superiority of the old hostelry: "The fairest built inn in England that I have seen, is Mr. Carre's, in this town. We lodged at the Swan, at Mr. Swan's, the post-master's, and paid 8d. ordinary, and no great provision."