

## MONTHLY MEETING, 7 JANUARY, 1863.

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

**DONATIONS OF BOOKS.** — *From the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries.* Inscriptions Runiques du Slesvig Méridional, interprétées par C. C. Rafn, et publiées par la Société Royale des Antiquaries du Nord. Copenhagen, 1861. Mémoires de la Société, 1850-60. Antiquarisk Tidsskrift, 1858-60. In the letter accompanying these books it is remarked that in Rafn's treatise "is brought forward evidence demonstrating that in the Duchy of Sleswick was spoken Danish (*Donsk tunga*, Old Northern) in the olden time to its very southern boundary, a fact well worth noticing." — *From Mr. William Dickson*, Clerk of the Peace. Provisional Order for dividing the County of Northumberland into Highway Districts, 1862.

**NEW MEMBERS.** — *Mr. Robert Spence*, Banker, North Shields. *Mr. R. T. Liddell*, 10, St. Thomas's Street, Newcastle.

**AUDITORS APPOINTED.** — Messrs. Edward Spoor and William Dodd.

**EXCHANGE OF TRANSACTIONS.** — The Wiltshire Archæological Society admitted.

**NEWCASTLE RELICS.** — *Mr. Clayton* calls attention to two huge stone balls found on the Sandhill in recent excavations, and presented by the Corporation. Some have supposed that they have been missiles from the Castle. One of them is marked XII.

**ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.** — *Mr. Cuthbert* exhibits the little altar lately found at Corbridge (see p. 161.) It reads DEO VITRI. — *Mr. G. N. Clark* presents several Ptolemaic and Roman coins, collected by a friend in Egypt, with two small Egyptian figures, a curious old clock-key, and other objects.

## EARLY BRITISH REMAINS FROM ALLENDALE AND WEARDALE.

**THE REV. H. SLATER**, of Stanhope, submits a copy of a stone axe, which some trifler has spoiled, by incising an ugly modern soldier with a flag inscribed s, and an accompanying legend, LEG A. It is described as having been found on a doubly-bent handle<sup>1</sup> (since destroyed) on a

<sup>1</sup> Judging from the drawing sent, the double bend was produced by the abrupt turning of the centre only of the handle, the convex side being to the holder. The terminations seem to be nearly straight, and are in a line with each other.

moor of Allendale. The material is blue madreporic limestone, and the axe is uniformly about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, and is ground to a sharp edge. Mr. Slater has had an amber bead brought from Heatheryburn Cave, and asks the intention of some singular implements of bone discovered there. Many of them are small and oblong, each pierced with a hole, also oblong. A larger one is slightly curved and brought to a point. There are two holes in the latter, which are cut quite through it, and a third at the thick end reaching half through. The central hole (one of the piercings) is perpendicular to the plane of the other two. It has been suggested that these singular objects were used in ancient weaving.

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### THE BENWELL DISCOVERIES.

By GEORGE WIGTWICHT RENDAL.

DR. BRUCE has already described pretty fully the nature of our principal discoveries at Condercum, and I can add little to what he has said; but I have prepared an accurate map, shewing the position in which everything was found, and the extent of walls, paved roads, and flagged ways which we have laid bare up to this time. By carefully laying down to scale in this plan the result of further investigations as they are made, we shall, perhaps, be able to trace the relation between partial discoveries at different points, and though leaving some little to conjecture, yet be able, by filling up the blanks, to obtain in the end a tolerably complete plan of the now-buried ruins. I will enumerate briefly the things found hitherto, referring the members to the plan for the position of them.

The two altars, fully described by Dr. Bruce in his interesting paper read at the November meeting, were found lying inclined on their faces, the back corners of both being within a few inches of the surface. Beneath the altar, and filling the south-east and south-west corners of the building, was a bed of concrete, apparently forming a base for the altar, and from this and the uninjured appearance of the altar, we might infer that they have fallen where they stood. In the circular part of the building were found three human skeletons lying side by side, the heads west, the feet east. The width of the recess is but five feet, and the remains shewed that the bodies had been slightly bowed to get them into their resting-place. The bones were covered with stones, apparently the ruins of the surrounding wall. They were laid in flags. They were come upon eighteen inches below the surface. The thigh-bones and some of the vertebræ were taken out whole, but

nearly all fell to pieces on exposure. With the skeletons were found several coins—bronze chiefly, but two of silver. The silver are of Nero, A.D. 54, and of Aurelius; the bronze are of Antoninus Pius and Aurelius Caesar, and of Domitian, A.D. 92; other bronze coins are defaced. There were also found here an ornamental bronze handle for a box, a long-bowed brooch known, I believe, as a fibula, a round brooch of bronze, enamelled after a pattern, and numerous white shells of a land snail. At the north-east and north-west corners of the building were found fragments of thin pottery, with charred bones and white shells. The shells were numerous, very white and perfect, but fell to pieces on the air reaching them,—all but a few, some of which I now produce.

Within the building were also found the following:—The head of a male figure, the fore-arm of a female figure, and part of a leg, below the knee, of a female figure—all life-size, and finely executed in the sandstone of the district. Also a fragment of an inscribed tablet (described by Dr. Bruce), and a large square stone, 3 ft. by 2 ft., by 1 ft. 4 in., with an ornamental moulding at top, and a cavity cut out beneath. The space within the walls of the building was covered at some depth below the surface with a thick layer of sand. At several points above this sand there were indications of fire; and a large beam, charred and almost eaten away with decay, was found below the surface. Many fragments of thick red tile were also found. The walls were set upon good concrete foundations. They were well built with mortar, and the stones rough squared and dressed. The corner stones were fine dressed and carefully squared, and there is evidence of an entrance having existed in the middle of the north wall.

Without the building, and in some parts of the ground, have been found—the capital, with a portion of the shaft, of a column; the capital 12 in. square; the shaft tapering from 11 in. to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter; the capital has deep plain mouldings; the shaft is inscribed s. e. v.: the capital of another column, measuring 8 in. by 6 in., and ornamentally sculptured: a base stone, 1 ft. 11 in. by 1 ft. 7 in., by 8 in., with ogee moulding on the upper side: another moulded capital or base stone, 1 ft. 11 in. by 1 ft. 5 in., by 1 ft.: and at a point in the kitchen garden, a stone head, rudely sculptured in high relief, with three rays proceeding from it.—(this head has apparently been built in or set against a wall, the back being rough cement):—also several coins; among them one of silver, of Severus, A.D. 201, in the ground within the limits of the camp, as marked on the Ordnance Survey; one of bronze, of U. C. Lælianus, A.D. 265; one of Vespasian, A.D. 76; in the paved road west of the buildings, others, more or less defaced, but no doubt decipherable by numismatists.

Outside the east and west walls of the building first described, a little apart from them, and nearly but not quite parallel, have been opened out two lines of wall. They are of the same description as the former but less regularly built. Whether they belong to adjacent buildings, or have been foundations of a portico running round the building, or what else, there is not yet evidence enough to shew. At a depth of about three feet generally we have come upon a paved road, composed of small stones, between six and twelve inches across, carefully packed side by side upon a thick layer of cement. The stones have been grouted with lime, and the road has been carefully made. The upper surface of the stones is now flat. By the side of the road flagging stones were found set on edge, making, with a bed of similar stones between them, a rude tomb, within which were portions of an urn containing charred bones. Judging from what we have laid bare, the general direction of the road is east and west, and it appears to have passed close to the south side of the building described. It must also have taken a turn north, as we find it again west of the building. Large flags have been found bedded flat side by side. Some of these flags were as large as 4 ft. and 3 ft., and all from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 in. thick, and rough dressed, flat on the upper side.

I have confined myself to a simple description of facts, because there are members of this Society who can tell us the most that is to be made out of these facts, and conjecture will be of most value coming from them. I regret very much that I have not had time to get sketches made of the objects mentioned, but I shall hope, some day, in more favourable weather, to obtain photographs of the most interesting of them, and I shall not fail to put the Society in possession of copies, to be placed in their records with the plan.

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#### ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 2 FEBRUARY, 1863.

*J. Hodgson Hinde, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.*

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL. — *Patron*: His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G. — *President*: The Right Hon. Lord Ravensworth. — *Vice-Presidents*: Sir Charles M. L. Monck, Bart., Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan, Bart., John Hodgson Hinde, Esq., and John Clayton, Esq. — *Treasurer*: Robert White, Esq. — *Secretaries*: Edward Charlton, Esq., M.D., and the Rev. J. Collingwood Bruce, LL.D. — *Council*: The Rev. Edward Hussey Adamson; Messrs. Robert Richardson Dees, William Dickson, John Dobson, and Martin Dunn; the Rev. James Everett; Messrs. John Fenwick, and W. Hylton Dyer Longstaffe, (*Editor*); the Rev. James Raine; and Messrs. Edward Spoor, Robert White, and William Woodman. — *Publisher*: Mr. William Dodd.

NEW MEMBERS. — *Mr. Hugh Clayton Armstrong*, Percy Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. *Mr. Joseph Brown Robson*, Paradise, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

PIPE MUSIC. — *Resolved*, that active measures be taken to continue the research after the ancient Northumbrian music, which has been so ably commenced by the late Mr. Kell. The following presents by him are on the table—the rare collection by Peacock of Tunes for the Northumbrian Small Pipes; a good set of the pipes; and Topliffe's Melodies of the Tyne and Wear. All the papers of the committee under his guidance, and two manuscript volumes of tunes collected by them, are also before the meeting.

ARMS AND ARMOUR. — *Resolved*, that an ancient cannon, the property of the Society, be exchanged for duplicates in the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, it being wanted to complete the national series there. It was presented in 1835.

ROMAN LAPIDARIUM OF THE NORTH. — *Dr. Bruce* being engaged in the compilation of a Lapidarium of the Roman Wall, to include other inscriptions in the neighbourhood:—*Resolved*, that the Council be requested to direct their attention to the best means of securing to this Society the credit of the publication of *Dr. Bruce's* forthcoming work, without risking any undue pressure upon the Society's funds.

SIR THOMAS MORE. — *The Rev. J. Beck* presents the impressions of two seals; the first with leafy mantling, the second and smaller one with the mantling customary in the seventeenth century.

1. SIGLLV' . T. MORE . EQVITIS . AVRATI . SUBTHESAVRARI . ANGL' .  
Arms. 1, 4. A chevron engrailed between three cocks. 2, 3. Between three unicorns' heads erased, a chevron charged with three roundels.  
Crest.—A Moor's head in profile.

2. CHRISTIANO CATHOLICO A—MORE . Arms. 1, 4, Same paternal coat as above. 2, 3. Three lions rampant. Crest. A cock.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS. — *From Mr. Joseph Watson*. Some Account of the Pedigree of the Forsters of Cold Hesledon, co. pal., by Joseph Foster. Sunderland 1862. — *From Mr. Wm. Adamson*. A volume of the Cumberland Pacquet, published at Whitehaven, 1776 to 1783. — *From the Kilkenny Archæological Society*. Their Transactions, Vol. IV. No. 38.

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## FIFTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Council on this occasion is anxious to remind the members that the Society has now attained the fiftieth year of its existence. There are few societies of any kind in England which can boast of so long a period of activity, and still less can this be said of those devoted to archæology. This Society, however, which was one of the first, if not the very first,

association for the study of antiquities founded in the provinces, has not only existed for the period of fifty years, but at the close of that period it may be said to exhibit more signs of vitality than at any former period of its existence. Your Council is of opinion that this era should be distinguished by some act on the part of the Society which shall stamp it not only as the jubilee year, but also as the time when some great and lasting improvement was effected. A year or two ago the ground to the north of the railway arches was purchased by the Society, with the view of erecting thereon a new museum, to contain the ever-increasing collections, and to afford that amount of light to the different antiquities as to render their inspection easy and advantageous to the public. The Council regrets that the funds subscribed only enable the Society to purchase the ground, and that the erection of the museum has been consequently delayed; but there is now every prospect that an excellent museum will be provided on the spot for the collections, and that at a comparatively very trifling cost or risk to the Society. The Council is of opinion that the present year is the most appropriate of all for commencing this building, and that for this purpose every exertion should be used; and that the time of year to be selected should be that of the meeting of the British Association in this town, in August next. The study of archæology has now risen to the rank of a science, and among the many scientific men assembled here on that great occasion from all parts of Europe, there will be many, no doubt, who will be most glad to take a part in the jubilee festival of the Society of Antiquaries. The nineteenth part of the new issue of the "*Archæologia Æliana*" is now in the possession of the members, and the Council trusts that it will not be found inferior to any of its predecessors. The essay on the Corbridge Lanx, by the noble President of the Society, is alike distinguished for critical acumen and sound classical learning; while the valuable paper, by Mr. Clayton, on the Bridge at Cilurnum, may be regarded as one of the most important contributions. During the past year the Society has sustained severe loss in the deaths of Mr. Matthew Wheatley, the treasurer, and of Mr. Wm. Kell, of Gateshead. Mr. Wheatley never contributed to the Transactions, but he took a deep interest in the welfare of the Society, and was a most regular attendant. Mr. Kell's loss will be deeply regretted by all, as he was ever ready to aid the progress of archæological research. The Venerable Archdeacon Thorp, the Warden of Durham University, has likewise been taken from among us during the past year. Dr. Thorp was an early member of the Society, and ever took an interest in archæology, preserving in his garden at Ryton two or three of the choicest inscribed altars from the Roman Wall. Mr.

Robert White has kindly undertaken temporarily the duties of the Treasurer, and he will this day lay before the Society a statement of its financial condition. Mr. Dodd has now finished the catalogue of the books in the Society's library, and it is intended that this catalogue shall be immediately printed for distribution to the members. The number of new members elected during the past year has been twelve.

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### MONTHLY MEETING, 4 MARCH, 1863.

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Author.* The History of Blyth, co. Northumberland, by J. Wallace. — *From the Archaeological Institute.* The Archaeological Journal, No. 75. — *From the Royal University of Christiania.* Norske Fornleoningar, af N. Nicolaysen, Part I.: Ordbog over det gamle Norske Sprog, af Johan Fritznee, two parts: Urda et Norsk Antiquarisk Tidsskrift, nine parts: Foreminger Til Norske Fornsmud, Bevaring, 1862: Norske Brygminger fra Forliden, 3<sup>de</sup> Hefte. — *From the Sussex Archaeological Society.* Their Collections, Vol. XIV. — *From the Wiltshire Archaeological Society.* Their Magazine, nearly complete. — *From Mr. William Dobson, Preston.* History of the Preston Guild, and an Account of the Celebration of the Preston Guild of 1862.

THE OGLE SHRINE. — *The Chairman* calls attention to the three-panelled altar picture which formerly belonged to this little chantry, and is now exhibited to the Society by Mr. F. R. Wilson, its present possessor. It is fully described in the Transactions of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland, p. 27. It may be observed that, although in the deplorable alteration perpetrated at Hexham Abbey Church, the Ogle shrine has been swept from its position; the parclose screen has been preserved, and that the roof presented a curious heraldic difference; the Ogle crescent being represented as white on red, instead of red on white as in the arms. This roof, as a piece of carpentry, would probably put modern Hexham to the blush. It is (rather, was) a most skilful piece of carpentry, each board being framed with an acute mortice, and the companion with a suitable and close-fitting point. In other respects, it must be owned that, both in painting and carving, the remains of the shrine are rather barbarous, a not unusual characteristic of works of the 15th century.

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### NOTES ON THE REV. JOHN HORSLEY.

By JOHN HODGSON HINDE, Esq.

AMONGST the antiquaries of the North of England, the name of Horsley must ever stand pre-eminent, and a very natural curiosity exists to know something of the incidents of his life. His biography has,

accordingly, occupied the attention of two gentlemen well known in this locality, the late Rev. Wm. Turner, and the late Rev. John Hodgson, to both of whom we are indebted for particulars respecting him, which, but for their investigation, would probably have passed into oblivion. A third essay on the same subject has recently proceeded from the pen of Mr. Tate, of Alnwick; but this is rather a recapitulation of the facts collected by his predecessors than a contribution of new materials; and after all which has been done, our information is still vague and unsatisfactory. It is not my intention to go over the ground which has been trod by the three gentlemen to whom I have referred, or to offer to this Society any detailed memoir, but simply to present such notices as I am able to add to those which have already been made public, under the impression that, where so little is known, no incident, however trivial, which can be recovered, should be suffered to remain unrecorded. The birth-place and parentage of Horsley are both uncertain, nor am I able conclusively to determine either; but I will state the grounds on which I rest my opinion that he was a native of Newcastle. I have heard the late Mr. John Thompson, of Northumberland Street, whose father was a contemporary of Horsley, and a man of kindred pursuits, both having gained distinction as lecturers on astronomical and mathematical subjects, speak of him as a Newcastle man, coupling his name with those of Bourne, the historian of this town, and Avison, the author of the essay on musical expression, as having all been tailors' sons. I should not have founded anything on my recollection of a conversation forty years ago, had I not met with some confirmatory evidence. In the early part of the last century, there was certainly a family of Horsleys resident in Newcastle, who were members of the Tailors' Company. Charles Horsley, of this family, resided in Westgate Street, being himself the proprietor of the house in which he lived, and of a house adjoining, as appears from a list in my possession of owners and occupiers of property in the parish of St. John in 1726. In 1722, he voted at the contested election for the County of Northumberland, in right of his interest in the freehold coal-mines at Elswick, jointly with George Ledgard and Robert Cay. Now, we know that the Ledgards were near relations of our Horsley, and the Cays his most intimate friends; and it is difficult to believe that the association of both these names with Charles Horsley, was entirely fortuitous, and that there was no relationship between the latter and the subject of this notice. The Ledgards had been connected with Elswick Colliery for fifty years previous, but I do not find the name of Cay or Horsley as a proprietor at an earlier period, which leads me to infer that they derived their interest through the Ledgard family. Charles Horsley



survived our author, as his name occurs, with that of Charles Avison, amongst the members of the Tailors' Company who polled at the Newcastle election in 1734; but not in the succeeding contest in 1741. This is not inconsistent with the supposition that he was the father of John Horsley, as, if the latter had been living in 1734, he would not then have been fifty. That Horsley's parents resided in Newcastle, and not, as has been supposed, in the vicinity of Morpeth, is further probable, from the circumstance of his being educated at the Grammar School of Newcastle at a time when a similar institution existed in good repute at Morpeth. It is singular that neither Mr. Turner nor Mr. Hodgson speak with certainty of the place where he was educated. The former says:—"It is understood that he received his early education at the Grammar School at Newcastle;" and Mr. Hodgson adds nothing in corroboration. We have, however, the testimony of his contemporary Bourne, which I may quote as conclusive on the subject. "Mr. Horsley, of Morpeth, who died a few months ago, a little before the publishing of his '*Britannia Romana*,' was of the public Grammar School of this town, and afterwards studied in one of the Scotch colleges. He was Master of Arts, and Fellow of the Royal Society. He is supposed to have been equally knowing with any of his time in the British Roman Antiquities." Another contemporary, Drake, who draws freely from the "*Britannia Romana*" in his "*Eboracum*," speaks of its author as "having taken more than ordinary pains to ascertain the stations, *ad lineam Valli*, and the north of England, where he lived," but gives no more precise information respecting him. Mr. Tate quotes Callamy's Memoirs to show that Horsley was settled in Morpeth as a Presbyterian minister as early as 1709. Mr. Hodgson, however, is of opinion that up to 1721, at which time he resided in Widdrington, he had not received ordination, but preached as a licentiate. This was probably the case up to a later period; for during his sojourn at Widdrington, which extended to 1723, he certainly followed a secular employment as agent to the York Buildings Company, who had contracted to purchase, and were then in possession of the Widdrington estates. I find references to him in this capacity in advertisements in the *Newcastle Courant* of that date, and Mr. Hodgson himself has printed some particulars amongst the '*Widdrington Miscellanea*' in his history, which refer to the rental "as improved by Mr. Horsley in 1721." These improvements appear to have included disparking and disforestation of the demesnes, as some of the advertisements refer to the sale of timber, and of deer-skins. Mr. Hodgson has transcribed a note by Spearman relative to Horsley from his copy of Hutchinson's History of Northumberland. I transcribe a somewhat more extended notice from

a similarly annotated copy of the octavo edition of Mackenzie and Dent's History by the same hand :—"The Rev. John Horsley kept an academy in Morpeth, where the Rev. Newton Ogle, afterwards Dean of Winchester, and others, had their education. He was a man of polished manners, as well as great learning, attached to his religious principles, without bigotry, and universally respected. He died possessed of a good fortune, leaving an only daughter and heiress, who married Samuel Hallowell, almost the first surgeon of eminence in Newcastle. She inherited her father's love of learning; and is said to have injured her health, and shortened her life, by her nightly contemplations of the stars. She left a son, Samuel, educated for his father's profession, who died when a student in Edinburgh, and a daughter who married —Walker, of Leeds, son of the Rev. Thos. Walker, of Wylam, Northumberland, where he had a good estate, and from his wife above-named valuable sheep lands in the hill country towards Scotland. Hallowell, senior, to his second wife married a sister of —Button, of Newcastle, merchant. By her he had no family." Mr. Hodgson has noted that Spearman is in error in stating that Horsley left an only child; whereas, in addition to Mrs. Hallowell, he had another daughter married to Mr. E. Randall, besides a son, who, we find on other authority, was apprenticed to his brother-in-law, Mr. Hallowell, as a surgeon. His friend, Professor Ward, in a letter to Dr. Cary, Bishop of Clonfert, which has been recently printed, says that he left a numerous family. Horsley's earliest published work is advertised in the *Newcastle Courant*, of October 5, 1728. "Vows in Trouble; or a plain and practical discourse concerning the nature of Vows made in Trouble, and of the reasonableness and necessity of a faithful performance of them. By John Horsley, A.M. London: Printed for A. Ford, and sold by R. Akenhead, Bookseller, on the Bridge, Newcastle. Price, stitched, 9d." His lectures at Morpeth, of which the advertisement has been printed by Mr. Hodgson, commenced on the 15th of May, 1731; and these were repeated in Newcastle "at the request of some gentlemen." In a preliminary advertisement, July, 3, 1731, he states that "They will begin in a little time, and be finished in five weeks, if the company think fit to attend five times each week." On the 31st of the same month, he further announces that "The course of experiments lately advertised in this paper, begins (God willing) at Mr. Prior's house, at the head of the Tuthill Stairs, on Monday, the 23rd of August, at 6 in the evening; when the times of meeting afterwards, and other circumstances, shall be adjusted and settled to the satisfaction of all those that design to attend." The charge to the whole course was a guinea and a half, as at Morpeth. The following winter Mr. Horsley undertook two more courses of lectures in Newcastle, at Mr. Prior's

summer-house, at the foot of Westgate,—the first on astronomy, in ten lectures, commencing on the 13th of December; the second on natural philosophy, in five, commencing on Monday, the 3rd of January, 1732. The admission to the astronomical course was one guinea, in addition to a payment of half-a-crown to Mr. Prior, “for preparing a contrivance to render the conception of these things easy and clear, by shewing them to the eye.” These mechanical contrivances, not yet known by the name of orreries, were then in their infancy, and Mr. Prior, who prepared this, was a man of very great ingenuity. He was assay-master at Newcastle, and when it was proposed to abolish the provincial assay offices, he was examined before a Parliamentary Committee, and very highly commended in their report. The second series exhibited the principal experiments which were comprised in the more extended course delivered the previous summer, and “were chiefly designed for the benefit of some who paid the whole subscription on the last occasion, and yet were necessarily absent from a great part of the course.” These, in a spirit of very creditable liberality, were admitted gratis, the charge to others being half-a-guinea for the course, or half-a-crown for a single lecture. There is a melancholy significance, almost prophetic, in the qualification with which Horsley reverently announces his lectures to commence “God willing.” He was indeed permitted to commence and to complete both courses, but within a week of their conclusion he had ceased to exist. His last lecture was delivered on the 7th or 8th of January, and he died on the 12th, being, in the words of Professor Ward, “suddenly and unexpectedly taken off by an apoplexy.” Mr. Hodgson notices that Mr. Turner erroneously ascribes his death to the 12th of the previous December, whereas the dedication to the “*Britannia Romana*” is dated January 2, 173 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The original error, however, does not rest with Mr. Turner, but is found in the contemporary record of his death in the *Newcastle Courant* of January 15, as follows:—“Morpeth, December 12. This day, died here, Mr. John Horsley, A.M., and F.R.S. He was a great and eminent mathematician, and much esteemed by all that had the happiness of his acquaintance.” Here December 12 is obviously printed in mistake for January 12. It may seem strange to us that his reputation is here based on his mathematical acquirements, but we must remember that he had distinguished himself as a man of science, not only by his lectures, but by his communications to the Royal Society, whilst the “*Britannia Romana*” was yet unpublished; and his rare antiquarian learning was known only to a few persons of kindred pursuits, with whom he was in the habit of corresponding. A few months later, as we learn from Bourne, his fame as a natural philosopher was eclipsed by his celebrity as an antiquarian.

In the "Gentleman's Magazine," for 1732, the "*Britannia Romana*" is announced as having been published on the 5th of April; but it had been advertised, in the *Newcastle Courant* of April 1, as "just published," with an intimation that "those who have promised or intend to take books of the author's widow and family, are desired to send notice to Mr. Robert Cay, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. N.B.—There are some printed upon large paper." Horsley's "set of mechanical, hydrostatical, optical, and pneumatical instruments" were never brought home after his last course of lectures, but remained at Mr. Prior's for more than a year, and were advertised to be sold there, together or in parcels, on Thursday, the 29th March, 1733. His books were, at the same time, advertised to be sold by auction at his late dwelling-house in Morpeth, on the 4th of April following. Mrs. Horsley still occupied the house, which was advertised to be let from the following Whitsunday, with a reference to Mr. Thomas Shipley, Morpeth. It is described as containing ten fire rooms, with a good cellar, stable, brewhouse, garden, and other conveniences. It is not to be disputed that Horsley died a victim to his labours in the cause of science, and to his too close application to his great antiquarian work, and this is, no doubt, matter for sorrowful reflection; but I find no evidence that he was subjected, as Mr. Hodgson supposes, to neglect during his lifetime, or his family to penury after his decease. He had a recognition of his high scientific attainments in his admission to the Royal Society; a distinction not then lightly conferred. He enjoyed a good social position. His wife was the daughter of an eminent professor of his own university; and he was admitted to the correspondence of Mr. Gale, of Scruton, and Professor Ward, and the friendship of such men as Mr. Collingwood, the Recorder of Newcastle. His school seems to have been a flourishing one, and little prejudiced by his position as a dissenting minister, numbering as he did amongst his pupils at least one who was intended for the ministry of the Established Church, and destined to attain no mean rank in it. We may attach what weight we please to Mr. Spearman's assertion that he died possessed of a good fortune. The publication of the "*Britannia Romana*" may have pressed heavily on his finances, and the sale of copies of so large a work may have been an object to his widow and family; but, undoubtedly, they were never in circumstances of difficulty or destitution. Had such been the case, the books and philosophical apparatus, which were no longer required, would at once have been turned into money; and the large house, no longer used as an academy, would at once have been vacated. But all were retained considerably more than a year after his decease. Neither, if he had lived, would he have had cause for disappointment with that reception given to the

work on which his fame rests. Such a work, even at the present day, cannot pretend to the sort of popularity which waits on the fashionable novelist or the brilliant historian; but if to be at once received as the highest authority on antiquarian subjects is the legitimate ambition of an antiquarian writer, such certainly was the success of the "*Britannia Romana*."

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#### ADDITIONAL REMARKS.

The Editor was in hopes that Horsley's statement, at p. 207 of his great work, that John Cosyn, of Newcastle, was his great uncle, might have led to his ancestry. This puritanic alderman's will has been examined, and search made for those of his two nephews of the name of Horsley, but without success. The double connection is provoking, and no certain pedigree can yet be constructed. The truth will, perhaps, be elicited through the Ledgars. If the Cays took under that family, there is probably another double alliance, as Cosyn's daughter Ann was the wife of Robert Kay. Another, named Peace, was the spouse of George Morton, whose name was placed below Cosyn's in the monumental inscriptions at All Saints' Church. Something of the faith and politics of the old draper may be seen in Bourne; and Horsley's opinion that he had arranged the Roman remains at his new mansion of Cousins's house, (hodie Carville, near Wallsend), will be found in the passage of the "*Britannia Romana*" already referred to. Although the paternal spring of the author may yet illude us, it is satisfactory to be acquainted with some means of his instruction in the phases of religion and archæology to which he attached himself.

It may assist the future enquirer if the result of the present investigations are given in tables below. It has not been thought necessary to give the York Horsleys, to whom Mr. Hunter thought our antiquary was related. Some collections as to them have been made, but the current of their names gives no colour to the Yorkshire antiquary's theory—and the school of theology in which John Horsley was educated is sufficient reason for his participation in Lady Horsley's liberality, even from the commencement in 1708. Had the names been more favourable, the relationship to Cosyn would not have been adverse to Mr. Hunter's theory, as Edward Cosyn, his father, appears to have been connected with the West Riding of Yorkshire, John leaving a legacy to the poor of Bradford, his "native place." Edward Cosyn—(this is the autographic orthography)—was apprenticed, obviously late in life, to a Newcastle baker and brewer. After setting up in that

business himself, and standing by the popular party, he died, and was buried at All Saints' in 1645. Among his contemporaries was George Horsley, a barber chirurgion, among whose issue was Jane, baptized at All Saints' in 1614, Peter in 1623, and two Georges in 1630 and 1635. Jane was married in 1632 at the same church to the above John Cosyn, and in the same year Peter entered *the Barber Chirurgions' Company* by patrimony. In 1647 and 1648 Mary and George, the children of Peter Horsley, *master and mariner*, were baptized at All Saints. In 1662 John Cosyn died, and his gravestone gave the impalement of three horse's heads for Horsley. His will was made in the preceding year. His wife was still living, and her relations seem to have exercised considerable influence over him, as George the son of Peter Horsley, "my wife's brother," ranks next to the testator's own issue and before his

## I. THE TAILORS. [See next page.]

John Horsley, mariner, — = ....  
Newcastle.

Cuthbert Horsley of *Button*, co. Nd. — = ....  
By a coincidence, Mr. Hallowell, Horsley's son-in-law, married a Miss Button of Newcastle for his second wife.

Charles, bap. 18 Sept. 1608.	Thomas Horsley, bap. 7 April, 1607, == presumed to be the Thomas Horsley who was apprenticed to John Hall, barber chirurgion, 19 June, 1627. He was admitted to his freedom, 13 May, 1633. In 1650, Robert Harbottle departed his service and stole his indenture and good part of 15 <i>l</i> .	Elizabeth Cosyn, == daughter of Edward, and sister of John Cosyn of Newcastle, who mentions her and her son in his will in 1661.	Oswold Horsley, apprenticed to Humphrey Hunter, tailor, 29 September, 1624.
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Charles Horsley, apprenticed to his father, 14 June, 1652.	John Horsley, son of Thos. Horsley of Newcastle. [N.B. Another Thomas Horsley, distinct from the barber, as it seemeth, was married to Jane Moore in April, 1651, and on 22 March, 1651-2, Peter, son of Thomas Horsley, <i>mill</i> er, was baptized.] He was apprenticed to James Purvis of Newcastle, tailor, 5 December, 1671, admitted to his freedom, 3 October, 1681, and buried 4 July, 1708. (Tailors' Books.)	Jonas Horsley, mentioned in John Cosyn's will, 1661.	George Horsley, apprenticed to his father, 8 Oct. 1638, marked "mort.": bur. 19 July, 1640.	Charles Horsley, apprenticed to his father, 6 May, 1656.
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JOHN HORSLEY, the antiquary, stated to have been born in 1685.

George Horsley, apprenticed to Samuel Halliwell, barber chirurgion, 23 Dec. 1732.

\* \* Charles Horsley and Mary Wouldhave, married at St. Andrew's, 7 Sept. 1679. Mary, daughter of Mr. Charles Horsley, baptized there 20 Aug., 1694.

own relations. Mary, Peter's other child is also mentioned. But he also leaves a couple of shillings per week to *his sister Elizabeth Horsley*, and £100. to *her son Jonas Horsley*, in case of the testator's nephew Edward Cosyn dying under age, according to the will of his (Edward's) father Thomas Cosyn. So that John Cosyn's sister also married a Horsley, and he would be great uncle in blood to any issue of her children, and great uncle by marriage to those of George, his wife's nephew.

Jonas has not been traced. If it is considered that the sole mention of him leads to the inference that he was the only child, there is an end of the matter. But this conclusion is hardly justified. *George* and *barber chirurgion*, the name and occupation of Horsley's son, are found in two families of Horsley in Newcastle. To one we may tack what Mr. Hinde heard from a person entitled to be heard, that our antiquary was the son of a tailor, and the name of *John*. With this premise. I have given the two schemes below the text under the heads of "the Tailors" and "Barber Chirurgions." The registers indicated are all at All Saints', except where otherwise noted.

## II. THE BARBER CHIRURGEONS.

George Horsley of New- castle-on-Tyne, barber chirurgion.	= Anne Andrew, married to = George Horsley, 24 Oct., 1613.	= Isabell Dodds, married to George Horsley, 12 Aug., 1627.		
Jane = John Cosyn, bap. 10 of Newcas- April, tle. draper, 1614, died 21 married March, 30 Oct. 1661, M. 1632. All Saints. ARMS, Er- mine, a chevron en- grailed. IMPALING, Three Horses' heads erased.	Ailes, bur. 21 Apr. 1615. Anne, bap. 20 Oct. 1616, bu. 9 July. 1618. Ralph, bap. 19, bur. 21 April, 1618. Robert, bap. 24 Mar. 1621-2, bur. 24 May, 1622.	Peter Horsley, baptized 6 July, 1663, en- tered a barber chirurgion by patrimony 1 June, 1632. He had two children, Geo. and Mary un- der age in 1661, being then mention- ed in Cosyn's will. Peter Hors- ley, master and mariner.	Elizabeth, bap. 5 Oct. 1625. Michael, buried 29 Sep. 1626.	Ann, bap, June, 1628. George, bap. 25 Nov. 1630. Mary, bap. 30 April, 1633. George, bap. 9 July, 1635, all mentioned as children of the barber chirur- geon.
George Horsley, bap. 17 Mar., 1647-8. George Horsley, bur. in St. Andrew's church, 15th Jan., 1638-9.		= Margaret Horsley, widdow, bur. in the North Alle, St. Andrew's, 7 Nov. 1699.		
JOHN HORSLEY the Antiquary, born c. 1685, died at Morpeth, 12 Jan., 1731-2.				
George Horsley, apprenticed to Samuel Halliwell, Barber Chirurgion, 23 Dec. 1732.				Others.

## MONTHLY MEETING, 1 APRIL, 1863.

*Thomas Baker, Esq., in the Chair.*

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.* Their Transactions, Vol. xiv., session, 1861-2. — *From the Canadian Institute.* The Canadian Journal, N. S., No. 43.

NEW MEMBER.—*Mr. Michael Thomas Morrall*, Balmoral House, Matlock Bank, Derbyshire.

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 ROMAN DOVER.

MR. CLEMENT TATE, of Dover, through Mr. Radford, of Gateshead, has presented a large piece of Roman tile, and exhibited explanatory drawings and a photogram of the *locus*. The tile was of the kind found in hypocausts, but larger and much more elaborately scored than similar objects found in the North. But whatever its original purpose might be, it came from one of the horizontal courses of tiles which occurred in a counterpart, on the Western Heights, Dover, of the well-known Pharos. This spot was formerly called the Devil's Drop, and on it stood a large stone or conglomerated mass, called the Breden Stone or Kissing Stone. On it the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports were sworn into office. Mr. Knocker, the Town Clerk of Dover, in a lecture delivered in 1857, considered, very properly, that it formed a remnant of the destroyed duplicate Pharos, and stated from the testimony of one of the workmen employed on the construction of the Drop Redoubt, that they buried it in their earth-work. In excavating on this redoubt (now called, after the Duke of Cambridge, Fort George), Mr. Tate came, on 24 May, 1861, to the Roman foundation of the Pharos, and hence the tile. Mr. Knocker was of course a frequent visitor at the works, and was rewarded by the discovery of the missing Breden Stone. Mr. Tate had it laid bare, and preserved from the general deposit of excavated material, and thinks that the finding of it was one cause of the holding *in situ* of the installation of Lord Palmerston as Warden, in wonted royal splendour.

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## ROMAN WALKER.

THE REV. J. BEWICK, of Shields, has presented a few Roman bronze objects lately discovered in debris of the Roman Wall at Walker, viz., a fibula of the usual form, four coins of the higher empire, and a non-descript crown-like article which had probably been sewn on leather. The Society has purchased a fine quern from the same locality.

## THE ORKNEY RUNES.

DR. CHARLTON submits Professor Munch's and his own views as matured since the publication of the article at p. 127 of this volume.

The Professor, it appears, abandons all idea of the tomb at Maeshow being Norse, and is convinced that many of the tombs of the Norse kings in Norway and Sweden were really the relics of a pre-existing race, but were occasionally used as burial places by the Northmen.

The reader will please to revert to the article mentioned—the numbers below coinciding with those employed therein for the several inscriptions.

III. BRAE NÖH THANA. This Dr. Charlton had, with Professor Stephens, rendered as "Brake hewed this." Professor Munch states this reading to be "grammatically impossible." This, Dr. Charlton now thinks, is probably the case. Munch, to make his own reading, "Broke this tumulus," perfect, supposes that the inscription was imperfect. It appears to be complete. He also supposes the existence of a verb, BREKA, BRAK, BROKIN, analogous to the Gothic BRIKAN, Anglicè *to break*, and suggests that the real reading may be BRK for BRAK. Dr. Charlton admits that this may be the case, but the name is wanting, and the huge stone on which the inscription is so clearly cut shews no trace of erasure and is *in situ*. He can only suggest that No. I. may contain the wanting name. "That is the Viking came out hereto (and) broke this tumulus."

In No. XIV. the word BRAE is not employed to signify the opening of the tumulus, but BURU.

VII. Munch objects to the reading OMOTR, as it would certainly in that case have been written OMOTHR.

XI. The Professor adheres to his reading of OFRAME SIGURTHSONR. Dr. Charlton will accept it, and believes that the four letters he endeavoured to embrace were the beginning of an inscription which scaled off during the operation of cutting the letters, and then the second inscription was begun. The whole of the inscription is now gone.

XIII. The first words are now quite clear to Munch:—THAT MAN ER EK SAEHI; *i. e.* "That is true what I say."

XIX. XX. Professor Munch adheres to his reading HÆLR (sorcery hall) instead of Dr. Charlton's HÆLTR. Dr. C., though finding great difficulty in reading this line, insists that the word in question is plainly and distinctly HÆLTR. The T was full of earth, and missed by the draughtsman, but it was distinctly cut as any letter in the whole tomb. But he acknowledges that HÆLTR means only *before, previously*, as is to be seen in No. XIII., and not *hero* or *heroine*.

### MONTHLY MEETING, 6 MAY, 1863.

*J. Hodgson Hinde, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.*

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*By the Canadian Institute.* The Canadian Journal, No. 44, March 1863. — *By the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.* Their proceedings, vol. iv., part 1.

CUNNINGHAM'S HOUSE.—*Mr. Edward Thompson* presents two photographic views of the old houses in Bigg Market, lately destroyed. In one of these John Cunningham, the pastoral poet, resided. He died in 1773, and was buried in St. John's churchyard, where Mr. Slack, the publisher of the *Newcastle Chronicle*, placed a table-monument over his remains.

BOOKS ORDERED.—Raine's 'Fasti Eboracenses'. Thorpe's 'Diplomaticum Anglicum'.

RULES.—A Committee is appointed to revise the General Rules of the Society, and it is resolved that no diplomas shall be issued until the members claiming them shall pay their subscriptions.

MUSEUM.—Resolved, that the conveyance of the ground purchased from the Corporation for the proposed museum shall be proceeded with, and be made subject to the approval of the Corporation to any buildings to be erected on the site.

ILLUMINATED MSS.—Numerous specimens of these are exhibited by Dr. Charlton.

*MONTHLY MEETING, 3 JUNE, 1863.**Richard Carl, Esq., in the Chair.*

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Kilkenny Archaeological Society.* Their Proceedings. Jan. 1863. — *From the Author.* On the Scarcity of Home Grown Fruits in Great Britain, by C. R. Smith. Liverpool, 1863. — *From M. Boucher de Perthes.* L'Abbevilleois, 15 May, 1863.

BOOKS PURCHASED.—Dixon's Fasti Eboracenses, by Raine.

*COUNTRY MEETING, 1 JULY, 1863.*

THE Society on this occasion visits Houghton-le-Spring, where they are hospitably refreshed with lunch by Capt. T. W. U. Robinson. The members proceed thence to Lumley Castle and Chester-le-Street, where they end the day with a comfortable dinner.

## HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.

It is presumed that this vill passed to the church of Durham, in the grant of the former possessions of the bishoprick of Hexham, between Tyne and Tees, to that of Chester-le-Street, as no specific gift of it to the church appears. A rector of it occurs in Hutchinson's list, as early as 1131; and, from the wide range of country doing service by mowing the Bishop's meadows here, it seems probable that long before 1184, the date of Boldon Buke, there was an episcopal residence at Hocton, as the record has it, which had disappeared.

The foundations of earlier walls have been discovered within those of the present chancel, which presents in its north wall the oldest architectural features of the present cruciform church.

This north wall presents us with a Norman light, with two small chamfers, and a little square doorway, narrow and tall, under a tympanum, surrounded by the indented ornament, and presenting on the south two interlacing dragons, the backs of which have a line of beads, and the tails a termination of stiff crisp foliage. The other side has similar work, but the darkness of an organ chamber alike prevents destruction and study. The character is more rude than early. A curious caryatide-like stone in the churchyard, sculptured with figures



whose arms interlace, may be of about the same date. We are strongly reminded of the peculiar details of the Chapter House at Durham (1133-1140) and of Shobdon Church (1141-1150.)

The Early-English remains at Houghton are also peculiar. The long lancet lights in the south wall of the chancel, and the arcade in which they are placed, have the nail-headed ornament and a clumsiness of treatment, but the western windows of the transepts have two lancets and quatrefoils in the top, the cusps being knobbed and the general treatment more like bar tracery than plate tracery. In those of the south transept, there are, however, no circumscribing arches, the hood moulding creeping round the outer half of the lancet-heads and thence continuously round the quatrefoils, following their form in a very unique and curious fashion; but in the north transept the moulding also pursues the lancet heads until their meeting in the centre. The mullions or pillars dividing the lights in these singular windows are spurious. The capitals in both the tower and nave (in the latter they are mostly unfinished) have the scroll moulding, and altogether the variety of the Early-English style here must be considered as late and rough.

There is a piscina in the east wall of the north transept, and another in the south wall of the south transept, near the east wall. In the same south wall is a niche for a sepulchral effigy, apparently coeval with the Early-English features of the building. Two early effigies (one the famous one confounded with the Springs of Houghton in the Side) lie in and near it. The tracery of the window above this niche, judging from the representation in Surtees's Durham, appears to have consisted of the common form of two mullions running into intersecting arches in the head. The terminal windows of both transepts are now spurious.

Before leaving this period, a small tomb in the churchyard should be noticed. It is a single block of stone, but is divided into two grave-covers by a channel down the centre. The sides have an arcade of plain pointed arches, and the head end of each cover has a floriated cross, the south one being in saltire. Two infants, twins perhaps, may be recorded. There is a very similar monument in Pittingdon churchyard. In the latter example each cover has a sword, the emblem of a male.

Surtees shows an elliptically-headed Decorated window, in the eastern portion of the south wall of the chancel. This has given way to a continuation of the arcade in the Early-English style, which originally extended to the east end, as is plain from a string moulding.

At present the original Decorated features to be observed are the great eastern and western windows. The former is a pleasing reduction.

of Prior Forcer's fine western window of Durham Cathedral. The latter is a monotonous succession of waves, forming ogeed quatrefoiled compartments.

The later objects of interest are a double-storied vestry on the south of the chancel (on which it was once proposed—*horresco referens*—to place a high-pitched roof) and Bernard Gilpin's tomb. The stunted spire upon the tower seen in the old plates has given way to a huge upper story, and the whole church now presents much anachronistic work of the style peculiar to the destructive period of English architecture.

The patron saint of the place is, of course, the great "Apostle of the North." Capt. Robinson is the fortunate possessor of a book having *Sum Gilpini* in the bold hand familiar to the inspectors of Surtees's facsimile of the reformer's autograph.

The singularly ugly hall of the Huttons does not escape observation.

#### LUMLEY CASTLE

is the next object of attraction. As is well known, it presents much that is interesting in connection with three epochs, those of Richard II., Elizabeth, and George I.

Some of the Elizabethan detail is identical with that of the Bellasis tomb against the south wall of Houghton chancel, dated 1587.

On each side of the doorway of Picton House, Newcastle, was a large stone parroquet, bearing a fanciful shield of the Lumley arms, surmounted by an earl's coronet. On an escutcheon of pretence was the coat of Jones, a buck passant. These insignia fix the date to the period (1690-1721) when Frances, the heiress of Sir Henry Jones, of Aston, in Oxfordshire, was the countess of Macaulay's Earl of Scarborough. On the appropriation of the site of Picton House in 1864 for the purposes of the Blyth and Tyne Railway Station, the two birds were removed to the front of Mr. Richard Cail's residence, Fell Cottage, Gateshead.

#### CHESTER-LE-STREET CHURCH.

The tall spire of this church, soaring from the limits of the Roman station, forms an agreeable feature in the landscape. In the porch are some memorials of the Saxon period, crosses of differing knotwork, bearing traces of red pigment. The shell of the church is Early-English, late in the style, incipient tracery being presented by some of the windows of the church. The tower is engaged, and the portions of the aisles attached to it are divided both from it and the eastern portions by pointed arches. From the western portion of the north aisle a small porch projects to the north. It has two rooms. The upper one

has narrow slits opening to the west, to the east, and to the south into the church. The ground floor has a door to the east, and, being quite distinct from the church, was formerly used by christening parties in waiting. The resemblance of this little building to other lodgings of recluses, though the position is unusual, seems to identify it with the Anchorage, in connection with which one of the incumbents, Master Robert Willis, appears to little advantage:—"1627. Payd to Ezabell Carr, for watchinge with the poore widowes in the Ancharidge, for feare of some displeasure done them by Mr. Willis, 8d.—Payd when the churchwardens wente to Durham, when Mr. Willis procured a warrant to ducke the poore wydowes, 6d.—Payd when Mr. Willis made a seconde entrie into the Ancharidge, put out the widowes, &c., 3s." They were, it seems (says Surtees), in despite of Mr. Willis, put in again, with three men to assist them, the aid of Ezabel Carr being all too weak.

More easterly, the north aisle retains three arches in its wall. Of these, two front the nave, and one the chancel. There would thus be formerly a double aisle, and the alteration, judging from the debased window in the westernmost of the arches (a blocked one), was made by John Lord Lumley, when he arranged his well-known aisle of tombs. Since Surtees wrote, the central arch was opened into a northern porch built for the Lambtons.

There are three level sedilia and a piscina, Early-English, in the chancel.

The windows of the south aisle are Decorated, as is also a window in the north aisle, westward of the arches already mentioned. The shields of *Old France quartering England*, and of *Percy recent*, in the east window of the south aisle, are contemporaneous with the masonry.

Some little alterations have lately been made in Lord Lumley's Elizabethan arrangements, which, with other published details, need not be copied from other works.

East of the Lumley aisle, a late vestry, perhaps of the 16th or 17th century, is approached from the exterior on the east, and from the church through the north wall of the latter.

The Victorian alterations and additions will be readily discernible, and are not serious.

The Visitation of 1575 gives the brass of Wm. Lambton, esq., 1430, and Alice (Salcock) his wife, in the south aisle. Perhaps hers was the effigy of a female discovered under the pews there a few years ago. An accompanying male figure and the arms had been torn away.

## MONTHLY MEETING, 5 AUGUST, 1863.

*Martin Dunn, Esq., in the Chair.*

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From the Society of Antiquaries of London.* Archæologia, Vol. xxxix., Pt. 1. — *From the Archæological Institute.* The Archæological Journal, No. 76. — *From the Canadian Institute.* The Canadian Journal, N.S., No. 45.

PURCHASED BY SUBSCRIPTION.—Tonge's Visitation in 1530, with other Heraldic Documents, Surtees Society.

THE DAGMAR CROSS.—*Dr. Charlton* exhibits a most beautiful Danish chromo-lithograph of this national treasure.

THE BECKERMONT CROSS.—Professor Stephens has received the duplicate cast of the inscription on this monument, which was so kindly furnished by Mr. Dixon, of Whitehaven, for the purpose of transmission. He is unable to find Mr. Haigh's reading, but promises a note on the subject.

BUDRÛN.—*Captain Waddilove*, of Beacon Grange, Hexham, has presented some fragments of marble from Budrûn, in Asia Minor, exhibiting early and peculiar examples of the honeysuckle and echinus ornaments.

DOUBLE KEY.—*Mr. Gould*, of Gateshead, has presented a curious key, with quatrefoiled bore and wards at both ends, each serving as a handle when the reverse end is used. Each bore has a slit, reminding one of those in the Bramah keys; and the two sets of wards are diverse.

MR. WHITE'S NOTE-BOOK.—*Mr. White* has given to the Society some of his observations made on a recent tour beyond Northumbrian limits, including the recent Roman discoveries at Chester.

## MONTHLY MEETING, 2 SEPTEMBER, 1863.

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From Publishing Societies.* Sussex Archæological Collections, Vol. xv., 1863; The Canadian Journal, July, 1863; Proceedings of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, April, 1863; Archæological Journal, No. 77. — *From the Rev. S. F. Creswell.* His Collections towards the History of Printing in Nottinghamshire, 1863.

PRIMEVAL ANTIQUITIES.—*Dr. Grierson*, of Dumfriesshire, exhibits a number of celts and other implements of stone. A slingstone of flint from Yorkshire is also exhibited by *Dr. Embleton*. *Dr. Grierson* explains the collection by a paper which the British Association (now sitting at Newcastle) have judged inadmissible, that Association apparently confining itself to matters remotely ancient or perfectly modern, Pre-adamite as the phrase is, or Victorian. *Dr. Grierson* remarks, that as the Manchester chaffinch builds with cotton, and the Scotch one with wool, so man will make his implements of what he can get. Some Polynesians use shells. Here is a heater-shaped celt, with a hole through the blunt end, from Canada West, exactly like the Doctor's No. 10. The syenitic porphyry of the Cheviots was abundantly used, but there is no rock there of the material found in our beautiful hammer-head from the Wear. A paper on bronze implements, read before the Royal Society when Sir Isaac Newton was President, is mentioned.

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### MONTHLY MEETING, 7 OCTOBER, 1863.

*Robert White, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair.*

GREEK COIN OF TRAJAN FOUND AT NEWCASTLE.—*Mr. Thornhill*, Surgeon, has presented a Greek colonial coin of Trajan, with the reverse of Jupiter Ammon's head, found, singularly enough, in digging a garden at Bulman's Village, Newcastle. *The Chairman* observed that the old north road passed along the foot of those gardens, and that its hollow may still be traced.

LIBRARY CATALOGUE.—Ordered, that 125 be bound in limp cloth, for distribution gratis among the present members, and that similar copies shall be sold at 5s. to non-members, and 2s. 6d. to new members.

INDEX TO VOL. I. OF THE ARCHÆOLOGIA ÆLIANA, O. S.—Ordered that it be issued at 1s. 6d. to all persons, without distinction as to membership.

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### THE BECKERMONT INSCRIPTION.

BY PROFESSOR STEPHENS.

FIRST, I have to thank you in my own name, and also by their particular request, in that of the chief officers of the Old Northern Museum, in this city, for the great favour you have conferred on us all by your kind gift to the museum of the cast from the Beckermont stone. Owing to some inexplicable cause, it was six months on its way. It appears to have been landed at the custom-house here, without the least information or announcement by the captain, while all the time we

<sup>1</sup> Furnished by our obliging member, Mr. Dixon, of Whitehaven, for the purpose.



were perpetually enquiring for it. However, at last it was dug out, and I have examined it repeatedly and carefully; but I soon found that I could make nothing of it, so I requested that admirable antiquary, the museum archivist, Mr. C. F. Herbst, whose immense numismatic studies have given him such mastery over old alphabets, to examine the cast for himself; this he did, quite independently of me. I therefore enclose our two readings, and copies made without the knowledge of what the other was doing. Of course, they do not pretend to be mechanically exact as to the position of the one letter under the other. We have merely sketched the letters as we could make them out in various lights, moving the cast from time to time, as we thought it might help.

The result is in few words:—

1. That our readings of the cast very nearly agree.
2. That Mr. Haigh's copy, which was taken from very bad rubbings, not from a cast, is not correct.
3. That neither I nor Mr. Herbst can make any pretence to a reasonable guess at the meaning.

Is this inscription in some old Pictish or Keltic dialect?

I scarcely think it is old English, or Runic, or Latin.

Doubtless the greater part will one day be read, when it happens to fall into the hands of a scholar who has the key—that is, who hits upon and is master of the characters and the dialect, whatever that may be. Most of the letters are clear enough.

*Cheapinghaven.*

## THE ARMS OF WYCLIFFE.

By W. H. D. LONGSTAFFE.

THE beautiful seal of Robert Wycliffe, who, twenty-two years before the death of John Wickliffe, was appointed to be the rector of the little church on the Tees which had doubtless afforded chrism to the mighty Reformer, is now, by the kindness of the possessor of the Arncliffe muniments, before the Society. In the absence of any proper armory for the North, I propose to introduce it among a few other genuine evidences of the insignia attaching to the family whose name bears so much interest! Let me premise that what are cross-crosslets now, were generally small crosses patonce in *old* times, and intermediately occur as crosses botonnee.

The Beckermont Inscription

h m t i l e s u e  
 u d i i l e d i h  
 q l n e e m i e c  
 f o r p e i p e e e  
 t x i b i i i i i i i  
 s m h e t i i

Prof. G. Stephens

h m t i l e d u t  
 u d i i l e d i h  
 q l n e i m i e t  
 f o r p i i p e e e  
 t x i i i i i i i  
 m i i i i i i

Archivary, C. F. Herbst.



ROBERT WYCLIFF port d'argent ove une chevron et trois croicelets de goules.—Roll not later than temp. Edw. III., say 1337, but containing many earlier pennons. (Coll. Top., ii, 328.)

*Sigillu . roberti . de . Wycliff . cl'i.*, 5 Apr. 22 Ric. II. (1399). *A chevron between three crosses patonce.* It is remarkable that the diaper on the chevron is the succession of perpendicular strokes now used as the mark of gules. The seal is circular, and the shield hangs from foliage among delicate tracery. (Mauleverer archives at Arncliffe, per Douglas Brown, Esq.) This Robert, who is conjectured to have been a nephew of the Reformer, was collated to the prebend of West Witton, in Auckland collegiate church, in 1375, but resigned it in exchange in 1380. He was Bishop Skirlaw's constable of Durham Castle, temporal chancellor, receiver-general, and executor. He also became master of Kepier Hospital before 1405. Skirlaw died in 1406. At his death the cloister of Durham, begun by him, was unfinished, and was continued by his executors.

*Argent, a chevron between three crosses-crosslet sable.* This coat occurs in Dugdale's drawings of the arms on the roof of the cloister in question (according to Surtees's plate), and is a very probable and honest difference of the paternal coat for the bishop's executor, but Raine (Test. Dunelm., i. 66) tinctures the arms on the roof as *Argent, a chevron sable between three crosses-crosslet gules.* The alteration was, perhaps, made in inadvertence on the re-painting, under an idea of propriety derived from the arms of the heads of the house.

ROBERTUS DE WYCLYF, Rector Ecclesiæ parochialis de Rudby, 8 Sep. 1423. Testamentum datum apud Kepier. The same Robert as he of 1399. Datur Johanni Wyclyff [conjectured to be the squire], unus ciphus coopertus et anulatus in summitate cum *armis de Wycliff*. Datur Roberto filio Johannis Langton unus lectus integer de rubeo worsted cum *armis de Wycliff* imbrawdatus. Datur Willelmo Herlsay unus lectus de albo worsted cum *herthedys* intextis. [“An early unrecorded Wycliffe, of Wycliffe, had married an heiress, whose armorial bearings were *Argent, on a chevron sable three stag's heads of the first*, and hence the *hert hedys* which ornamented the curtains of this bed. The coat is ascribed to the family of Ellerton.”] (Test. Dunelm., i, 66; Test. Ebor., i., 405.) Datur Roberto Thesewyk unus lectus laneus cum *rede birds*. There are also legacies of coverlets de *blodie* worsted cum *avibus* intextis—cum *parvis avibus de lyght blew*—cum *avibus viridis*. Still, it is worth observing that in Burke's General Armory, we have:—WYCLIFF. *Argent, a fesse lozengy azure between three birds sable.*—WYCLIFF. *Argent, five fusils in fess azure, between four birds gules, three in chief and one in base.*—WICKLIFFE. *Argent, five fusils in fess azure* (var. *sable*) *between*

*three crows sable*. (var. *three Cornish choughs proper*). Crest:—*An anchor and cable proper*.

WYCLIFFE CHURCH.—On the south wall are the following arms:—

1. *Wycliffe* quartering *Ellerton* as above, but of course untinged. The crosses are patonce. 2. The same quartered coat, impaling a *chevron charged with a fleur-de-lys*. The two shields probably indicate a husband and wife, according to the custom of ancient heraldry.

ROGERUS DE WYCLIF, dominus istius villæ, et Katerina uxor ejus. A brass of the 15th century in Wycliffe Church. Whitaker engraves it, and gives a shield of the usual arms, a *chevron between three crosses-crosslet*, between it and an inscription of 1611, not stating to which the coat belongs.

JOHN WICLIFFE (the first in the pedigree of 1575). *Argent, between three crosses-crosslet gules, a chevron sable charged with five stag's heads caboshed argent*.—Glover's Ordinary.

RAUFF WYCLYFF, of Wyclyf, esquire. *Argent, between three crosses-crosslet botonnee gules, a chevron sable, charged with six stag's heads caboshed of the first*.—Tonge's Visitation, 1530. (Surtees Soc., p. 40.) A compound of Wycliffe and Ellerton. He had two daughters and coheirs, married to Mauleverer and Brakenbury, and an uncle John, who carried on the male line, and had a son and heir William, mentioned below.

RAUFF WYCLYFF. *Argent, on a chevron sable, between three crosses botonnee gules, seven stag's heads caboshed argent*.—Constable's Roll, 1558. (Lansdowne MSS., 205.)

BRACKENBURY OF SELLABY.—Quarterly of six. 5. *Argent, a chevron between three crosses-crosslet sable*, for WICLIFFE. 6. *Argent, on a chevron sable three stag's heads caboshed of the first*, for ELLERTON.—Visit. Dunelm. 1575.

WILLIAM WICKLIFF, Esq. These arms allowed to—by William Flower, Norroy, and Robert Glover, Somersett, anno 1575. *Argent, a chevron sable between three crosses-crosslet gules*, quartering ELLERTON as in Brackenbury's coat. (Harl. MS., 1487, 118, which for the earlier Wycliffes gives the coat of Tonge, but the stag's heads are five instead of six.)

WILLIAM WYCLIFFE OF WYCLIFFE, Esq. (The Baliwicke of Gillinge West.) *Argent, a chevron sable between three crosses botonnee gules*.

—HENRY WICLIFFE, Esq. (The Baliwicke of Hange East.) *Argent, a chevron sable between three crosses botonnee, the two in chief gules, the one in base or*. (False heraldry, or a mere slip.)—WYCLIFF, GENTL. (Easington Ward.) (OF OFFERTON, added). *Argent, a chevron sable between three crosses botonnee gules*. Elizabethan Roll, circa 1592 (penes Rev. James Raine). In Glover's Ordinary, the first and last coat is

entered for "WICKLIFFE DE EBOR, OF WICLIFFE in Richmondshire," and the same with the crosses-crosslet of the modern form for WICLIFFE. (J. B. Taylor's copy.)

WICKCLIFFE. *Azure, a cross-crosslet or.*—Glover's Ordinary. (J. B. Taylor's copy.)

RADULFUS WICLIFF, the only son of William Wiclif. MS. in Wycliffe Church, 1606. Quarterly. 1 and 4. Wycliffe as usual. 2. Ellerton as usual. 3. Surtees, *Ermine, on a canton an escutcheon* [an orle is probably meant]. A label goes over all. Engraved by Whitaker. His great-grandmother was Dorothy Place, coheir of her mother, a Surtees of Dinsdale.

WILLIAM WYCLIFFE OF OFFERTON, co-pal. *Argent, between three crosses-crosslets, a chevron sable, charged with three buck's heads caboshed of the first; in chief a mullet for difference.*—Visit. Dunelm., 1615. Pedigree commences temp. Eliz.

JOHN WYCLIFFE OF THORPE, co. Ebor. *Argent, a chevron between three crosses-crosslet sable.* Quartering. *Argent, a chevron sable, charged with three stag's heads caboshed of the field.* Crest. *A stag's head caboshed, between the attires a cross-crosslet.*—Visit. Ebor., 1665. Pedigree commences 1638. See an earlier generation in 1 Sur. 61.

WICKLIFF OR WYCLIFFE. *Argent, a chevron sable between three crosses-crosslet fitchee gules.* Crest:—*A buck's head proper, between the attires a cross-crosslet fitchee.* General Armory.

# MONTHLY MEETING, 4 NOVEMBER, 1863.

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From Publishing Societies.* Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine, June, 1863. Archaeological Journal, No. 78.—*From The Rev. Dr. Hume.* His Ancient Meols, or some Account of the Antiquities found near Dove Point on the Sea Coast of Cheshire, 1863.

BOOKS PURCHASED.—Memorials of Fountains Abbey, Vol. i., Surtees Society (by subscription to the Society). Columna Cochlis M. Aurelio Antonino Augusto dicata, 1794. Colonna Traiana, uniform.

# RUNIC RING FROM COQUET ISLAND.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND has sent for exhibition a ring found on the finger of a skeleton at Coquet Island, and engraved with Runic characters, to the irritatingly simple effect that "This is silver," (THIS IS SIELFERN.)

### RUNIC LEGEND FROM MONKWEARMOUTH.

DR. CHARLTON also mentions the recent acquisition by the *Rev. Wm. Greenwell*, Minor Canon, Durham, of a headstone traced to Monkwearmouth, and inscribed in Runes with the name of Tidferth, which the last Bishop of Hexham bore. He died on his journey to Rome, and would probably shape his course to the Monastery of Wearmouth with the intention of taking ship at the then capacious harbour which evoked Malmsbury's admiration. The stone is, however, somewhat minor for an episcopal dignitary and there is no evidence of identity.

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### THE MATFEN UMBO.

THE Roman character of this relic, so absurdly like the barber's basin of Don Quixote, has been confirmed by a similar boss with a Roman pounced inscription, engraved in Engelhardt's Thorsbjerg Mosefund, pl. viii., fig. 11. That boss reads :—AEL. AELIANVS. Ours presents :—  
D RVSPI QVINTI.

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### FIND OF ROMAN COINS AT CRACKENTHORPE.

MR. CLAYTON, by the kind permission of *William Crackenthorpe, Esq.*, of Newbiggen Hall, in Westmereland, exhibits 157 Roman silver coins found together on the estate of that gentleman in Westmereland, in close proximity to the Roman Road leading southward from the Wall, usually styled the Maiden Way, and near to the Roman station of Brovonacæ (the modern Kirkby-thore.) The coins are all denarii; 2 of them of Nero, 1 Galba, 1 Otho, 2 Vitellius, 11 Vespasian, 4 Titus, 4 Domitian, 1 Nerva, 27 Trajan, 35 Hadrian, 29 Antoninus Pius, 3 Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius (the head of Marcus Aurelius being on the reverse), 13 Marcus Aurelius, and 6 Verus, the colleague of Marcus Aurelius in the empire. In addition to these coins of the emperors, are the following of impérial females, viz :—6 of Sabina, the wife of Hadrian; 13 Faustina, senior, the wife of Antoninus; 5 Faustina, junior, the daughter of Antoninus Pius, and the wife of Marcus Aurelius; 3 Lucilla, the daughter of Marcus Aurelius, and the wife of Verus; and 1 Crispina, the wife of Commodus, the son of Marcus Aurelius.

The date of the deposit of these coins would be late in the reign of Marcus Aurelius or early in that of Commodus, about the year 180 of the Christian era. They are all in excellent condition, but having lain for nearly 1700 years in a peaty soil, in which sulphur is to some extent always present, they are covered with a dark crust, which the application of sulphur to silver inevitably produces. By placing the coins in a mixture of cyanide of potassium and water, this crust is removed, and a strong odour of sulphur proceeds from the liquor in which they have been immersed.

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### THE BENWELL ALTARS.

MR. CLAYTON observes, that the last number of the Gentleman's Magazine records a discussion on the Benwell altars at a meeting of the Oxford Historical Society. The President of that Society is Dr. Scott, the Master of Baliol College; and the opinion of so distinguished a scholar on the difficult inscription on the second of those altars is most valuable. His reading seems to be more satisfactory than any yet attempted. He connects "*judiciis*" with "exornatus," and thus Tineius Longus is described as decorated with the senator's broad clasp or stripe, by the decrees of the best and greatest of the emperors, probably Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius (whose heads we have seen on the same coin to-night), or, Marcus Aurelius and Verus, or Marcus Aurelius and his son Commodus, when they reigned together.

The Oxonians do not seem to have had much experience of Roman inscriptions. A doubt is expressed of the meaning of the centurial mark, of which we have hundreds of examples, and as to which there can be no doubt; and it is said, that a dedication, "Numinibus Augustorum," cannot be of the reign of Hadrian, because he reigned alone. We have many instances of similar dedications which apply to the "Numina," not only of the reigning Augustus, but of all the Augusti who had preceded, and might follow him.

It is vain to conjecture what were the attributes of Antenociticus, or Anociticus, or of any other British god. The most popular god amongst the Brigantes and Ottadini seems to have been Cocidius. A dozen altars, at least, have been found dedicated to him. Mr. Clayton has in his own possession three of these altars, all found in his own time. No one has been able to guess at the attributes of Cocidius.

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## MONTHLY MEETING, 2 DECEMBER, 1863.

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

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From Richard Sainthill, Esq., F.S.A.* His inquiry as to the Old Countess of Desmond, Vol. ii, 1863. — *From Publishing Societies.* The Archæological Journal, No. 78; The Canadian Journal, N.S., No. 47; The Wiltshire Archæological Magazine, No. 23. — *From the Society of Antiquaries of London.* The Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 1843-1846. — *From Albert Way, Esq., F.S.A.* Catalogue of the Museum formed at Gloucester during the Meeting of the Archæological Institute, 1860; The like of that at Worcester.

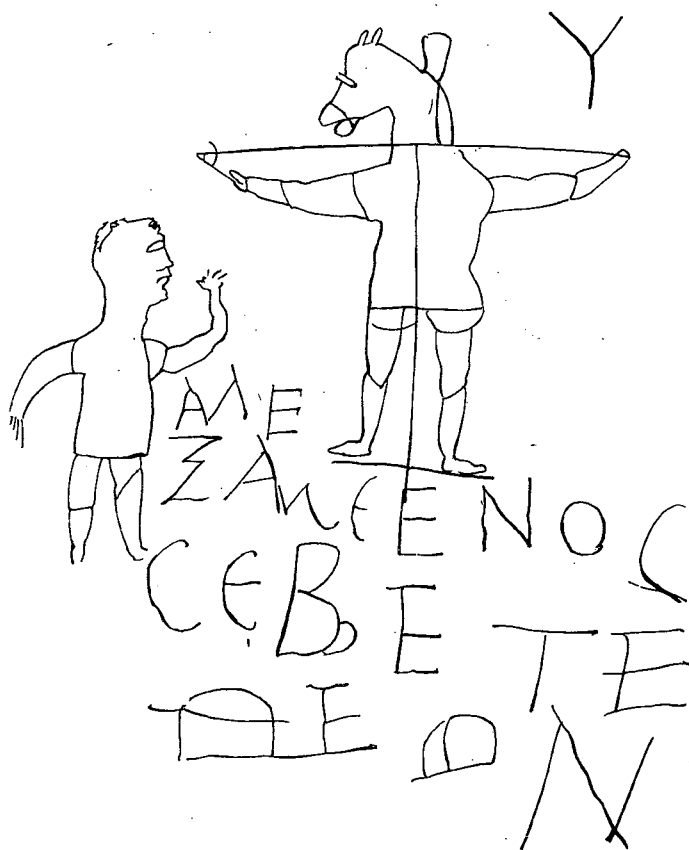
*Mr. Longstaffe* reports that some one had made him acquainted with the fact of an old minute book of the Custom House of Newcastle being advertised at a bookseller's in London. He made the suggestion to the bookseller of sending it down, in order that it might be seen by the Society. *Resolved*, that it shall be bought at the price advertised—two guineas. The book contains the whole of the instructions from the head-quarters of the Custom House in London, in 1691, to the authorities in Newcastle at that date. There is also considerable information about the progress of trade in Newcastle at that time.

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 ROMAN CARICATURE OF CHRISTIANITY.

BY EDWARD CHARLTON, M.D.

THE caricature we exhibit to-night was found on the western angle of the Palatine, near to the church of St. Anastasia. In making excavations there, in the ancient palace of the Cæsars, two walls of a room were disinterred, all covered over with inscriptions scratched with the stylus. Most of the visitors to Pompeii will remember to have seen such writing on the plastered walls of that buried city. The present interesting caricature was discovered as far back as the year 1856, but it has attracted little or no attention in England, although a full notice of it appeared in the Italian newspapers of that day. The tracing we exhibit is of one third of the original size. It represents a human figure, with outstretched arms and an ass's or horse's head, attached to a cross of the shape of the Greek letter T. On the top of this, and a little to one side of the medium line, is a piece of wood which supports a small board. The figure attached to the cross is not naked, as were



Graffito caricaturing Christianity.  
From the Palace of the Cæsars, Rome.  
( $\frac{1}{3}$  of original size)

p. 198.



those crucified by the Romans, but it is clothed in a vest of the kind called *interula*,<sup>1</sup> and on the legs we observe the *crurales* or greaves. On the left-hand-side of the figure there is another entirely human, which appears to be conversing with the monstrous figure on the cross, and is clothed also in the tunic and *crurales*. On the right-hand-side, and above the cross, is the letter **Y**, and beneath is this legend in the Greek language and in Greek letters—

“ΑΛΕΞΑΜΕΝΟΣ ΣΕΒΕΤΕ(ΤΑΙ) ΘΕΟΝ.”

“Alexamenos adores God.”

The whole group will immediately suggest its meaning when taken with the inscription; it is evidently intended to ridicule the Christian religion and Alexamenos, who professes that faith. It is, in fact, an exemplification of the old Pagan calumny, that the Jews and Christians adored an ass's head in their religious assemblies.

“*Somniastis caput asinum esse Deum nostrum*”—“Thou hast dreamed,” says Tertullian (*Apologet.*, c. xvi.), “that the head of an ass was our God.”

And again, Minucius Felix makes Cecilius the Pagan say to Octavius the Christian, “*Audio eos turpissimæ pecudis caput asini consecratum inepta qua persuasione venerari.*”—“I hear that they (the Christians); by some most foolish conceit, adore the head of an ass, the vilest of domestic animals.” (c. ix.) Tertullian quotes the passage from Tacitus, which we find in that author's work (*Historiarum*, lib. v., cap. v.), wherein the calumny is first fixed upon the Jews, in consequence of Moses having been led to find water by a troop of wild asses in the desert. Plutarch repeats the story (*Sympos.* i. iv.), and Democritus adds, that “they adore the golden head of an ass.”—“*χρυσὴν ονου κέφαλην προσεκυννουν.*”

St. Epiphanius tells us that the Gnostics held the Hebrew God to be a deity in human shape, but with an ass's head. From Tertullian's statement quoted above we see that the same calumny was fixed on the Christians. The form of the cross is interesting, as it corresponds with the very early Christian tradition that the cross of our Lord was in the form of the Greek *tau* (**T**), and that four nails, and not three, were used in affixing our Lord to the cross. The building in which this graffito was discovered is certainly not earlier than the time of Hadrian, and the inscription may with good justice be ascribed to the time of Tertullian (320), as it is only during that century that the calumny seems to have been laid upon the Christians. At least, it is only during that century that the Christian apologists for the faith take any notice of such a report.

<sup>1</sup> All the very early crucifixes, as well as those of this country in Anglo-Saxon times, were clothed.

The orthography of the inscription is quite of the above-named period, and some other Greek inscriptions are to be found on the same wall. The posture of the figure on the left-hand is remarkable; it has not the hands outstretched, as was the custom of the early Christians when they prayed, but one hand, the right, is unemployed, and hangs by the side of the figure, while the other is outstretched towards the figure on the cross. It has been ingeniously suggested that the Pagan tormentor of Alexamenos has here represented the Pagan act of worship, of placing the hand on the lips, and moving it thence towards the figure worshipped. It would be difficult, we think, to assign any other meaning to the graffito than that which we have here given. We have condensed our notice from a pamphlet published by Dom Raphael Garrucci, S.J., one of the most learned archæologists of Rome, and the author of a special work on the Graffiti of Pompeii.

Within the last few months many interesting "graffiti" have been discovered, while excavating more of these chambers in the Palatine. It has been thought that these chambers were intended for the pages in the imperial service. In one are the words "Corinthus? exiit de pædagogio." "He went out of the page's apartment." Another proper name is followed by the word "Verna," a bondman, and after another is the title "Episcopus," which may possibly be also intended as a slight upon some page who had recently embraced Christianity.

[A drawing, made with some difficulty by Captain Dunbar of this graffito, described by Dr. C., has been exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries of London, on 16 June, 1864. The relic is preserved in the Museum of the Collegio Romano at Rome.]

## ROMAN COINS FOUND AT BORCOVICUS.

MR. CLAYTON exhibits two Roman coins, which have been discovered at Borcovicus within the last few days. The first is a much-worn specimen of one of Mark Antony's legionary coins, reading on the galley side ANT . . . III VIR T R P, and beside the eagle and standards LEG XXIII. This legion is of less common occurrence than some of the others. The other coin is of greater interest. It is a Third Brass coin reading IM ATELE . . . . ., and must be referred to Attalus, who was proclaimed Emperor by Alaric, the Gothic trampler of Rome, in opposition to Honorius; or to Ateula or Atila, King of the Huns. The coins of both are rare.

## THE WORKS OF PRIOR CASTELL.

BY W. H. D. LONGSTAFFE.

ABOVE the chancel arch of the church of Brancepeth is affixed a portion of the crowning member of some screen. It is slightly coved and surmounted by a foliated border. Though it is only ten feet long, it contains, in exceedingly minute carving, no less than twenty-seven different patterns of diaper panelling, of geometrical tracery, and it has been very ably illustrated by Mr. Billings, who has reduced to their elements forms of the most complicated and apparently fanciful design. I refer to his work on the subject for the resemblances to some tracery at Carlisle, and will only call attention to the fact that we are again led to Durham by an identity of design between some of the work of Carlisle and the skilful manipulation of the woodwork of Jarrow. Midway we have a little of the same work at Hexham, with very much of differing detail, which will bear separate treatment, and there are two stallends at Sherburn of somewhat similar, but much inferior art.

The work at Carlisle is attributed, I dare say very correctly, to Prior Gondibour, (1484-1507.) The work at Hexham, which, though differing, is equally an attempt at a renewal of Decorated tracery, owes, as we know from its devices, its existence to Priors Lechman (1479-99) and Smithson (1499-1524.) Smithson's work is evidently derived from the tracery of the great west window of York. Billings thought that this wonderful reappearance in the North of the lines of a departed style<sup>1</sup> in the decadence of its successor were the results of one master mind, or at least must be ascribed to individuals guided by the same rules of art. He considered the former conjecture the true one, because from 1485 to 1496 Gondibour's priorate at Carlisle was contemporaneous with a portion of the episcopacy of Bishop Bell, who had acceded in 1478 and had been prior of Durham. It is, however, very observable that Bell left no works of art at all at Durham, and that no trace of the complicated conceits in question occur on his handsome brass at Carlisle.

Under these circumstances, it was clear that if the authorship of the Durham examples could be found, some light might be thrown upon the question. It was, therefore, with no small pleasure that, on one of the

<sup>1</sup> One of the Jarrow stallends is founded on a Decorated window, such as that in the west end of Houghton-le-Spring church.

unpublished sides of a stall at Jarrow, a cell of the priory of Durham, I descried, beautifully adapted to the finial, the well-known bearing of Prior Thomas Castell, of Durham (1494-1594), a winged heart trans-fixed by a sword. I immediately remembered that many years ago I had, without much critical notice of its accompaniments, observed the same bearing in the south chapel at Brancepeth, the very church where the unique work already mentioned is preserved. And I have lately, in company with our friend, Mr. Edward Thompson, re-inspected it, and found that it occurs on screen-work of the same character as the other examples of the anomaly. This screen-work well deserves the same careful engraving as its fellows have received, presenting, as it does, not only rich geometrical tracery, but thistles and other flowers and foliage of the most charming freedom and elegance, for which the rich work which Mr. Rippon procured from Jarrow<sup>2</sup> prepared me. The thistle is not a very usual ornament in England, and perhaps some of the trophies of Floddon reminded Castell of its fitness for conventional foliage.

Castell was the very man to promulgate such work. Whether the peculiar work of Lechman at Hexham, who died in 1499, five years after Castell's accession, led to, or was derived from it or not, we may never know. It is enough to learn that of the more refined geometry observable in Castell's work we have no specimens but what may well be contemporary with him. It would be very interesting to know his previous history. I do not wish to assert any claim for him unduly, but just let us consider his known tastes. If not a poet himself (on this subject see Raine's *St. Cuthbert*, p. 166), he was at least of a poetical bent, and what is more, he was "*structuris probe notus*," and more than that, they were far removed from the stiffness of his period. Look at the east gate of Durham Abbey. There is no mistake about that, even were Chambre the chronicler less precise about his total demolition of the former edifice and his building the new one, for the roof shows his winged heart and sword. If it were not for the accompanying Tudor arches and the tracery above, one would hardly believe that this noble portal was a Perpendicular erection. A still more remarkable work was his renewal of both stonework and glasswork of the great window which Prior Forcer had placed in the north transept of the Cathedral only some century and a half before, the decay of which

<sup>2</sup> Since this was written, these relics were bought by me at the sale of some of his effects. It is not worth while to enter into the absurdities of the well-known plate of it or the sale catalogue. There are two classes of art. The fine pierced work, of which a rough idea is given in the front of the imaginary pulpit, is clearly part of the rood-screen or loft described by Hutchinson. The real remains of the pulpit are of a very flat and peculiar treatment. The tracery introduced in the lower part of them on the plate will not fit, and is in the more robust style used by Castell.

appeared almost incredible until the startling evidences in Raine's volume of York Fabric Rolls, derived from visitation presentments, were published. The window, and a smaller one at its side, are quite different from Forcer's other known works. The larger one has just a trace of Perpendicular tendency which might happen in his time, but otherwise is Decorated, the principal characteristic being three cusped cinquefoiled flowers, if I may so speak. Had we any authority for Castell's renovation of the smaller window, or had it been like Forcer's other windows, I should have affirmed that the large one was of Castell's design. As it is, we may never, perhaps, be quite certain whether he copied Forcer's window or not. Forcer's was of six lights, Castell's is described as of twelve, but the difference is only occasioned by an internal transom. Forcer might for his funeral chapel adopt a style differing from that of the works of his prime. On the other hand, for Castell it may be argued that if that were so, the east or altar window of Forcer's chapel would correspond with that on the north, whereas it does not; and that there is something in the design of the debateable windows which leads us almost against our will to recognize a feeling cognate to that which inspired the wonderful work at Brancepeth.

His love of minute and subtile woodwork is apparent in the description of the fittings of the Frater House, which is now represented by the old chapter library. Here the great feast of St. Cuthbert's Day in Lent was holden. This hall is described as being finely wainscotted on the north, south, and west sides, the east end having a communication with the great kitchen and cellar. More particularly "on either part of the Frater House there was a fair long bench of stonemason work, from the cellar door to the pantry or covey door. Above the bench was wainscot  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards in height, finely carved and set with embroidery work; and above the wainscot [probably at the west end] there was a fair large picture of our Saviour Christ, the B. V. Mary, and S. John, in fine gilt work, and excellent colours. This wainscot work had engraven on the top of it—Thomas Castell, Prior, Anno Domini 1518, mensis Julii, so that Prior Castell wainscotted the Frater House round about." Some of the aumbries there were curious. One, on the left hand of the entrance, contained all the chief plate. It had "a fine work of carved wainscot before it, and a strong lock, yet so as none could perceive that there was any ambrie at all; for the key hole was under the carved work of the wainscot." Another fair one, on the right hand of the cellar entrance, was "of wainscot, having divers ambries within it, finely wrought and varnished over with red varnish," for dinner nappery and vessels, among which there was one for the superior, which will remind you of the figure engraved by Mr. Scott, "a fair basin and ewer of latten,



the ewer portrayed like a man on horseback," only in this example the man was "as he had been riding or hunting," and therefore I presume that he was not in armour.

Castell slept before Jesus' altar, which stood against a stone screen which traversed the cathedral nave in somewhat the same way that a stone screen does that of Tynemouth. The enclosure of the altar was bounded on the north by a loft for the performance of Jesus' mass; on the south by the enclosure of the Nevil's altar, where there was a seat or a pew where the prior sat in to hear Jesus' mass; on the west by the rest of the nave, from which the enclosure was separated by a low door with two broad leaves to open from side to side, all of fine joined and thorough-carved work, which were thrown open on principal days. On the east, behind the altar was a high stone wall, at each end of which was a rood door for the procession to go forth and come in at. Either end of the altar was closed up with fine wainscot, like unto a porch, adjoining to either rood door, very finely varnished with fine red varnish.<sup>3</sup> In the wainscot, at the south end of the altar, there was four fair almeries—and, at the north end of the altar, in the wainscot there was a door to come into the said porch. On the height of the wall were the histories of the Saviour and his apostles wrought in stone, and above them was a work truly reminding one of Castell. "On the height, above all these foresaid stones, from pillar to pillar, was set up a border very artificially wrought in stone, with marvellous fine colours, very curiously and excellent finely gilt, with branches and flowers, the more that a man did look on it the more was his affection to behold it, the work was so finely and curiously wrought in the said stone that it could not be finelier wrought in any kind of other metal." And above this was "the most goodly and famous rood that was in all this land."

On the back of the rood before the choir door there was a loft, and in the south end of that loft the clock stood, and under the loft along the wall there was a long form, which reached from one rood door to the other. Men sat thereon to rest themselves, and say their prayers and hear divine service.

So matters stood until the dissolution, and, judging from the number of parcloles still existing, we have no reason to believe that the old arrangements were immediately swept away. At all events, we find that in the rising in the north of 1569, Mr. Cuthbert Neville and one Holmes, Mr. Grey, and the priest of Brancepeth, ordered five altars to be set up. Of the rolling into the church of two of the old altar stones and setting of them up we have minute evidence. "The which priest (says a deposition) was the overseer of all their workings, first and last,

<sup>3</sup> The back of the pierced work from Jarrow is covered with red pigment.

to the altars was finished; one of them being the high altar in the quire, and the other altar set besides the clock." It can hardly be doubted that this secondary altar represented the famous altar of Jesus.

The priest of Brancepeth was one Nicholas Forster, whose death caused the succession of George Cliffe in 1571. Cliffe had been brought up a monk of Durham and was one of the prebendaries in the Cathedral, had been collated by Queen Mary, and had been brought into trouble for attending the restored cathedral service in 1569. He deposes to being in one of the east chapels of the south transept, and "the pulpit standing by the clock, and he, this exanimate, sitting in Th. Gibson stall, behind the Lady [of] Bowlton altar, and by reason that the press of people was very great, he heard his voice, but understood not one sentence of that which was said by the preacher."

Now I am strongly inclined to think that this old monk affords the explanation of the otherwise inexplicable circumstance of Prior Castell's work and arms being found at Brancepeth church. The convent had nothing to do with that cure. When the accompaniments of Jesus altar were finally swept away, what more probable than that the incumbent should remove some memorials of his early days to a place of safety, and where they would still gladden his eyes.

Reverting to Castell's wonderful work of stone, which "could not be finelier wrought in any kind of other metal," I may remark that although the 27 panels at Brancepeth are seemingly of wood, (indeed Billings speaks of the corrosions of the worm), yet so minute they are, that, in an able paper on Brancepeth Church written by an importation to the county, the following passage occurs:—"It is said to be carved in ivory or bone."

Brancepeth Church, as it at present exists, is like a genuine coin, a source of infinite gratification.<sup>4</sup> It exists very nearly as it did in Cosin's time, and is a true illustration of the quaint rich appearance the churches then presented. But I venture not to go into its detail, except to say that its other coved carving has Nevil insignia, and was perhaps always there, unless it came from the Nevil's altar in the Durham Cathedral.

On the whole, Castell and Gondibour are thoroughly identified with the use of an elegant and peculiar school of art. Which of them had the priority we cannot with certainty say. Let us bless both their memories for their love of the beautiful in a debased period of architecture. In Yorkshire, at the same time, there was a harder, but delicate and imposing class of work of which the woodwork from Easby in Richmond Church and that dated 1519 in Leake Church are fine examples.

<sup>4</sup> This is no longer to be the case. 1864.