



ARCHÆOLOGIA ÆLIANA.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 6 FEBRUARY, 1865.

John Clayton, 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*: Mr. Wm. Dodd. — *Secretaries*: Edward Charlton, Esq.; M.D., and the Rev. John Collingwood Bruce, LL.D. — *Council*: The Rev. Edward Hussey Adamson, the Rev. James Raine, and Messrs. Richard Cail, Robert Richardson Dees, William Dickson, Martin Dunn, Wm. Hylton Dyer Longstaffe (*Editor*), John Peter Mulcaster, William Pears, Edward Spoor, Robert White, and William Woodman.

NEW MEMBER.—*Mr. George Markham Tweddell, Stokesley.*

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From Publishing Societies*. The Archæological Journal, No. 83. — The Canadian Journal, November, 1864. — *From the Author*. The new edition of Dr. Daniel Wilson's Prehistoric Annals of Scotland, 2 vols., 1863.

DONATIONS OF OBJECTS.—*From Mr. Morrison*. Portions of a thin brass vessel, probably of the kind known as camp kettles, found 20 feet below the surface in operations for the donor's iron works near Coxhoe. — *From Mr. Lamb*, of the Shaw, near Bellingham. A greenstone celt in perfect condition, found in a bog on his farm.

TREASURERSHIP.—The annual accounts show receipts (including a credit balance from last year of £35. 10s. 8d.) amounting to £182. 4s. 6d., and payments of £112. 4s. 6d. The Treasurer is formally allowed to charge a commission for the collection of subscriptions similar to that hitherto charged in practice for the services of a collector.

PROPOSED MUSEUM.—Mr. White, the retiring Treasurer, hands to the Trustees, appointed on December 7, a note in their names of a deposit of £628. 16s. lodged with Messrs. Lambton & Co. The subject generally is referred to the Chairman, the two Secretaries, and Messrs. Spoor and Turner, as a Committee to communicate with the Corporation. Mr. Archibald Dunn submits some designs for the intended building.

FIFTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE fifty-first year of the Society's existence, just now completed, has passed without any very notable occurrence. More new members, however, have been admitted than during some previous years, but the papers presented at the Society's monthly meetings have not been so numerous. The new era that was to have been inaugurated on the completion of the fiftieth year has, as yet, shown little signs of appearing, but the Council have to exhibit a prospect of better days, especially as regards the grand object of increasing the accommodation for the Society's collections. The hopes that have been held out so long of obtaining a new Museum are now about to be realised, and perhaps no time more appropriate for the laying of the foundation-stone of this new building could be selected than that of the approaching visit of the British Archæological Association to the North. The collections of the Society have been increased during the past year by the acquisition, at a moderate price, of the valuable Roman altars and inscriptions belonging to the late Dr. Charles Thorpe, of Ryton, and by several donations, all tending to prove that the interest of the public in archæology has by no means diminished. That such is the case has been still further shown by the exertions of the magistrates of Northumberland, in conjunction with this Society, to preserve the gateway lately discovered on the line of the Roman Wall at Walbottle Dean. The meeting of the Archæological Association, at Durham, will, no doubt, attract many both to that ancient city, and subsequently to Newcastle. The Secretaries of this Society have duly communicated to the Association the resolutions come to by the Society to afford that reunion every assistance possible; and to assure to the Association a cordial reception in case its members should visit Newcastle. The Council has this day placed before the Society the plans and elevations for the new Museum, prepared at the request of the Committee by Mr. A. M. Dunn, of this town. The objects to be obtained in the proposed building are to avoid obstructing the view of the Castle from the vicinity of St. Nicholas' Church, to keep the street front of the Museum as nearly as possible in accordance with the style of the ancient building, and, at a moderate cost, to provide sufficient space for the collections. The entrance to the new Museum will be by a door close to the southern entrance of the present Blackgate, from whence the visitor will pass into a hall ninety feet in length by fifty feet in breadth, and lighted from the roof alone. The roof itself will be supported by a row of five Norman pillars down

the centre of the hall, and from thence, passing beneath the railway arch next to the carriage road, a passage will lead down to the western window of the guard-room in the Castle. The western front towards the street will present a curtain wall in the style of the Old Castle, connecting that building with the Blackgate. Should this design, with such modifications or changes as the Society may suggest, be carried into effect, the antiquaries of Newcastle will possess a Museum excellently adapted for the study of their collection of antiquities, and attached, moreover, to a building of high historical interest. The Council trust that ere the next anniversary arrives the Museum will have made considerable progress, if it be not by that time completed.

ON ANCIENT BRITISH REMAINS NEAR BIRTLEY AND BARRASFORD, NORTH TYNE.

BY THE REV. GEO. ROME HALL.

IN September, 1862, a brief account of certain ancient remains observed near the village of Birtley, in North Tynedale, chiefly on the estate of His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, was communicated to this Society through Dr. Charlton. A description more in detail was then promised. I have since that time been able to take a more accurate and wider survey of the district, in superficial extent about 30 square miles, which is well defined by the rivers Rede and North Tyne on the north and west, and by the Gunnarton or Barrasford Craggs and the Watling Street on the south and east. It seemed preferable for archæological purposes to choose such a locality, with which a four years' residence had made me intimately acquainted, rather than to venture at present upon a survey embracing the whole area of the river-basin of the North Tyne and its tributaries. I may add also that during the last autumn I have had the pleasure and advantage of going over a great portion of the district with Revs. Dr. Bruce, W. Greenwell, and J. F. Bigge, and Mr. MacLauchlan.

The physical characteristics of this valley—the rounded hills and high escarpments of the carboniferous or mountain limestone, and the numerous intersecting “denes,” with the great range of columnar basalt—offer many “coigns of vantage” for aboriginal castrametation and settlement. The district, it should be remarked, is, comparatively speaking, isolated by two rivers not easily fordable; and this, com-