

## MONTHLY MEETING, 5 APRIL, 1865.

*Rev. E. Hussey Adamson, in the Chair.*

HONORARY MEMBER ELECTED.—*The Duca di Brolo*, Secretary of the Royal Society of Belles Lettres.

THE LATE PATRON OF THE SOCIETY.—The answer of the Duchess of Northumberland to the foregoing address is read.

BOOK ORDERED.—North's Chronicle of the Church of S. Martin, in Leicester.

## MONTHLY MEETING, 3 MAY, 1865.

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

GAINFORD.—*The Rev. J. Edleston* presents two photographs of a Roman inscription lately disclosed in alterations in Gainford Church. The dedication is to Jupiter Dolichenus. Declines to remove the antiquities discovered in the repairs of the church from their locale.

## ROMAN WAY ACROSS WARK'S FORD.

AN EXTRACT FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF THE REV. G. R. HALL.

"MR. THOS. ROBSON, Low Shield Green (the Duke of Northumberland's bailiff), tells me there is a "drove" or "drift" road of ancient date, and now much obliterated, passing across Wark ford, and leading, as he believes, from Carlisle to Morpeth.

"At different times he has noticed it when in the hunting field, and in his country rides. Near Birtley village it may be distinctly traced eastwards towards Pitland Hills, where the original construction of this "made road" can be easily perceived. In draining, &c., the stones forming it have often been noticed. Mr. Robson has observed the ancient way at the following points:—

*Carraw*, on the Roman Wall, where it joins the Military Way.  
Goatstones, 2 miles N.W. from Simonburn crosses Ward Lane.  
Morrilee Fell, between High and Low Morrilee.

*Wark's Ford across North Tyne.*

Wark's Haugh Bank, a little to N.

Birtley Village, in N. "Cows Grasses" and Stile on Buteland Road.

Pitland Hills Cottage, a little to S.

Tone Hall, somewhat to S.

*Watling Street*, which it now apparently crosses.

"Thence on the Whiteside ground, N. of Carey Coates Hall, on N. side of Sweethope Lough from W., and near Hawick, a little to N. it may be faintly traced, if it be the same line of way.

"Did the road continue in an E. direction towards Morpeth, passing near Thockrington, down the valley of the Wansbeck?"

"Was it a Roman line of way? From the following considerations it seems probable that the road is of Roman origin:—

1. "The Shepherd at Pitland Hills had told me of a traditional way through the ancient forest before the Norman Conquest, passing from Birtley to the Watling Street.

2. "A *Roman* altar was found at the foot of the Wark Mote Hill, close to the ford, which is now in the museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The late Mr. Ridley of Park End had seen the altar about 70 years since, lying near the School-house.

3. A "drift" or "drove" road for cattle, not made with stones, is preferred by drovers. Morpeth market, also, was not discontinued till about 25 years ago (if the road is supposed to have gone so far); and this road was disused long before that time. The Roman way of the old Watling Street between Rochester and Pennymuir, now overgrown with grass, is still used as a drove road for cattle. Mr. Allgood, of Nunwick, tells me that he has often noticed this ancient road on the western bank of the North Tyne, and adds that large stones, composing it, are visible below Goatstones.

4. "This road, if of Roman construction, would afford ready access to the legionaries posted at Procolitia or Borcovicus to the Watling Street, and the stations of Habitancum and Rochester, and *vice versa*. If it went beyond Watling Street eastwards it would meet or intersect in a similar manner the Devil's Causeway before reaching Morpeth. Its course beyond Watling Street seems somewhat doubtful, however.

"There is a great saving in distance by taking the line of this ancient way.

"To follow the Military Way on the Wall from Carraw to Stagshaw-bank "Portgate," and thence by the W. Street to Woodburn is about 22 miles. The road across Wark's Ford is—Carraw to Wark  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , Wark to Tone  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , and Tone to Habitancum 4 miles—not more than 13 miles in all—a clear gain of 9 miles, nearly one half the distance otherwise

traversed. The lines of Roman roads meeting at Carraw, Portgate, and Tone, as angles, would form nearly an equilateral triangle.

“I have noticed some portions of this new Roman way, between Birtley and Pitland Hill, where what seem to be *curbstones* line the paved road here and there on one side.”

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## THE COINS OF THE DANISH KINGS OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

BY THE REV. D. H. HAIGH.

THE accompanying plates were intended to form part of a work, which was commenced more than twenty years ago, but interrupted by circumstances which I need not detail, and never completed. I never thought of writing about coins again, and gave these plates to the Society, in the hope that they would be printed and distributed amongst its members, who would then be enabled to study at their leisure the very interesting series of the Coins of the Kings of Northumberland, during the last century of its existence as an independent kingdom. It seems, however, that an illustrative text is expected from me; so I must endeavour to accomplish this task to the best of my ability, and begin by entering into a careful examination of the history of Northumberland during the period to which they belong. It is true that this has been already done by several eminent writers, but I see reason to differ from them occasionally on points of considerable importance.

In an enquiry such as this, the first consideration must be the value of the authorities to which we are indebted for our knowledge of the history; and, amongst these, of our English Chronicle first. Of this precious record we have six MSS.

A. Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, CLXXXIII. This alone is a strictly contemporary narrative of the events of the period with which we are concerned. It is written in one hand to A.D. 891, and continued by a second, whose work was interrupted in the midst of A.D. 894; a third scribe takes up the pen and records, from time to time, the events of the ensuing thirty years; then a fourth from A.D. 925 to 965; and a fifth to A.D. 977. After this date the entries are only occasional, and very brief, until A.D. 1070. Its notices of Northumbrian affairs are few, but on these, such as they are, I place the greatest reliance.

B. Cotton. Tiberius, A. VI.; written in one hand of the tenth century to A.D. 977.