

should take their stand outside the chancel somewhere by the pulpit, then the congregation will have a chance of hearing what is being said."

On this restoration, the panels containing the names of donors of charities which had in modern times supplanted cardinal Langley's paneling above the stalls in the chancel, were placed against the vestry wall. It was not attempted to reproduce the cardinal's work, the effect of which may be realized at Staindrop. Since then some ugly warming apparatus has been erected in front of the stalls. The east windows are devoid, not of colour, but of stained glass, and altogether the chancel, in spite of its fabrical excellence, presents an unsatisfactory aspect. In its present state, or, perhaps, in any state, it must, one would think, be very inconvenient for the lawful administration of the holy communion in so important a parish as that of Darlington.

W. H. D. L.

#### NOTES OF AN EXCAVATION OF A TURRET ON THE ROMAN WALL.

BETWEEN the stations of Cilurnum and Procolitia, the 6th and 7th *per lineam Valli*, and between the Mile Castles at Towertye and at the Limestone Corner, have been recently exposed to view the remains of one of the turrets on the Roman Wall, hitherto concealed by an accumulated mass of debris and a dense thicket of mediæval copsewood.

It is difficult to account for the total disappearance of the numerous turrets which must have originally existed, if indeed they possessed the solidity of these remains, but it is possible that many of them were placed on the Wall itself, and disappeared with its upper courses. Before describing the remains of this turret it may be useful to advert to the historical notices of this particular feature of the Roman line of fortification.

Camden, who visited the Roman Wall in company with Sir Robert Cotton in the year 1599, is the first historian who supplies us with any of its structural details. In his *Britannia*, under the head of "Vallum sive Murus Picticus," he thus expresses himself: "The Wall had a number of castles, separated a mile from each other, which they call Castle Steeds, and inside the Wall little fortified towns, which at this day they call Chesters (the foundations of which, of square form, are seen in some places), and placed between these were Turrets, in which the soldier posted could watch the barbarians."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Castella murus habuit crebriora millenis passibus disparata quæ "Castle Steeds" vocant et interius oppidula munita quæ "Chesters" hodie vocant, quorum radices quadratâ formâ alicubi visuntur et his Turres interpositas in quibus dispositus miles Barbaris immineret.*—Pa. 652. Folio edition of 1607.

Three of the Roman stations, Cilurnum, Vindolana, and Æsica, still retain the name of Chesters.

Camden made a very imperfect inspection of the Wall, and does not seem to have prepared himself by any previous study of the subject, or he would not have identified Ponteland with Pons Ælii, and Ambleside with Amboglanna, stations *per lineam Valli*. He seems to have been led by no guide but sound.

The Scottish antiquarian, Alexander Gordon, visited the Roman Wall in company with Baron Clerk in 1715, and in 1725 he published his *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, and to him we are indebted for the earliest description of the actual state of the remains of the Wall. He identifies many of the stations, and points out the sites of many of the mile castles; but, in his progress from the eastern extremity westward, he does not appear to have met with the remains of a single turret till he reached that part of the Wall which is between Cilurnum and Procolitia. At a point 1,329 yards west of Cilurnum (which station he mistakes for Hunnum) he found joining to the Wall a, "little exploratory turret of hewn free stone, very little more than 12 feet in length, and something less in breadth, and above five courses of stone in height." Proceeding westward he meets with another of these turrets at Towertye; he then comes to the Towertye Mile Castle, and adds, "still more westerly is another small exploratory turret of the same dimensions as the former."

No traces of the two first mentioned turrets now exist, all vestiges of them having been effectually erased by the plough. The last is evidently identical with that which has now been discovered. For want of excavation, Gordon in his day would see these remains very imperfectly. Little more than the remains of the south wall of the turret would then be visible, and would at that date retain five courses of stones.

Horsley, whose *Britannia Romana* was published in 1732, accompanied by a rough map of the Roman Wall, lays down on the map the three turrets mentioned by Gordon, and observes on the subject of the turrets as follows:—

"The smaller turrets (in Latin *turres*) have been more generally and entirely destroyed than the castella, so that 'tis hard to find three of them anywhere together with certainty; the distance between two where it was thought surest was measured and found to be near 14 chains or 308 yards. It seems, therefore, most probable that there have been four of these between every two castella at equal distances from the castella and from one another. These exploratory turrets, or watch towers, seem only to have been four yards square at the bottom."

## 258 EXCAVATION OF A TURRET ON THE ROMAN WALL.

The Rev. John Hodgson, the historian of Northumberland, whose able and laborious description of the Roman Wall was published in 1840, mentions having seen in 1833 the remains of one of these turrets, at a point about 300 yards west of the station of Amboglanna (Burdoswald), the walls of which, 34 inches thick, were standing of the height of six courses of stone. He adds, "All of it in 1837 was removed."

Dr. Bruce, the last and greatest authority on the subject of the Roman Wall, who published first in 1851, found still in existence some trifling remains of the turret described by Mr. Hodgson. He also noticed "a break in the Wall a little to the west of Harehill, in which a turret or small quadrangular building is placed apparently independent of the Wall and projecting northward beyond it." This feature is also noticed by Mr. Henry McLauchlan, the accurate surveyor employed by the late noble patron of this Society, Algernon, fourth Duke of Northumberland, to survey and map the Wall, and who does not seem to have met with any other vestiges of these turrets on the whole line.

The recent disinterment of one of these turrets, complete in its outline, must necessarily be interesting to those who have given their attention to the Roman works between the Tyne and the Solway. For such the following details are intended; for the general reader they have no interest.

This turret is 530 yards west of the Towertye Mile Castle, and therefore does not support the theory of Horsley, that the turrets were placed at equal distances of 308 yards from the mile castles and from each other.

The Roman Wall, in approaching this turret both from the east and from the west, is of the breadth of 7 feet, but for the space of 13 feet on each side of the turret the Wall is increased in thickness to 9 feet 4 inches by means of a projection of 2 feet 4 inches on its south side. The inside measurement of the turret corresponds very nearly with the statements of Gordon and Horsley. The precise dimensions are 11 feet 10 inches in length from north to south and 11 feet 4 inches in breadth from east to west. The turret projects from the south face of the Wall to the extent of 10 feet. Its southern and western walls are of the thickness of 3 feet 4 inches; its eastern wall is of the thickness of 4 feet 2 inches; it is recessed into the great Wall to the extent of 5 feet to the north, on which side there are 17 courses of stone in situ. In a part of the west wall there are 15 courses, and in part of the east wall 10 courses in situ. The south wall has been removed to its lowest course. The entrance to the turret is by a doorway 3 feet wide, through

the south wall; the door cases and pivot holes are very distinctly marked. There are no remains of a stair, which would be necessary to enable the soldiers to ascend the tower. The presumption is that the stair has been of wood, and has (like the stairs in the houses at Pompeii) perished. The woodcut correctly shews the present appearance of this turret.



This excavation has also had the effect of favourably exposing to view about 110 yards in length of the Roman Wall, throughout which from 5 to 7 courses of stone remain undisturbed. Amongst the debris on the north side of the Wall was found a centurial stone represented by this woodcut.



Every letter is distinct except the first letter of the name of the centurion, which resembles the letter A, and the reading of the inscription would thus be "Centuria Anoni Felicis." Professor Hubner suggests as the

proper reading "Antonii," which might have been produced by a ligature of letters now effaced, and then the inscription would commemorate the work of the Company of Antonius Felix.

Coins of Vespasian, Trajan, Hadrian, and Constantine the Great were turned up in the course of the digging. It is singular that none of the coins of the numerous intervening emperors have been found. Fragments of mill stones, a large quantity of the coarser descriptions of pottery, some Samian ware and broken glass, and bones and horns of animals, have been met with amongst the debris, indicating that the turrets, as well as the stations and mile castles, were provisioned by the Roman garrison.

May 2, 1873.

JOHN CLAYTON.

### ON THE DEDICATIONS OF THE TWO NOTABLE ALTARS FOUND AT CONDERCUM.

THE dedications on the well-known Benwell altars,

DEO ANOCITICO

and

DEO ANTENOCITICO,

have long seemed to me not to present to us denominations of any new divinities hitherto unknown as objects of Roman worship or veneration, but rather descriptive adjectival epithets indicating the attributes of a particular god, or possibly of two gods.

But it was only in September, 1873, that I distinctly perceived the Greek characteristics of these designations, whilst conning them over in the pages of *Lapidarium Septentrionale*.

Moreover it was manifestly not improbable that in the original inscriptions some distinctive feature might accompany the first o in either word, showing it to be not a simple o, but diphthongal and representing œ. Should this be so, then firm footing would be found, as we should have before us adjectival formations originating from the familiar noun *oikos*.

On visiting the altars at Condercum a few days subsequently, the compound character formed by the interblending of oc in ANTENOCITICO was found to present to the reader an elegantly and deeply-cut oval line, occupying the centre of the o, and being in fact a sort of iota-inscript, horizontally inserted.

In the other case, that of ANOCITICUS, the space between the o and the c is somewhat wider than between any of the other letters, and out-