

Taught in a Dream from Semelè on high,  
 The Spouse of Fabius to the Nymphs drew nigh,  
 To bless her as she would be:—She did raise  
 This Altar to their worship and their praise.

I promptly communicated this new reading of the inscription in question to Dr. Bruce, to Mr John Clayton, and to Lord Ravensworth, being desirous that lines which had presented no little difficulty as theretofore known, should be well examined in their amended aspect. And if I remember right, nothing was urged that was adverse to Semilè.

I am hopeful therefore that the matronly goddess will stand her ground as she apparently is well entitled to do.

The position assigned to this altar was assuredly a domestic one. The lines, composed, we may infer, by the votary herself, indicate at once the delicacy of expression, combined with the easy command of language, that accord with a high position in the Roman society of Britain; and are truly an interesting literary relic.

RALPH CARR ELLISON.

May 27, 1874.

## ANNE BROUGHAM THE CENTENARIAN.

THIS relative of the late Lord Brougham, "born in 1683, died in February, 1789, at the age of 106; having lived," says Burke, "in the reigns of seven sovereigns, viz., Charles II., James II., William and Mary, Anne, and the first three Georges."

Centenarians are rare. Although four-score years may often be overpassed, and even four-score years and ten, it is seldom that man or woman exceeds a hundred years of life. The busts and portraits which adorn the rooms of our Literary and Philosophical Society give instances of a near approach to the limit of five-score, but not one of them marks the full number. The picture of Lord Brougham is there, and his lordship reached his ninetieth year. His mother attained the same great age, and his maternal grandmother was still older. Her death, on the 25th of May, 1807, is recorded in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, where her age is stated to have been 92. In Burke's Peerage it is 93. Two of the portraits in the reading room, those of Sir John Swinburne and the Rev. William Turner, (who died, the former in 1860, the latter in 1859,) give the ages of 98 and 97. Another of the original members of the

society, William Losh, who passed away in 1861, lived to 91; and Mrs. Bewicke, of Close House, a member for many years, was 97 at her death in 1859. Dr. Winterbottom, elected an honorary member on the formation of the institution in 1793 (being at that time a resident in Sierra Leone), died at South Shields in 1859, aged 93; Dr. Hutton of Woolwich, another of the earliest honorary members, is shown by his portrait to have lived to 85; and Dr. Fenwick of Durham, enrolled among the honorary members in 1795, (who presided over the memorable meeting of 1818 in Darlington which pronounced in favour of a railway in preference to a canal,) was 94 years old when he died in 1855. The inscription on the picture of the Rev. Edward Moises, an original member of the society, states his years to have been 83, (the same age at which his uncle, the Rev. Hugh Moises, also died). The bust of Matthew Boulton, an honorary member at the beginning, names fourscore as the number of his years, his life extending to within a week or two of 81; and the bust of his partner, James Watt, is inscribed 83. One of the successors, moreover, of Sir John Swinburne in the office of president, Dr. Headlam, died at 87. All these lived far beyond three-score and ten, and some survived the term more than twenty years, three of them living within a year or two of a century. But none of them arrived at the extreme limit of that protracted span. One, however, of the number, the venerable Lord Brougham, records in his autobiography an example of a centenarian in his own family; and in the year following the publication of his lordship's *Memoirs*, Mrs. Duncombe Shafto, widow of Robert Eden Duncombe Shafto (member for the county of Durham in the Parliament of 1802), died at Whitworth Park aged 101.

"My grandmother," says Lord Brougham in his *Memoirs* (published in 1871), "was born in Queen Anne's reign; so that I have conversed with a person who was alive a hundred and eighty years ago, and also *might* have heard her relative Ann Brougham, who lived to the age of a hundred and six, speak of events that happened in Queen Elizabeth's time! This is only conjecture; but it is at all events a certain fact that I, now writing in the latter half of the nineteenth century, have heard my grandmother, being, at the time I refer to, about ninety years of age, relate all the circumstances of the execution of Charles I., as they had been told to her by an eye-witness who stood opposite to Whitehall, and saw the king come out upon the scaffold. I think the story was told to her about the year 1720, and she talked of her informant as having been quite old enough at the time of the execution to have carried away a clear and accurate recollection of all the details. Her own memory was most perfect; nor did the event appear to her to

be so very remote, for she herself perfectly remembered the attempt of the Pretender in 1715."

Her memory must indeed have been good, to retain the attempt of the old Pretender, made 91 years and more before her death. Dying in May, 1807, at the age of 92 or 93, she was living, not "a hundred and eighty years" before the writing of the Memoirs, her birth occurring about the reign of Queen Anne, but less than a hundred and sixty years prior to the death of her illustrious grandson, who indulges in the conjecture that she might have heard her centenarian relative "speak of events that happened in Queen Elizabeth's time." But how could this be? She was not born before the year 1713; and no relative of the age of 106, with whom she was contemporary, could have lived in the reign of Elizabeth, who died in 1603. Moreover, the Anne Brougham "who lived to the age of one hundred and six" was born, as the pedigree of the Peerage runs, in the reign of Charles II., eighty years after the date of Elizabeth. She had her birth in 1683; and as she lived to February, 1789, her noble kinsman, born in September, 1778, was ten years old at the period of her death. To his lordship, therefore, as well as to her older relatives, she might discourse from living memory. He might have heard her tell, if not of the arrival of the Armada in the Channel in 1588, of the coming of the Stadtholder's fleet a hundred years afterwards.

Such is the inference warranted by Burke. But in a "Leaf for the Local Historian" which I wrote for the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* in 1864, extracts were given from the enrolments of the Merchants' Company inconsistent with the centenarian claim; and now that a place has since been assigned to it in the Memoirs, the opposing facts, drawn from the archives of the borough, may appropriately be repeated in the *Archæologia Eliana*.

The father of Anne Brougham, "Henry Brougham, of Scales, who enlarged his possessions there, and greatly added to Scales Hall," succeeded his sire, Thomas Brougham, in 1648, about the time of his coming of age. By his first wife, (the "fair Miss Slee" of Bishop Nicolson's MS., "daughter of Mr. Slee of Carlisle, a jovial gentleman of £300 a year,") he had, as shown by Burke, four children, Thomas, Henry, Anne (the centenarian), and Joanè; and by his second, ("Elizabeth, daughter and ultimately sole heir of John Lamplugh, Esq., of Lamplugh, in Cumberland,") he had Thomas, Bernard, John, Peter, Samuel (great-grandfather of Lord Brougham), Elizabeth, and Mary.

Nicolson and Burn's "Westmoreland and Cumberland," and the "Cumberland" of Hutchinson, (in both of which the second marriage is omitted, and also the centenarian age,) give the sons and daughters

in the order of their birth. They make the number, not eleven, but twelve; and they exhibit differences of name. Their roll runs thus:—Agnes, Thomas, Henry, William, Jane, Bernard, John, Mary, Matthias, Peter, George, and Samuel. The names of Agnes and Anne are convertible; and in the county histories, Agnes takes the place of Anne in the later pedigree, where the year 1683 occurs as the date of her birth. Her father, who was 37 at the time of Dugdale's Visitation in 1665, would therefore be between fifty and sixty years of age at the time of his first marriage, and the birth of Agnes or Anne. Ten or eleven more children were born to him in all; and one of the younger sons is Matthias, the ninth child of the county histories, not named by Burke, but enrolled by the Merchants' Company of Newcastle. Apprenticed to Mr. Francis Johnson, merchant-adventurer and mercer, April 1, 1692, Matthias, son of Henry Brougham, of Scales, in the county of Cumberland, Esq., was enrolled on the 22nd of November, 1693, and set over to Mr. William Procter, (who had served the office of sheriff in 1684). Matthias died, however, before his term of servitude expired; and opposite the enrolment is written in the margin *Mort*. In consequence, probably, of his death, his next brother, Peter, was apprenticed, on the 10th of April, 1695, to Mr. Edward Parkinson, merchant-adventurer and mercer, and subsequently set over to the master of Matthias, Mr. Procter, the date of the enrolment being February 18, 1696.

These are the facts recorded of the two Newcastle apprentices, sons of Lord Brougham's great-great-grandfather; and how are they to be reconciled with the birth of Anne Brougham, the eldest child of the family, in 1683? Six or seven births, and a second marriage, come in between Agnes (or Anne) and Matthias; and Matthias, indentured in 1692, must have been born before the former date, with also seven or eight sons and daughters more. The pedigree of the Peerage harmonizes with this presumption, where it records the birth of his lordship's grandfather, second son of Samuel, the youngest of the two children who succeeded Peter. Samuel's son Henry was born in 1717; an event which is consistent enough with the books of the Merchants' Company, but not with the birth of the eldest of the eleven or twelve children so late as 1683.

Is not, then, this case of centenarianism more than doubtful? It certainly appears so to me. Clear instances there are in which life has flowed on until a century was run out. Mrs. Duncombe Shafto's is one of them, her years being 101 in number when she died in 1872; but the claim of 106 years for Anne Brougham is open to grave question. Cases of great longevity are commonly noticed in newspapers and other periodicals, and I have turned to contemporary publications in search of some

record of her death, but without success. The *Annual Register* and *Gentleman's Magazine* are silent; nor in the *Newcastle Chronicle* have I found this centenarian named. On the 21st of March, 1789, there is an obituary notice of Mrs. Ann Benn, wife of Mr. Lamplugh Benn, who had died lately, at Birkby, near Maryport in the 100th year of her age; but no mention occurs of Anne Brougham, stated in the Peerage to have died in the previous month, at the greater age of 106.

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### EARLY PRINTING IN NEWCASTLE.

BY JAMES CLEPHAN.

IN the sixth volume of the Society's Transactions (1865), there is a valuable contribution from the pen of the late Mr. Hodgson Hinde, "On Early Printing in Newcastle." A volume of the Calendar of State Papers (Domestic), published in 1873, now supplies materials for a supplementary leaf. It comprises six months of the year 1639; and we learn from its contents that the press ordered from London in April, when King Charles was in York, was set in motion at Newcastle in May. The Earl of Arundel and Surrey (Thomas Howard), Lord General of the Army in the North, wrote from York to Sir Francis Windebank, Secretary of State, on the 20th of April, giving him the King's instructions:—"His Majesty would have you, with all expedition, to send down a printer with a press, to set out His Majesty's daily commands for his court or army, and that to be done with more than ordinary diligence, the want being daily found so great. I conceive a waggon by land the surer way, to change horses as often as they will, by express warrant to take up teams daily." An indorsement by Secretary Windebank shows that he answered this letter on the 30th of the month.

There was no slackness or delay in the execution of the royal wish. The printer was in Newcastle with his press in less than three weeks from the date of the Lord General's communication. This fact appears by a letter from Edward Norgate to his cousin Robert Reade, nephew and secretary of Windebank. Garter King-at-Arms (Sir John Borough) was in attendance on the King. Norgate was with him, preparing official papers for print, "making patterns for two Scotch heralds' coats," and otherwise employing himself in the duties of his