

REPORT
OF
The Society of Antiquaries
OF
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

M.DCCC.LXXVI.

THERE is a time-honoured custom affecting this Ælian Society, as many others, of offering to the annual general meeting some remarks on the recent position of the body and on outside events connected with its objects. Such remarks, designated a report, are, for some reason or another, generally drawn up by a secretary, rather than a council or committee, or a member thereon, and they sometimes are revised in meeting, sometimes not. It is feared that in the Ælian Society such revision has seldom taken place; but it seems desirable on this occasion to say that the Senior Secretary has neither drawn nor seen the report, and that, for obvious reasons, he was not asked to do so. For it so happens that he must be mentioned prominently as the painstaking and skilful editor of the famous book, the last part of which bears the date, 1875. Dr. Bruce, who has scarcely been identified sufficiently with the *Lapidarium* upon which the society has delighted to plume itself, possesses certain qualifications peculiarly requisite for the production of a monographic work. The confining himself, upon the whole, to a particular department of archæology, or rather to a particular period of our national history, the enthusiasm which every true worker shows to his own hobby, with a proper slowness in jumping to conclusions, and indomitable industry, are useful properties. But our friend has, in addition, a certain amount of common sense, in which scientific men are too often lacking, and he has long seen that a popular style, handsome get-up, and abundant pictorial illustration are requisite to entice the world at large towards his favourite subject. Probably all men possess a love for the beautiful, though differing very much in their respective selection of the objects in which they love to find it. Some delight in Greek coins, and minute gems, and Elzevir classics and diamond-type editions of modern authors; others in the noble medallions and first brass coins of Imperial Rome, and noble folios, and Baskerville's

type, and engravings and maps on a good scale; others in a tattered manuscript, the deciding a reading or a date to a nicety; others, again, in the crinkle-crinkle of architecture of this or that period; some in pictorial art of one style or another; some in divers other arts. But perhaps in all there is a wish to be as perfect, almost mathematically correct, in the exercise of their intelligence with respect to the subjects of their tastes as to history and art as they would like to be in their inquiries in physical subjects, or their own professional or mercantile or mechanical avocations. Now, Dr. Bruce likes a handsome volume, and one complete according to its scope, and pleasing to those taking an interest in what he takes an interest in, and to those whom he wishes to bring to his own good ways. And thus we have acquired a most useful book, and imposing withal, and the Society has been right in pluming itself on being the vehicle of its production. But as it has already acquired an inconvenient scarcity, it may become a speedy question whether a smaller edition, after the manners of the Elzevirs, never interfering with the value of the larger one to connoisseurs, should not be issued for the convenience of practical students who like handy books and may have small means. A double part of the "Archæologia Æliana," which must be sold to non-members at more than the usual price, is now ready for issue. It completes a volume, and the title page, contents, and index, to be prepared by the trained hand of Mr. Dodd, will be issued as soon as possible. The part is extensively illustrated, and through the kindness of Messrs. John Clayton and Alexander S. Stevenson, in a great measure without cost to the Society. The ordinary operations of the Society must, however, for the present be suspended. They could not well be so previously. But it has been a matter of real regret that the unpublished manuscripts of Mr. Hodgson Hinde, the *facile princeps* of critics on north-country history, could not be taken up earlier. They must now be so in good earnest. What we may call his remains abound in much of extreme interest. A subject to which he paid much attention may here be fitly mentioned. The fact that Newcastle was leagues behind other towns as to museum facilities preyed upon his mind, and as to antiquities his proposition was that this Society should build a receptacle near the Castle whither might be removed our own collections and those which at present unfortunately float past us to other public collections, or to mere private gatherings, which will be dispersed by sale, or go to distant places in their entirety, or rot away after various losses or pilferings. Mr. Hinde probably over estimated the zeal of his friends, and forgot that there was no particular reason why one or two hundred persons should at their own cost relieve a wealthy town, many of the ratepayers of which form their own collections of works of art, from the ordinary obligations of townsmen. But there should be no

objection to the handing over of the nucleus of a fund raised by him, and invested at Lambton & Co's. in the names of himself, Dr. Charlton, and the present Secretaries, £629 16s., (plus considerable interest) towards any well considered scheme for such a museum as inconsiderable places enjoy, and our collections could, as is done in small towns, be lent for what would practically be permanent exhibition. That Newcastle has by its municipal apathy lost articles of enormous value is but too certain, but "it is never too late to mend." We cannot, indeed, bring back the Castle of Newcastle and its surroundings, or the Pink Tower, or the somewhat more vulgar edifices called Newgate and the tower on the bridge, or the pretty clustered pillars of Old All Saints', or the fair east gable of St. Andrew's, or the stately memorials of Newcastle's ancient worthies in those churches and in St. Nicholas. Still, there is no great destruction in our churches at Newcastle at this moment, and present mistakes can easily be put right by the next generation at an enhanced cost. On the whole, St. John's Church now possesses the highest interest. Its Norman work is older than anything mediæval in Newcastle, save perhaps some portions of the outer walls of the Castle near the south postern, and in its glass is the oldest exemplar of the arms of the Borough. The Society luckily possesses the piscina and the arms of Robert Rhodes (the good lawyer, who gave a steeple to St. Nicholas) which were formerly part of the fabric. The interesting remains of Henry III.'s Black Gate also still exist, though the superstructure creates a prejudice against them. The excavations in the Roman Station at Shields Lawe must, we may hope, not be regarded as closed. The most striking remains are, it will be learned with satisfaction, to be preserved. It may not be distasteful to the Society to learn that the Heworth School Board have adopted on their seal the design of the valuable stycas of the Northumbrian king, Egfrid, the great benefactor of Jarrow, in relation to whom Jarrow was called the port of King Egfrid. The stycas were found in Heworth Churchyard, in Jarrow parish; and the earthen vessel in which they were contained, now in our museum, rather perplexes the learned as to whether it is not more ancient than its small copper contents, which sometimes occur for sale in London at about twenty pounds a piece. The monthly meetings continue to afford pleasant recreation, and the Society may reasonably consider that it is still of some slight utility. Numerous short papers have been read. The following is a list of the most recent presentations to the Society, by its constant friend, Sir W. C. Trevelyan:—The Cartulary of Cambukenoth, Reid's *Bibliotheca Scoti Celtica*, Norris' Ancient Cornish Drama, McLaren's Plains of Troy, Harleian Society—Visitations of Oxford and Cumberland, Instituto *Archæologica Roma*.



WILLIAM DODD IN ACCOUNT WITH THE

1876.		Dr.	£.	s.	d.
JAN. 28.	To Balance in hand	.	140	10	7
	„ Subscriptions	.	87	3	0
	„ Cash Collections at Castle	.	77	8	6
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	„ Books sold by W. Dodd, less Commission	.	171	6	0

£713 6 1

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SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE.



		Cr.			
			£.	s.	d.
1876.					
JAN. 28.	By paid J. Gibson		46	16	0
" "	" " A. Reid, Printing		98	2	0
" "	" " Do. Bookbinding &c.		92	0	9
" "	" " D. Mossman		18	11	6
" "	" " R. B. Utting		18	1	0
" "	" " Insurance		0	7	6
" "	" " Rent of Castle		0	2	6
" "	" " E. Phillips, for Grey Abbey		0	10	6
" "	" " Advertising Lapidarium		4	4	4
" "	" " Surtees Society and P.O. Order		1	1	2
" "	" " G. B. Frost, Wire Guards for Chapel		4	1	4
" "	" " R. G. Salmon, Chapel Windows		5	14	0
" "	" " Hancock, Brushes		0	10	5
" "	" " Gas and Candles		0	6	10
" "	" " Wm. Dodd, Account		3	12	3
" "	" " Commission on Subscriptions		4	6	0
" "	" " Carriage of Lapidarium to Members		1	14	2
" "	" " Coals and Firewood		3	16	0
" "	" " Postage and Carriage		1	3	5
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	Balance		407	14	11
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January 31st, 1876,

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and found correct,*

JOHN PHILIPSON, Auditor.