

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

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M.DCCC.LXXXIII.

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THE Society has now arrived at an interesting period of its history. It is proposed, and indeed an agreement to carry out the proposition is drawn, and, with possibly some trifling alterations of detail, will be executed within the next few days, for the lease of the Black Gate. The Council has been induced to take this course for more reasons than one. The Museums Act not having been adopted in Newcastle, the preservation and exhibition of objects of interest depend entirely on the efforts of private societies. The building itself, in its best parts of the time of Henry III., the erector of Westminster Abbey, presents curious features; and, seeing that we know its precise cost, as we do that of the Keep, it is of high importance in the history of English architecture. A museum fund will be applied towards the repairs of the building and adapting it for the reception of such of our collections as require better light than that possible in the Keep, but a liberal subscription will be necessary, as the extras and fittings will be expensive. Some discussion has arisen as to the proper summit of the gate. Probably it would, like the towers of the Town Wall, be provided with means for machicolation, but as we really have no evidence upon the point, and as the superstructure is Jacobean, we have all but determined to substitute for the present roof, which falls very well in with the general sky-line, a pitched roof covered with flat tiles somewhat like those which form such a characteristic and pleasing feature in certain churches at York. While the

non-adoption of the Museums Act in so large a town must be regretted, we are bound to state that the terms of the Corporation are liberal and acceptable. It is satisfactory to be informed that new light, or a refreshment of old light, is to be poured upon the history of Newcastle. The new part of our Transactions contains some particularly interesting papers, and the Society's "Northumbrian Minstrelsy" has received much attention. With respect to the "Lapidarium Septentrionale," search is being made for all the inscriptions that have been found since the date of the last publication. Most of those discovered have been sketched, and wood engravings representing them are being prepared by Mr. Utting, under the supervision of Dr. Bruce and Mr. Blair. Measures also are being taken for the enumeration and perpetuation of the ancient buildings of Newcastle. The growth in number and worth of local topographical works is very encouraging. Mr. Philipson's excellent book on harness is of a general character, but it most appropriately proceeds from those Border lands where the owners had to find horses and armour. Drayton records their blazon as "the snaffle, spur, and spear." We have caused an interesting exploration of North Gosforth Chapel to be made; and were in hopes that the operations of the Corporation would have thrown some light on the course of the Roman Wall, but beyond the occurrence of Roman pottery, no evidences as to the Roman period cropped up. The Honorary Secretaries, while intending to continue to take a lively interest in the Society, consider that their resignation and the appointment of successors are desirable.

**WILLIAM DODD, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.**

	<b>Dr.</b>		<b>Cr.</b>
1883.		£ s. d.	1883.
To Balance in hand		623 0 6	By Paid J. Gibson, one year
„ Subscriptions		117 12 0	„ A. Reid, Printing
„ Collections at the Castle		85 4 0	„ <i>Journal Office</i> , Printing
„ Cash for Books sold		14 10 6	„ Stevenson and Dryden, Printing
„ Cash for Interest		18 0 0	„ T. W. Waters, Binding
			„ J. Stokoe, Editing Music
			„ Excavations at Gosforth
			„ C. C. Hodges, Excavations at Hexham
			„ Rent of Castle, 1½ years
			„ Insurance
			„ Income Tax
			„ W. T. Moor
			„ G. H. Moor
			„ J. Ventress
			„ H. Watson
			„ Asher and Co., for Books
			„ Wm. Dodd, do.
			„ R. Robinson, do.
			„ J. Wilson, do.
			„ Surtees Society
			„ Dunn & Co.
			„ Coals and Firewood
			„ Gas
			„ Cheque Book
			„ Postage and Carriage
			„ Commission on Subscriptions
			„ Sundries
			Balance
			513 15 7
		£858 7 0	£858 7 0
	To Balance	513 15 7	

*Examined with Vouchers,  
and found correct,*  
**JOHN PHILIPSON.**

*January 30th, 1883.*