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MEDAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE PITT CLUB.

XL—PITT CLUBS.

BY RICHARD WELFORD.

READ ON WEDNESDAY, THE 27TH DECEMBER, 1883.

THE medal exhibited at one of our meetings by Mr. Alexander Gow, is that of the Northumberland and Newcastle Pitt Club, the local representative of political organizations that, after the death of William Pitt in 1806, were established throughout the kingdom to commemorate the services, eulogise the character, and perpetuate the principles of that eminent statesman.

One of the earliest of these institutions was the Pitt Club of London. It was inaugurated in 1808, and held its meetings every third year, on the anniversary of Pitt's birth, May 28th. The Duke of Richmond was the first president, and among the vice-presidents were Lord Chancellor Eldon and Sir Robert Peel. One of its toast lists reads as follows :—

1. The King (followed by the National Anthem).
2. The Prince Regent.
3. The Queen.
4. The Duke of York, and the rest of the Royal Family.
5. The Princess Charlotte of Wales and her illustrious Consort.
6. *The Immortal Memory* of the late Right Honourable, *William Pitt*. [Always received in reverential silence.]
7. The Army and Navy of the United Kingdom.
8. The House of Brunswick; and may they never forget the principles which seated them on the Throne of these Realms.

9. The Protestant Ascendancy.
10. The Ministers of the Prince Regent.
11. May the principles of Mr. Pitt always animate the Councils of Great Britain.
12. The Duke of Richmond, President of this Club.
13. The Duke of Buccleuch and the Pitt Club of Scotland.
14. Lord Kenyon and the Pitt Club of Wales.
15. The Landed and Commercial Interests of this Country.
16. The Wooden Walls of Old England.
17. Ships, Colonies and Commerce.

Seventeen toasts, and all but one of them a bumper, with musical accompaniment, to be honoured in one evening! For these were the balmy days of the Prince Regent; when temperance meant one bottle, moderation two, and conviviality was any unknown quantity short of apoplexy.

In the provinces Pitt Clubs were opened at Winchester, Reading, Hereford, Norwich, Cambridge, Bristol, Taunton, Carnarvon, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Liverpool, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Newcastle-under-Lyne, Lancaster, Doncaster, Halifax, Leeds, Scarborough, Sheffield, York, Carlisle, North and South Shields, and here in Newcastle. The Pitt Club at Cambridge exists to this day; in other towns the celebrations have died out, and nothing remains to recall them but faded emblems preserved in museums, and neglected records hidden away in the chaotic gatherings of local collectors.

The Northumberland and Newcastle Club commenced in 1814, and lasted until 1823. I have been unable to find a report of its first meeting: but Mr. R. Y. Green has a copy of the second, and I have one of the third. From these documents we obtain a correct idea of the proceedings, and learn who were the men that took part in them. At the second gathering of the club, in 1815, the officers were:—

PRESIDENT: John Carr, Dunston Hill.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Anthony Surtees, Hamsterley; Dixon Brown, Benton.

STEWARDS: William Clark, Benton House; The Reverend the Vicar of Newcastle [Rev. John Smith]; Robert Clayton, Newcastle; Dixon Brown, Benton; Thomas Gibson, Newcastle; Anthony Surtees, Hamsterley.

COMMITTEE : Richard Craster Askew, Job James Bulman, Peregrine George Ellison, William Loraine, Thomas Cookson, Thomas Davison, and John Adamson, all of Newcastle.

CHAPLAIN : The Reverend the Vicar of Newcastle.

TREASURER : William Loraine.

SECRETARY : Thomas Brown, Newcastle.

On this occasion, the 28th of May falling on a Sunday, the dinner was held the evening before, in the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, and it appears to have been a most successful affair, ninety-nine visitors from other clubs, some of them wearing their medals, joining in the festivities. In the following year the club was officered by—

PRESIDENT : The Right Hon. the Earl of Strathmore.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Anthony Surtees, Hamsterley; The Rev. James Blackburn, Newcastle.

STEWARDS: Sir Charles Loraine, Bart., Kirkharle; The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Newcastle [Henry Cramlington]; John Blenkinsop Coulson, Blenkinsop Castle; the Rev. Charles Thorpe, Rectory, Ryton; William Burrell, Broome Park; Richard Craster Askew, Newcastle.

COMMITTEE : William Loraine, John Adamson, Peregrine George Ellison, John Pitts, and William Moore, all of Newcastle; and Thomas Anderson, Jesmond House, and William Smith, Saint Lawrence; with the chaplain, treasurer, and secretary as before. The Club numbered 100 members altogether, namely, the above written officers and

Anderson, John, Jesmond House; Askew, Richard Craster, Newcastle;

Bainbridge, Joseph, Newcastle; Bell, Matthew, Woolsington; Blackett, Christopher, Wylam; Bramwell, Christopher, Sunderland; Brandling, Charles John, Gosforth House; Brown, Dixon, Benton; Brown, Thomas, Newcastle; Bulman, Job James, Newcastle; Burdon, Thomas, West Jesmond;

Carr, John, Dunston Hill; Clarke, John Graham, Fenham; Clarke, William, Benton House; Clayton, Robert, Newcastle; Clayton, Nathaniel, Newcastle; Clavering, Charles John, Bywell; Clennell, Thomas, Harbottle Castle; Collingwood, Henry, Lilburn Tower; Collinson, the Rev. John, Rectory House, Gateshead; Cookson, Isaac, jun., Newcastle; Cookson, Thomas, Hermitage; Croser, Joseph, Newcastle; Cuthbert, William, Benwell;

Davidson, John, Newcastle ; Davidson, Thomas, Newcastle ; De Lisle, Robert, Acton House ;

Fawcett, the Rev. John, Newton Hall ; Fenwick, Percival, Prestwick ; Fisher, William, Newcastle ; Forster, Joseph, Newcastle ; Forster, George, Newcastle ; Forster, Thomas, Lucker ;

Greenwell, Robinson R., Newcastle ; Gibson, Thomas, Newcastle ;

Harle, William, Newcastle ; Hawks, John, Gateshead ; Hill, Christopher Septimus, Sunderland ; Hodgson, John, Elswick House ; Hopper, Anthony, Newcastle ; Horn, Henry Gibson, Newcastle ; Hunter, John, Hermitage ;

Ingham, William, Newcastle ;

Jobling, Robert, Newton Hall ; Johnson, Francis, Newcastle ;

Leaton, George Thomas, Whickham ; Loraine, John Lambton, Kirkharle ; Loraine, William, Newcastle ;

Marshall, Robert, Newcastle ; Maude, Thomas, Newcastle ; Mitford, Bertram, Mitford ; Monkhouse, Miles, Little Benton ; Morrison, Martin, Teams ;

Nicholson, Robert, Bradley Hall ;

Ogle, Charles, Newcastle ; Ogle, William Ogle Wallis, Cawsey Park ; Orde, William, Nunnykirk ;

Pearson, Robert, Benwell Lodge ; Peters, William, Newcastle ; Pollard, Joseph, Newcastle ;

Redhead, William, Carville ; Reed, Archibald, Whorlton ; Reed, John, Chipchase Castle ; Reid, James, Newcastle ; Renwick, John, Newcastle ;

Strathmore, The Earl of ; Shaw, Robert, Usworth Place ; Smith, Grieve, Budle ; Smith, The Rev. John, Vicarage House, Newcastle ; Smith, Thomas, Saint Lawrence ; Smith, Thomas, Jun., Saint Lawrence ; Smith, Thomas, Newcastle ; Sparke, Isaac, Ridley Hall ; Stokoe, John, Ironmonger, Newcastle ; Surtees, Aubone, Newcastle ; Surtees, Robert, Redworth ;

Toppin, John, Newcastle ;

Waters, Thomas, Newcastle ; Watson, John, Willington ; Webster, Rowland, Grange ; Webster, William, Sunderland ; Wilkie, John Allen, Hetton ; Wilson, Edward, Newcastle ; Wilson, John Rawling, Newcastle ; Winship, Taylor, Newcastle ; Wright, John, Wallsend ; Wright, Stephen, Dockwray Square, North Shields,

These were the worthy gentlemen who met together, with their medals on their breasts, and sang, as appears in their programme,

"With a jolly full bottle let each man be arm'd,
We must be good subjects when our hearts are thus warm'd."

These were the men who worshipped the Star of Brunswick in a glee which declared that

"If war's ordain'd, this star shall dart its beams
Through that black cloud, which, rising from the Thames,
With thunder, form'd of Brunswick's wrath, is sent
To claim the seas, and awe the Continent."

And these were the admiring patriots who, linking the name of a brave Newcastle man with that of the hero of a hundred battles, made the Assembly Rooms ring with

"Fill Wellington's cup till it beam like his glory,
Forget not our townman, brave Collingwood's fame;
A thousand years hence hearts shall bound at their story,
And hallow the goblet that flows to their name."

To which of them may this medal have belonged we cannot tell. It may have been the prized adornment of that warm-hearted Tyne-sider who in after years was accustomed to propose at every local banquet that was enlivened by his presence :—"The immortal memory of William Pitt," and who, being called upon again and again as the evening wore on to contribute to the interest and harmony of the gathering, rose to his feet and, thinking ever of his medal and its associations, cheerfully responded, "Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I will now propose to you a toast, which I am sure you will appreciate. Let us all drink to

The immortal memory of William Pitt."