

XIII.—A FEW JOTTINGS RESPECTING SOME OF THE
EARLY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTI-
QUARIES OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

BY J. COLLINGWOOD BRUCE, LL.D., D.C.L., F.S.A.

[Read March 25th and August 26th, 1885.]

WHEN, at our last meeting, our genial President, the Earl of Ravensworth, was sketching, on the occasion of the opening of the Black Gate, the previous history of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, my imagination seemed to call into existence the men who had made that history, and to summon into this room the worthies whom once I used to meet here, but who, long ago, have left us. If I had been ready of speech I should then, on the conclusion of our President's address, have asked permission to have named some of them; but prudence made me forbear. On mentioning this fact to our junior Secretary, Mr. Blair, he encouraged me to bring the subject forward at this meeting. This I venture to do, though with much hesitation.

The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne was founded in the year 1813. Its first meeting place was Loftus's Long Room, in the lower part of Newgate Street, on the east side.

I think it may with truth be stated that ours was the earliest of all the provincial societies now existing for the promotion of the study of Archæology. It was not until the year 1843 that the British Archæological Association was formed, and I believe it was owing to the impulse given by the peripatetic meetings of this Society and its twin sister, the Royal Archæological Institute, that most of our local bodies owe their existence. That we should have started into being thirty years before most of the county societies of this country seems to me to be something to boast of, and to have been owing to the fact that John Horsley, the author of the *Britannia Romana*, had impressed the

stamp of his mind upon the educated portion of our community a hundred years previously. With such an example before us we northerners could not well resist the study of the history of our country from its earliest period.

Mr. John Bell may, I think, claim the merit of having first suggested the formation of this Society. He was brought up to the profession of his father, who, originally a bookseller, afterwards became a land surveyor, in which calling he acquired distinction by his skill and accuracy. Mr. John Bell was not a highly educated man, but he was an industrious collector of antiquarian facts, and exceedingly fond of archæological research. By the publication in 1812 of the work entitled *Rhymes of Northern Bards, being a curious collection of old and new Songs and Poems peculiar to the Counties of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, and Durham, edited by John Bell, jun.*, he has laid the inhabitants of these northern parts under a lasting obligation. In the possession of our senior Vice-President, Mr. Clayton, is a collection of papers in six volumes, of quarto size, each volume bearing the following title, *An Account of the Rise and Progress of the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by John Bell, Projector thereof*. The volumes consist of a miscellaneous collection of papers relating to the Society—some in manuscript, some in print; of cuttings from newspapers; of letters from various members of the Society and others, bearing upon its general business, and of circulars, together with occasional pages of narrative and criticism by the editor himself. Altogether the collection is an interesting one, but it would be greatly improved by being weeded of a good deal of irrelevant matter.

I will give a few jottings from these volumes, and first of all we will take Mr. Bell's account of the origin of the Society.

“In March, 1803, when I went to the Quayside [as a bookseller] several [coin] collectors brought me several of their collections when, after a little while, we agreed to form a [Numismatic] Society. We pledged ourselves to give our duplicates [coins], of whatever kind, to the Society to form a collection, and to contribute one shilling per month to purchase numismatical books. The meetings were held once a week in the office of Mr. John Airey, an attorney.” The Society

existed but for a short time. Here is Mr. Bell's account of its close. "All went on well until Christmas that year (1803) when J. Bell went on a visit to Durham. On his return he found that they had quarrelled at a meeting or two which was held whilst he was from home, and had fixed to break it up." And broken up it was.

Mr. Bell did not despair. In due time he got seventy circulars printed, which stated that as "the Counties of Northumberland and Durham have been productive of vast fragments of antiquity—the Roman Wall, the various fields of feudal warfare, etc.," it was desirable that "a depository should be formed for the preservation of relics of antiquity, and that a society should be formed of gentlemen . . . who would contribute information for the use of younger members."

Mr. Bell addressed the greater part of these circulars to the leading gentry of the two counties. But with little success. In his narrative he goes on to say, "The answers thereto which I received were nearly all declining, several saying there was already an established society (the Literary and Philosophical) which would answer all the purposes intended." He did not, however, despair. He made one more effort; and how often is it that success attends us when we doggedly persevere in spite of the greatest discouragements! He says, "Out of the few remaining unsent circulars I addressed one to his Grace, Hugh, (Second) Duke of Northumberland, who immediately replied, offering to assist the project all in his power." This gave him great encouragement, and rightly, as the event proved. Mr. Bell proceeds, "And the following post or two brought letters from David William Smith, Esq.* (afterwards a Baronet), and others more or less connected with his Grace (who had been previously sent to and declined), requesting to be considered as members from the first, on which Mr. John Adamson, attorney, joined me, and a meeting held from which another was called, when my project went forward: in arranging which, amongst other books necessary for carrying on the Society, I proposed a guarded book to preserve the letters and communications, in which I unfortunately inserted all the replies I had received to my circular, but very many of which, in the course of time, *ceased to exist!*" A copy of this circular is preserved in Mr. Bell's Collections.

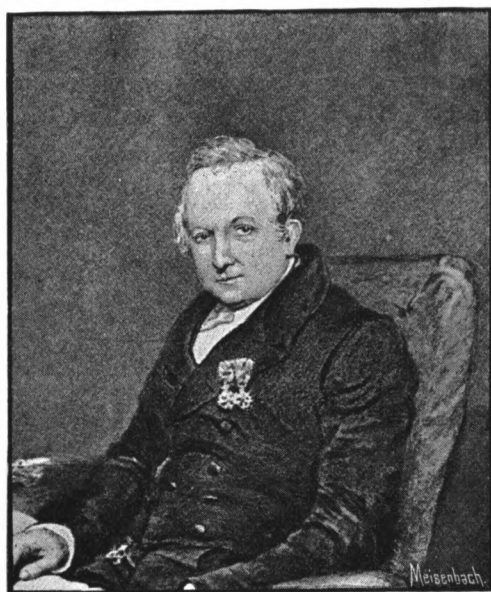
* Sir David Smith was a Commissioner for the management of the estates of the Duke of Northumberland.

The preliminary meeting which Mr. Bell refers to in this paragraph, and which resulted in the formation of the Society, took place in Mr. Adamson's office. Mr. Bell continued to be for many years a useful and active officer of the Society. At first he was its Treasurer, but eventually, in consequence of some disarrangement of his private affairs, he resigned the office, which was assumed by Mr. Adamson, in addition to the other office which he held, that of Secretary, conjointly with the Rev. John Hodgson, the Historian. Mr. Bell on relinquishing the Treasurership became Librarian to the Society, on a small salary; and in virtue of this office he attended at the rooms of the Society every Wednesday evening to give out books to applicants.

I think I may say that for well nigh forty years Mr. Bell and Mr. Adamson were the backbone of the Society. A number of able men lent it strength from time to time, but most of these, through death or removal, were members for only short periods.

In a passage which I have quoted from Mr. Bell's account of the Society he says, "Mr. John Adamson, attorney, joined me."

Mr. Adamson was originally intended for commercial pursuits, and at an early age was sent to Lisbon, where an elder brother was established in business. Here his strong attachment to literary pursuits manifested itself, and he became familiar with the classical writers of Portugal. On his return to England he continued his Portuguese studies, and in addition to other smaller publications which, from time to time, he issued, gave to the world *The Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Camoens*, the Portuguese poet. This work was very favourably reviewed by Southey in *The Quarterly*. On coming home, Mr. Adamson abandoned commerce and became an attorney-at-law. Early in life he obtained the office of Under-Sheriff of Newcastle, which he held until the passing of the Municipal Reform Bill, when the office became subject to appointment by the Sheriff who was annually elected. In 1825 he was elected a Secretary of the Literary and Philosophical Society, an office which he held till his death. Mr. Adamson was also Secretary to the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, and filled other important situations. The department of antiquities in which he chiefly excelled was Numismatics. He contributed several papers to the Antiquarian Societies of London and Newcastle, the most important of which was an account of the discovery at Hexham, in 1832,



John Adamson

JOHN ADAMSON, ESQ.,
ONE OF THE FIRST SECRETARIES OF THE SOCIETY.

(From a Drawing by Mole, in the possession of the Rev. G. H. Adamson, M.A.)



of a large number of Saxon coins called *Stycas*. This paper was published in the transactions of both Societies, illustrated by thirty-two quarto plates. Mr. Adamson died, after a short illness, on September 28th, 1855, aged 68 years. At the monthly meeting of this Society, held on October 3rd, 1855, Dr. Charlton, Mr. Adamson's colleague in the Secretaryship, is reported to have commenced the business with the following statement:—"He would now read the minutes of the last meeting, which were in the handwriting of his lamented colleague, the late Mr. Adamson, whose loss they must all regret. He had been connected with the Society throughout its whole existence, in good times and in bad, and no member rejoiced more than Mr. Adamson in its recent prosperity, even when his own health was failing. He had ever experienced from him the greatest kindness, and now that he was gone he knew not how he could discharge alone the duties of his office."

We now leave for a season Mr. Bell and Mr. Adamson, but I may have occasion to refer to them again afterwards.

The Society, as I have said, met first in Loftus's Long Room. This was better adapted for large public meetings than for the conferences of learned Societies, and our Antiquaries very soon, by permission of the Literary and Philosophical Society, met in one of their rooms in Ridley Court, in the Groat Market. After this, attracted perhaps by the appropriateness of the locality, they met, by permission of the Corporation, in the Old Castle. I believe the King's Chamber was the room in which they assembled. But the permission of the Corporation was not the only one that was required. In looking over Mr. Bell's collection I find a copy of a document which reads somewhat strangely in these modern times. It is a licence from His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this Society to meet in the Castle. This curious piece of antiquity reads as follows:—

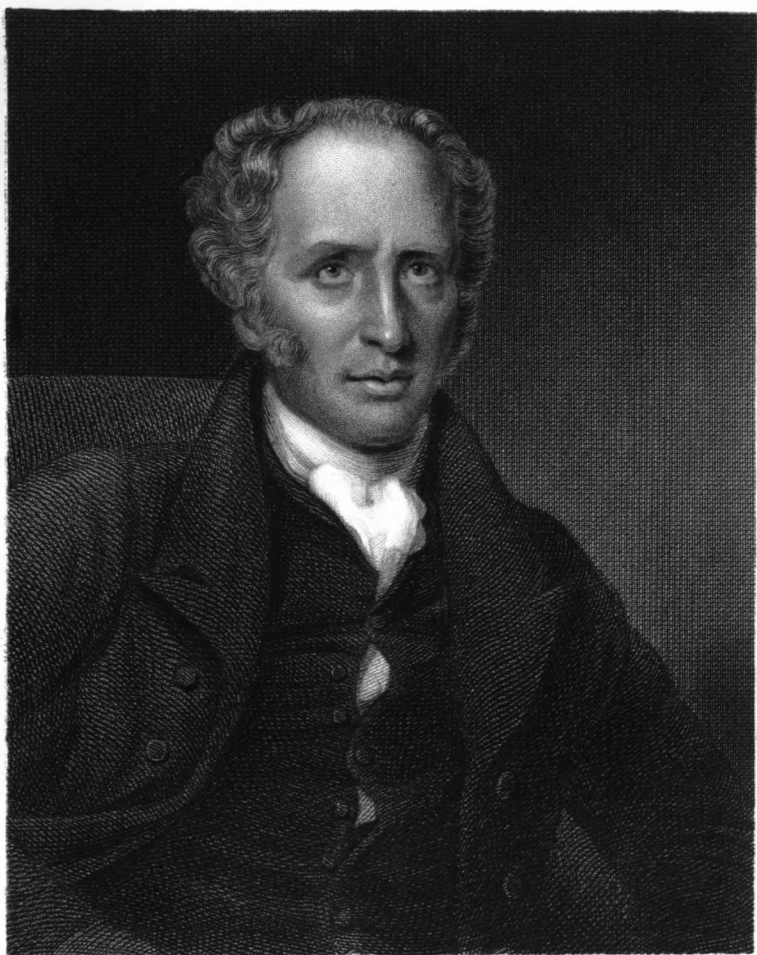
"We, two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the Town and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne assembled at a Special Session held at the Guildhall of the said town and county, this Second day of May, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventeen, for the purposes of granting Licences to open Houses, Rooms, or other buildings for the purposes mentioned in an Act of Parliament, passed in the Fifty-seventh year of His present Majesty's reign, intituled 'an Act for the more effectually preventing Seditious Meetings and Assemblies,' do hereby, by virtue and in pursuance of the said Act grant licence to the Rev. John Hodgson and John Adamson, gentlemen, both of Newcastle aforesaid, to open a certain part of the ancient Castle of Newcastle-upon-Tyne aforesaid, and

situate there, for the purpose of holding debates or conversations concerning and making inquiry into antiquities in general, but more especially concerning and into antiquities of the North of England and the Counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Durham, such licence to continue in force for one whole year and no longer. Given under our hands and seals the day and year above written.

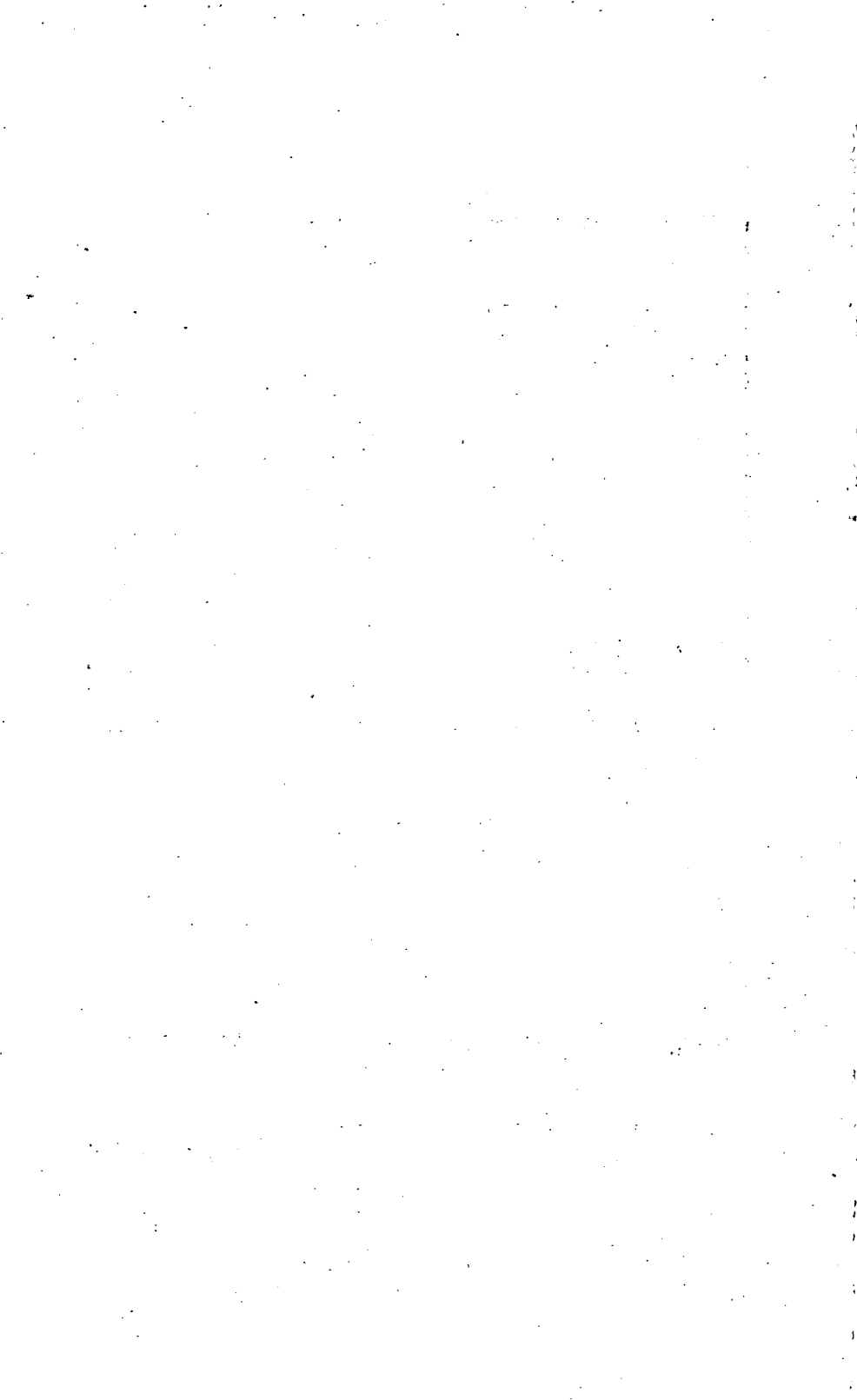
H. CRAMLINGTON.
GEO. FORSTER.

I am not aware that a second licence was ever afterwards sought or obtained. However, their lodgings in the Castle during the cold months of winter were found to be so uncomfortable that notwithstanding the fitting nature of the site they were obliged to forsake them. For a time they availed themselves of Mr. Adamson's offer to hold their Monthly Meetings in his office in Westgate Street. They did so for the first time on the 5th November, 1817. Until the Society got established quarters of its own the Housteads altars and the headless figures of the *Deæ Matres* belonging to the Society were ranged round the grass-plot in Mr. Adamson's Garden, behind his house. They next obtained a chamber in Farrington's Yard, Bigg Market. They met there for the first time on the 7th July, 1819. It was here, whilst I was yet a boy, that I first of all came into the solemn presence of the Antiquaries of Newcastle. My father, being a member of the Society, thought proper to take me with him on one occasion. If on that night I had thought that an antiquarian pilgrimage of something like half-a-century was before me I should, I have no doubt, have brought away with me a vivid reminiscence of all that was said and done, and that the portraiture of all the *literati* present would have been stamped upon the tablet of my memory. As it was I remember nothing of what was said or done, and I know not who was present.

Doubtless the Rev. John Hodgson was there. He was one of the chief promoters of the Society at this early period. He was then Incumbent of Jarrow, with Heworth, and hence within easy distance of Newcastle. He had previously been Curate at Lanchester and had carefully studied the Roman camp there. He published a small book of poetry, the chief piece in which is *LONGOVICUM, a Vision*. The notes to this poem contain much valuable antiquarian information. In addition to other works he also published in 1812 a small guide called *The Picture of Newcastle*, in which, at its close, he gives an interesting



yours my d^r hr
wth John Hodgson



history of the Roman Wall. For a number of years he was the most prominent figure in the Antiquarian Society. At its second monthly meeting he read an elaborate paper on *The Study of Antiquities*, a paper which all of us might now read with advantage. It was the first paper printed in the Transactions of the Society. His subsequent contributions were very numerous and very valuable. Upwards of twenty are printed in the *Archæologia Æliana*. I need not mention the *History of Northumberland*, by which he is best known in the world of literature. The last published volume, as we are all aware, contains an elaborate and learned account of the Roman Wall. In it he lucidly establishes the fact which Stukely and others before him had surmised, that both the *Vallum* and the *Murus* were the work of Hadrian. It is curious to notice how the commercial value of the *History* has increased as time has gone on. I bought my copy of Mr. Charnley, the principal bookseller in Newcastle in his day, for £9. I do not suppose you can purchase a copy now for much under £50.

Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Adamson were the first Secretaries of the Society. In 1823 Mr. Hodgson became Vicar of Kirkwhelpington, and being unable, on account of the distance, to attend the monthly meetings of the Society he resigned his office, and was elected Vice-President. It was my misfortune not to have become personally acquainted with Mr. Hodgson, of whose kindness all who did know him speak most highly.

The first patron of the Society was Hugh, the second Duke of Northumberland, whose influence, as we have seen, was so potent for good in the formation of the Society, and one of the first presentations made to it was a string of gold beads, derived from an ancient British cairn on one of his farms. At his death the third Duke accepted of the office, and on his demise, Algernon, the fourth Duke, became patron. He was much attached to this Society. He always spoke of it as *our* Society. I need not say how much he did to elucidate the early history of the county, the name of which he bore; and here I may mention a little anecdote bearing on his name. Mr. Albert Way and he were sitting together. The Duke was signing a number of documents of a business character; all at once, looking up, he said to Mr. Way, "What a happy man you are." Mr. Way was somewhat surprised at his being felicitated in such a way by a person of such wealth and

renown as the Duke of Northumberland, and asked for an explanation. "You see," said the Duke, "three letters spell your name—W, A, Y; but here have I to go labouring on, N, O, R, T, H, U, M, B, E, R, L, A, N, D before I can effect my signature. You are a happy man." Amongst other noble works which owe their existence to his wise liberality, I may mention the Surveys of the Watling Street and the Wall. It was at his suggestion that the *Lapidarium Septentrionale* was undertaken, and he largely contributed to its cost. His excavation of the Camp of BREMENIUM is recorded in the Transactions of the Archæological Institute. And here I may refer to the earnest desire which he entertained to heal the breach which had occurred in the Archæological Association, which, shortly after its birth, was broken up into two societies—the Association and the Institute. When about to begin his excavations at BREMENIUM, the High Rochester of the present day, he asked the President of the Society of Antiquaries to send down to him at Alnwick some skilled men to advise with him respecting his mode of proceeding with the excavation. His object was to invite to his Castle the leaders of the two Societies, wisely thinking that if he got their legs under his mahogany he would be able to bring them to be of one mind. I do not know how it was, but the desirable scheme fell through. Probably his design was perceived, and the feud at that time was too hot to allow the parties to approach one another.* When our Society obtained the full possession of the Castle in 1848, and had succeeded in putting it into a state of complete repair, it was resolved to celebrate the event by holding a banquet in it. This took place on the 3rd August of that year. Not less than eighty-four persons sat down at the tables in the great hall. The Duke presided with his usual grace and tact. The banners of the chieftains who, in ancient days, had fought in the Border-land, floated over our heads, and the music of the Northumberland pipes gave forth the battle tunes and the gathering airs of other times. When the Archæological Institute met in Newcastle in 1852, the Duke, though at that time First Lord of the Admiralty, came down to the north, and besides attending the meetings in Newcastle, entertained the Society and its friends right royally at Alnwick.

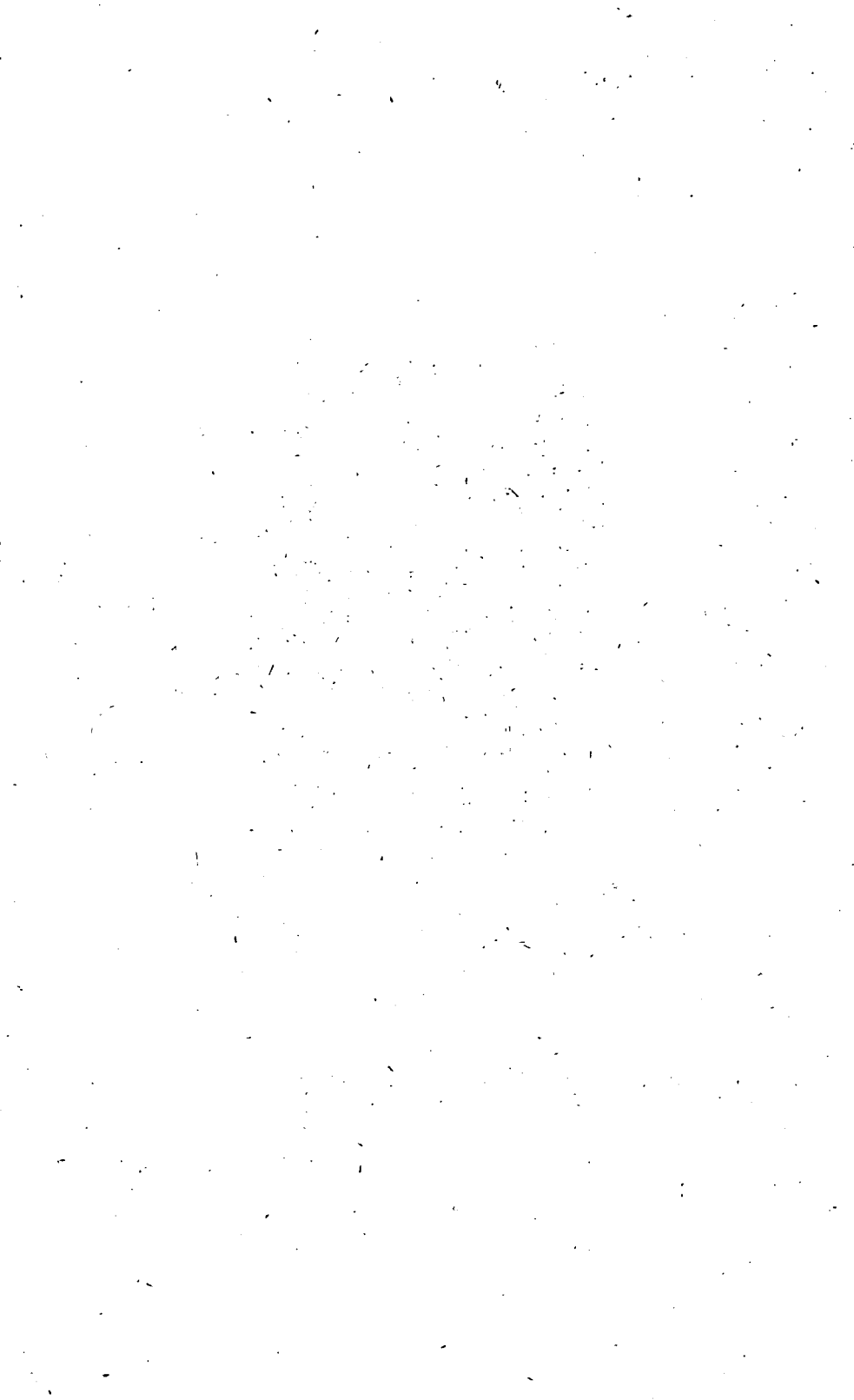
* Mr. C. Roach Smith, who was a member of the Council of the Society of Antiquaries at this time, gives an account of this matter in his *Retrospections*, Vol. I., p. 81.

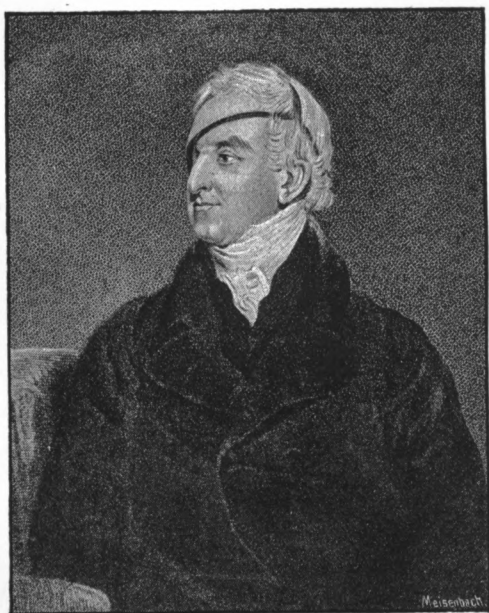


Yours very sincerely
Algernon

ALGERNON, 4TH DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND,
PATRON OF THE SOCIETY.

(From a miniature by SIR W. ROSS, in the possession of his widow).





John E. Swinburne

SIR JOHN EDWARD SWINBURNE, BART.,
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

*(From the Painting in the possession of the Literary and Philosophical Society of
Newcastle-upon-Tyne).*



Sir John Edward Swinburne, Bart., of Capheaton, was the first President of the Society, and he continued to hold that office until his death. Sir John was an encourager of antiquaries, and did much, I believe, to cheer and assist the Rev. John Hodgson. He very nearly reached the age of one hundred years. The Society were watching for the event, and were prepared to go out in a considerable body to Capheaton on the birthday to congratulate their President upon becoming a true antiquary—a very antiquity himself. Unhappily before the event he fell and broke the *tendo Achillis* of one leg, and being, in consequence, unable to take his usual exercise, he pined and died about three months before attaining the requisite age. It is worthy of remark that the name of an ancestor of Sir John's, "The Honourable Sir John Swinburne, Bart.," occurs among the subscribers to Gordon's *Itinerarium Septentrionale*.

Amongst other eminent men of the early era must be reckoned Mr. Thomas Hodgson, the editor of the *Newcastle Chronicle*. He had, I have understood, a remarkable memory. It is said that without taking a single note he could report a speech verbatim; and that he actually did so report some of the election speeches of Earl Grey, the father of the present. He devoted himself to the study of Roman antiquities, and attained great cleverness in the elucidation of inscriptions. He left three MS. volumes containing disquisitions upon the Roman inscriptions of the north; and I have heard it stated that he contemplated a new edition of *The Britannia Romana*.

Amongst the names of those who attended the very first meeting of the Society is that of Mr. Nathaniel Clayton, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the father of our vice-president, Mr. John Clayton, who has done so much by pen and spade to elucidate the early history of our country, and who, until arthritic pains benumbed his limbs, attended our meetings so regularly, always cheering us by his presence.

At this first meeting, moreover, our early fathers showed their loyalty to the fair sex. The following is the last minute of that day's proceedings: "Mrs. Atkinson, of Temple Sowerby [the grandmother of our Mr. Clayton], was admitted an honorary member of the Society.—Signed on behalf of the meeting, John Carr." Those of us who have seen her library, and her collection of coins, as well as of

objects of natural history, all of which are preserved at Chesters, will not wonder that her merits as an antiquary obtained this mark of distinction.

Sir Charles Miles Lambert Monck, Bart., M.P., was present at the first meeting of our Society, and he was one of our first vice-presidents. The only reminiscence that I have of him was this : he attended the great banquet held in the Old Castle in 1848, but having left his hat, great coat, and umbrella in the lower dungeons, where we assembled before dinner, he descended to these lower chambers in the dark, after the banquet, and losing his way, was nearly detained in them all night. It is believed that Sir Charles Monck was the only person who was in the habit of quoting Greek in the House of Commons, to the astonishment, though not, probably, to the edification of the members.

The name of John Trotter Brockett occurs amongst those who assembled in Loftus's Long Room on the 23rd January, 1813, for the formation of this Society, and it continues upon its books until his death in 1842. He was a solicitor in good practice, but not being of a robust constitution his leisure hours were chiefly spent in retirement, and in the diligent cultivation of his favourite studies, literary and antiquarian. He was a skilful numismatist, and was successful in collecting a large number of rare and valuable books. His coins, like his books, were remarkable not only for their number but their perfect condition. He had a magnificent series of Roman gold coins, from the time of Julius Cæsar down to the very close of the Empire. I lived for two years next door to him in Albion Street, but to my great regret now I never saw either his coins or his books ; but my attention had not then been directed to the study of Archæology. Dr. Dibden, the author of the *Bibliographical Decameron*, however, visited him, and this is what he says of him—"In fact the zeal, activity, and anxiety of my friend, in all matters relating to the literary, scientific, and antiquarian welfare of his native town, have no limits, and know no diminution. They rise up and lie down with him. One thing particularly struck me in his closely-wedged, miscellaneous collection, the choice and nicety of each article:—A *golden Nero*, or a first *Walton's Angler*, was as well-nigh perfect as it might be ; and his *Horsley* was only equalled by his *Hock*." Again, the bibliographer



Bridget Atkinson

MRS. ATKINSON,
THE FIRST HONORARY MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

(From a Miniature in the possession of her Grandson, J. Clayton, Esq., F.S.A., Senior Vice-President.)





*Enn ymms sunneds
Lorn Haytes*





Truly yours
John Trotter Prockell



writes:—"Mr. Brockett is justly proud of his *Horsley*. He opened it with evident satisfaction. They are all at Newcastle necessarily *Horsley-mad*. I suffered him to enjoy his short-lived triumph. His copy was upon small paper, of most enviable size and condition. 'Were you ever at Belvoir Castle?' observed I. 'Never,' replied he. 'Then take care never to visit it; for *there* is a copy upon large paper such as eyes never beheld. Having seen and caressed it, you will throw this into the Tyne.' 'I shall take care to avoid Belvoir Castle,' was my friend's reply."

Mr. Brockett has bequeathed to posterity one important antiquarian work, his *Glossary of North Country Words*. This book is not one of mere temporary value. The speech of a people is indicative of their character. The simple and expressive words which are fast passing away from us, bespeak the blunt but manly habits of our ancestors. Even the local pronunciation of the various districts of the country is instructive. And here I may be permitted to introduce a little anecdote. Mr. Alderman George Forster, whom I remember in my early youth, had the burr like most of his fellow-townsmen. On a visit to London he put up at what is now Wood's Hotel, Furnival's Inn. Here he scraped acquaintance with a Dane. This gentleman one day said to the Alderman, "How long hab you been in dis contree?" He, thinking that he meant how long he had been in London, replied, "Three weeks." "Dearee me," said the Dane, "and you do speake de langidge nearly as well as I do who have been here tree monts." Perhaps we got our burr from Denmark. Railways are, however, destroying all our local peculiarities.

In our library are two manuscript volumes in folio, entitled *Annals and Historical Events relating to Newcastle-upon-Tyne*. They are from the pen of Mr. Brockett, and are very carefully compiled, and will prove of great value to any one who shall undertake to write a History of Newcastle. The penmanship of the volumes is exceedingly neat and clear.

Mr. Brockett's eldest son was a youth of singularly brilliant parts. Like his father he had a taste for antiquarian pursuits, and had the ordinary span of life been given him he would have greatly distinguished himself. He was a member of our Society for little more than a year, death cutting him off at an early age. His father

sustained the shock with much fortitude, but it is believed to have been the remote cause of his own death, which occurred in October, 1842, when he was only in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan, of Wallington, was one of our early members, and he continued with us to the last. He did not often attend our meetings, but he contributed to our Transactions many important inedited MSS., and laid us under great obligations by giving us several important Roman Sculptures and inscriptions, and presenting to our Library on various occasions many valuable books. The last present which he made us, as far as I recollect, was the *Ephemeris Epigraphica*; and about forty volumes, all that were then published, of the *Annali dell' Instituto di Corrispondenza Archeologica*, both of them works which are essential to every one following epigraphical pursuits. In having the panels of the grand central hall at Wallington filled with pictures representing important events in the history of Northumbria, he in a very effective and agreeable way has contributed to the advancement of archæological science.

The Rev. Anthony Hedley was another of the active spirits that animated the Institution in its earlier days. He was for some time curate of Hexham, and afterwards of St. John's Church in this town. But later in life he retired from active service and removed to Chesterholm, the VINDOLANA of the Romans, which was his property. Here he built for himself a small but ornate cottage. He excavated the station, and discovered several of those fine altars which now are safely lodged in the portico of the mansion at Chesters. He wrote a valuable paper on "The Etymology of the Names and Places in Northumberland," which appears in the first volume of the *Archæologia Æliana*. In this paper he mentions the tendency which modern improvements have to obliterate the ancient features of the country. "Within my own recollection," he says, "almost every *old* house in the dales of Rede and Tyne was what is called a *Peel* house, built for securing its inhabitants and their cattle in moss-trooping times." Mr. Hedley caught a death-chill whilst overlooking one day the excavation of a fine vessel in the station. He lies in the neighbouring churchyard of Beltingham, and when I visited his grave a Roman altar, with an obliterated inscription, lay upon it.

The Rev. William Turner, the minister of Hanover Square Chapel, was a frequent attendant at the meetings of the Society. He was a



Walter Calverley Trevelyan



most benevolent man, and had a general acquaintance with literature. He was one of the founders of the Literary and Philosophical Society. He was not a ready speaker, but he wrote shorthand well, and anything that he had written he could read quite fluently. He used, sometimes, at meetings, to scratch down in shorthand what he had occasion to say, not venturing to utter a single sentence without having done so. I remember one night when he was advertised to deliver a lecture in the Joiners' Hall, he was long in making his appearance. At last when he did come it was evident that he was in great tribulation. But what was the matter we could not find out. It was not without many a gasp and many a hiatus that he managed to let us know that he had lost, for the time being, his book of lectures, and that he could not go on without it. There is a paper by Mr. Turner in the first quarto volume of the *Archæologia Æliana*.*

Mr. William Peters, a lawyer in town, was another of the early members. If I remember rightly he was the last man but one in Newcastle who wore a pig-tail; Mr. Milner, the hardwareman, in Mosley Street, was the last. He was Steward of the Barony of Wark, and presided over the Court Leet of that Barony. In those days the North Tyne was spanned by fewer bridges than at present, and Mr. Peters had to cross it on horseback in the course of his peregrinations. On one occasion the river was fuller than he could have wished, and he took up a boy on his horse in front of him to keep him in the shallowest part. In spite of all, the horse got dangerously deep down in the water, and Mr. Peters' heart began to pant. "Are you not afraid?" he said to the boy. "No," says the boy, "I'm a top swimmer." I am afraid Mr. Peters was not comforted. He got safely over, however, to attend many more courts and meetings of the Society of Antiquaries.

Mr. G. A. Dickson, who, I believe, was a linen-draper in Newcastle, seems to have been an ardent friend of the Society in its earliest years. He presented several altars to it, and his descriptions of them are given in our Transactions.

Amongst the other generous donors of altars and other valuable relics were Mr. Gibson of Reedsmouth, who gave us the inscribed stones which had long lain about the station of Housesteads; the Rev. Mr. Wastell, of Newbrough, who ordered the antiquities found

* pp. 122 and 123.

upon his estate at Walltown to be sent to the Society ; and Lieutenant-Colonel Coulson, of Blenkinsopp, who gave the antiquities from Carvoran.

There is one name that stands prominent among the supporters of the Society, to which I must now refer—that of Mr. John Hodgson Hinde. For long occupied with politics, he being for many years one of the members for the borough of Newcastle, he was prevented from attending so much as he would the meetings of our Society. When relieved from these cares he was a tower of strength to us. He was an excellent scholar, he had a clear and a correct judgment, and was able to draw from the facts which he ascertained, wise and truthful conclusions. His papers are numerous, and of excellent quality.

The Society was at one time anxious that one of its members, if the right man could only be found, should complete the *History of Northumberland*, which the Rev. John Hodgson, to the regret of every one, had left unfinished. Many eyes were turned to Mr. Hodgson Hinde, and in accordance with general desire he compiled the first volume of the *History*—namely, that devoted to the general history of the county, which the original writer had not touched. But here he stopped. Again, at the instigation of Mr. Thomas Gray, a tobacconist in the town, he began to write a *History of Newcastle*, a few sheets of which were printed at the press of Mr. George Bouchier Richardson, one of our members. But Mr. Gray leaving the town the work was stopped. This I exceedingly regret. Mr. Hodgson Hinde had all the powers and the experience necessary to the authorship of a really good history of Newcastle. He read middle-age manuscripts with ease. If any one would have relieved him of the commercial and the mechanical part of the task, he would with pleasure have done all the mental work, for the mere pleasure of doing it, and let his mechanical colleague have had all the honour of it. I exceedingly regret that these ideas did not occur to me when he was still in his mental prime. I believe that if I, or some one else, had stood between him and the printing press the work would have been done.

Another of the early members of our Society was the Rev. Hugh Salvin, one of the clergy officiating under Mr. Collinson, in Gateshead. In the first volume of our quarto Transactions* is a paper by him, consisting of a translation from the German of a pamphlet by J.

* *Archæologia Æliana*, I., pp. 219-230.

Andreas Buchner, on the Devil's Wall, or great Roman Wall, in Germany. Although this pamphlet contained many erroneous views, it opened the eyes of Englishmen to this great Continental work of defence of the Roman era. It possibly prepared the way for Mr. Yates's able paper on the *Limes Rhoeticus*[‡] and *Limes Transrhenanus of the Roman Empire*,* which was read at the Newcastle meeting of the Archæological Institute in 1852, and for the still more complete and able treatise on the same subject by our Secretary, Dr. Hodgkin, which is published, accompanied by admirable illustrations, in the ninth volume of the new series of our Transactions.†

* see errata

Mr. Salvin was an able and very amiable man, and was besides well skilled in many branches of science. But like many able men, he was an absent man. On one occasion, when walking out to Jesmond to dine with Mr. Losh, he was overtaken by a heavy shower of rain, and was well nigh wet through. Mr. Losh kindly offered him a suit of his own clothes, and he went up into a bedroom to effect the change. When dinner was announced, Mr. Salvin did not make his appearance. After waiting a considerable time, a servant was sent up stairs to say that dinner was waiting. Mr. Salvin, forgetting the object for which he had gone up stairs, had undressed and got into bed, where he was comfortably reposing when the servant made his entry. I have been reminded by my friend, the Rev. E. H. Adamson, of another instance of Mr. Salvin's temporary obliviousness, which might have had serious results. Hurrying one day along the street he met his Rector, Mr. Collinson. After exchanging the usual greetings, they entered upon the discussion of an article which had appeared in a recent number of the *Edinburgh or Quarterly Review*, when all at once Mr. Salvin remembered that he had taken poison by mistake, and was on his way to a chemist's for an emetic. Happily, he was, after all, not too late. Mr. Salvin, at an early period in the history of our Society (1824), became a chaplain in the Royal Navy; but he eventually became Vicar of Alston, where he died in 1852.

One of the original members of our Society was Robert Surtees of

* *Proceedings of the Royal Archæological Institute*, 1852; Newcastle, Vol. I., pp. 97-134.

† *Archæologia Æliana*, IX., pp. 73-161.

Mainsforth, the author of *The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham*. I do not find that he took an active part in its affairs, or contributed any papers to its Transactions; but by giving the Society the countenance of his name, he added greatly to its strength. He was a truly able man; he was intimately acquainted with the Greek and Roman classics, his heraldic knowledge was deep, and his skill in tracing the pedigrees of the chief families of his county could not be surpassed. In the best and highest sense of the word, he was a good man; he delighted in doing good, and as far as was in his power, he rejoiced in making others happy. He was withal a bright and cheerful man, and no one loved a harmless joke more than he. He did not consider himself to be an antiquary, and in one of his letters to the Rev. John Hodgson, published in his *Life*, by Mr. Taylor, he says so; and yet he was an antiquary in reality of the highest order. He probably meant that he was not a Roman antiquary; and here I may be allowed to indulge in the expression of a thought which has often occurred to me. The field of antiquarian research is so extensive that few persons—none but those most highly gifted—can be skilled in all its parts. The circumstances by which we are surrounded, or our natural tastes, lead us to select the one or the other branch of archæological research—the field of British antiquities, or Roman, or Saxon, or Mediæval. Now, we are naturally disposed to think the field of our own peculiar choice to be preferable to all others, and to underrate the studies of our companions in other walks. The Black-letter antiquary is thankful that he does not waste his time over “Roman rubbish,” and the man who holds converse with the heroes of Imperial Rome is perhaps tempted to think lightly of “the mere Mediævalist.” On the other hand, the student of Egyptian and Babylonian hieroglyphics and sculptures is apt to crow over all. But surely there is room for us all. Why not rejoice in this division of labour, and why not encourage one another to pursue diligently the paths we have severally chosen. The North of England presents a very inviting field to the student of Roman antiquities; it is nothing remarkable therefore, if topics of this nature are more frequently brought before this Society than those of other eras; but assuredly the student of this branch of archæology would greatly forget himself if he were not willing, most gladly to give way and welcome to the front the inquirer



Robert Surtees



into the ways of the original inhabitants of our country, or of our Saxon forefathers, or of the men who flourished under the Plantagenets and Tudors.

I have said that Mr. Surtees was a man of humour. He loved a joke. He was a mediæval antiquary, and he sometimes made fun of what I may call his elder brethren. He was amused at the eagerness with which Roman antiquaries often scan a coin. I have been told that in the indulgence of this vein he used occasionally, when crossing the Tyne Bridge at Newcastle, or the Framwelgate Bridge at Durham; to toss a penny or a halfpenny into the water, that the antiquaries of a subsequent era might have the rich satisfaction of examining and describing them, of smelling and tasting them. Here are some lines of his upon what he calls—

RUSTY MEDALS.

“Oh! the antiquary’s pleasure!
 Rusty medals are his treasure
 Many a canker’d piece he pores on,
 With heads of ancient sons of — on,
 Antoninus, Galba, Trajan,
 Many an ugly, grinning pagan,
 Neither nose nor eyes remaining—
 That’s the field to show his training.
 He can run by scent and savour;
 Knows an Otho by the flavour”—
 &c. &c. &c.

It is well known that he was the author of the piece of which the following is the first stanza :—*

“Hoot awa’, lads, hoot awa’,
 Ha’ ye heard how the Ridleys, and Thirlwalls, and a’,
 Ha’ set upon Albany Fetherstonhaugh,
 And taken his life at the Deadmanshaugh:
 There was Willimoteswick,
 And Hardriding Dick,
 And Hughie of Hawden, and Will of the Wa’,
 I canna’ tell a’, I canna’ tell a’,
 And mony a mair that the deil may knaw.”
 &c. &c.

which Sir Walter Scott introduces into his *Marmion*† as a genuine antique.

* *Life of Surtees* (Surtees Society, Vol XXIV.), p. 238.

† Canto I., Note M.

No one was more anxious to avoid hurting the feelings of another, and yet on this subject he seems to have been unable to restrain a laugh at the expense of his friend the historian of Northumberland.

It seems that the Rev. John Hodgson and he had examined the Roman camp at Jarrow together, and that in their friendly conversation, Mr. Hodgson had laid particular stress upon the finding of a *denarius* of Vitellius, and giving it as a proof of the Roman occupation of the place. In due course the second volume of the *History of Durham* makes its appearance, and after giving in it an account of some Roman inscriptions which were found in Jarrow, and some Roman foundations and a wall, he concludes the sentence with these words:—
 “And on this very spot was found a silver coin of Aulus Vitellius.”
 He does not put a note of exclamation after the statement of this fact, but he appends the following note:—

“‘Trifles light as air, &c.

[Are to the jealous confirmation strong as proofs of holy writ.]

I am well aware of the force of this piece of artillery when pointed against antiquaries, yet a Denarius of Aulus Vitellius, which weighs, or, according to the best Paris goldsmiths, ought to weigh, sixty grains, found exactly where it should be, is no such trifle. ‘Friendly reader,’ if thou dost not believe, *ex imo corde*, that a Roman station, fort, or village, on the line or within the pale of Agricola’s wall, existed at Jarrow, ‘I do in very sober sadness, call thee *Giaour*,’ and thou wilt recollect that I am now far advanced into the middle provinces, the Flavia Cæsariensis of a second volume, without having hitherto had occasion to adjure so powerful a spirit as Tom Coryat.* Surtees had finished his course before Hodgson published his account of Jarrow, and the reference which the historian of Northumberland makes to the note we have quoted is brief and kindly in the highest degree. He says:†—“Though Surtees, of dear and revered memory, has told some of the opinions I mentioned on the spot respecting the Roman origin of Jarrow, in a tone of sceptical levity, he has not, however, scattered all of them to the winds.” He then gives his reasons for supposing that Jarrow might be a place for traffic in corn, and goes on to show the use he wished to make of the coin of Vitellius. His remarks are:—

* *History of Durham*, Vol. II, p. 69.

† *History of Northumberland*, Part II., Vol. III., p. 230.

“Aulus Vitellius was destroyed in A.D. 69, after a short reign of 352 days: as his coins therefore could not be in quantity enough to continue long in circulation, it seems probable to infer that the wall in which the forementioned denarius was found was constructed not many years after his death.” He adds that it may have been put up by the soldiers of Agricola, but certainly not later than the reign of Hadrian.

Years ago the pen so ably wielded by the amiable and gifted Hodgson, fell from his hand, and his history, as well as that of his much esteemed fellow-labourer, has been left incomplete. To our able Vice-President, Mr. W. Hylton Dyer Longstaffe, the antiquarian world looks for the completion of the *History of Durham*, and our fellow-member, Mr. Cadwallader J. Bates, has shown in the numerous papers which he has laid before the Institute and our Society, how specially fitted he is to follow in the footsteps of the lamented Hodgson. Should I be right in my forecast on this subject, every British patriot must wish both of these gentlemen success in their labours.

On the 5th July, 1815, “The Rev. J. Raine, proposed by Messrs. Hodgson, Murray, and Brumell, was balloted for and unanimously elected.” So say the minutes of that date. Dr. Raine, the author of *North Durham*, and other works of importance, was always heartily welcomed when he was able to attend our meetings. He was the friend of Hodgson and Surtees, and the helper of both. I well remember his last appearance amongst us. He read on that occasion a paper on some *Inscriptions in Chillingham Castle*, which appears in the third volume of the *Archæologia Æliana*, 8vo. series.* In a note to this paper Mr. Longstaffe has the following remarks: “The hand of death has been heavy in 1858. The late Dr. Raine proposed to inspect the inscriptions at Chillingham, to which the excellent paper given above refers, and to revise his essay. The lamentable decay of his health prevented his intended journey. His words now can only be given as they were read at our anniversary meeting, but they possess a high interest as almost his last literary effort, and for their admirable delineations of character.”

As this paper is probably in the hands of very few of our present members, I may perhaps be permitted to extract from it a humorous

* pp. 277-286.

account of the courtship of Robert Lambe, the Vicar of Norham, more than a century ago. Dr. Raine thought that Mr. Lambe, who was literally "dripping with Latin and Greek," might be the author of the Chillingham inscriptions. But let that pass. Latin and Greek do not satisfy all the wants of life. Lambe had for some time been Minor Canon in the Cathedral of Durham. "He had not long been settled in Norham," says Dr. Raine, "before he began to feel the want of a wife; and along with the want came the recollection of a young woman who resided in Durham, of the name of Philadelphia Nelson, the daughter of a well-known carrier between London and Edinburgh, and a female of high character and respectability, upon whom he was not long in settling his affections. The result was a proposal by letter; and in due time the lovesick Vicar was accepted. Another request was then made, which, even to the carrier's daughter, must, I think, have appeared to be of somewhat an unusual kind:—'I cannot leave my parish to come to you. I really wish you would put yourself into one of your father's waggons and come down to me. I will meet you on such a day at Berwick; but as I want our meeting to be as private as possible, and as I have no very distinct recollection of your personal appearance, I have to propose that you will meet me upon the pier there, with a tea caddy under your arm to prevent any chance of mistake.' There was then living in Berwick a person of the name of Howe, who had risen to high rank in the Navy, and who, thrice a day, for the sake of exercise, walked to the end of this said pier, and then returned home to his meals. One day, before dinner, the gallant old Admiral met in his walk a young woman with a tea caddy under her arm, who, as he saw at once, was a stranger; but he took no further notice of the matter. Before tea, after an interval of three or four hours, he met in the same place the same person, walking up and down with the caddy under her arm, and looking townwards with an anxious eye; but still he spoke not—neither did she. Late in the evening the Admiral went out for his third and concluding walk, and, sure enough, there was the self-same female, no longer walking up and down with the tea caddy, but sitting upon a stone, fairly worn out, with the tea caddy beside her, and apparently anxious to be spoken to, that she

might have an opportunity of telling her tale of distress. The Admiral's gallantry was touched by her beseeching eye. He addressed her, and heard her tale of Lambe and his breach of promise to meet her on that very day and make her his wife at Norham. 'Ha! said he, 'Robin Lambe is a great friend of mine. This is just like him. He has forgot all about it; but he'll make you a capital husband. Come home with me, young woman, and you shall be kindly treated for the night.' The girl, nothing fearing, complied. In the morning he put her into a coach, and went along with her to Norham. Lambe blushed and apologised, and the two were married a few days afterwards, the Admiral giving the bride away."

It seems a pity to add another word to this amusing and bright story. But how often in life is it that dark clouds overshadow the brightest prospects. Dr. Raine adds:—"The poor girl died in childbed of her first child—a daughter."

In the list of members of the Society for the year 1822, I notice the name of "Mr. John Buddle, Wallsend, Northumberland." Mr. Buddle was at that time a prominent character amongst the notabilities of the North, and for many years subsequently. At a period when the coal trade held its head above all the industries of the district, he was its chief representative—being the most distinguished "viewer" of the North. He was a man of agreeable presence, and of great conversational powers. He did not take an active part in the proceedings of our Society; but he had the good sense to belong to it. It was from him that I first learned the fact that the eastern rampart of the station of SEGEDUNUM, Wallsend, was continued down the bank into the River Tyne to the lowest point of the tide. Bathing in the river when a boy, he had often noticed this fact. I heard him relate the following incident which, though not of antiquarian interest, gives us a picture of times that are past. One of his pitmen, out of regard to him, had gathered for his use a large quantity of hazel nuts, and not wishing to give his master the trouble of divesting them of their shells he had brought them all under the influence of his own grinders. Mr. Buddle in accepting the kind present, remarked to the donor that he had been at the trouble to crack them. "Yes" said the pitman, "and did not my ja's wark (ache)." I have heard Mr. Buddle remark

that the pitmen had already nearly all lost the pit language. They had become refined in their speech. There are no pitmen now-a-days, they are all "miners." There are no "viewers," they have all become "mining engineers."

I have stated that when the Society removed from the Old Castle it held its meetings in Farrington's Yard, Bigg Market. After a time the members assembled for a short period in Mr. Adamson's house. When, however, the Literary and Philosophical Society erected their present commodious premises, the Society procured apartments in the same building. These were in the rear of the structure, but were eventually absorbed by the present lecture room.

For several years the anniversary meetings of the Society were succeeded by an "annual dinner"—price, one guinea. This festive entertainment must have caused a large expenditure of mental energy. A report of one of them (January, 1829) is given in one of Mr. Bell's newspaper cuttings; and I find that not less than twenty-seven toasts were given, and most of them responded to. Hard work this!

During the history of this Society, I only know of one man who was black-balled. That person was Mr. Eneas Mackenzie, the well-known author of Histories of Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham. This took place on the 3rd March, 1824. Perhaps this circumstance accounts for a remark which Mr. Mackenzie makes in his account of the Antiquarian Society in his History of Newcastle:—"This Society has not evinced much zeal in the discovery of the remains of antiquity."*

As is the case with most societies, ours has had its times of dullness as well as of prosperity. In the Annual Report for 1847, the following passage occurs:—"The Council regret to state that only one new ordinary member has been added to the list, while three have been lost to the Society by death or resignation. . . . The member added is the Rev. J. C. Bruce." I may be pardoned if I make another extract from the same document, as it indicates the beginning of a new state of things. "The Rev. J. C. Bruce read a lecture on the Castles of England, and particularly that of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, illustrated with large and beautiful drawings.

* p. 487.



John Bruce

MASTER OF PERCY STREET ACADEMY,
ONE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE LIT. AND PHIL. SOC.
ONE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOC. OF ANTIQUARIES,
AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOLMASTERS ASSOCIATION
OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Born 1775 Died Oct. 31st 1834 Aged 59.

*Engraved by W. Colford, from an Original Portrait by H.P. Barker
in the Possession of M^r. Bruce.*

It was proposed that a Committee should be formed to see what could be done towards the preservation and restoration of the Old Castle, and to solicit subscriptions."

A committee was formed, and it set to work vigorously. As a proof of the success of their exertions, I may refer to a minute of the proceedings of the Society at its annual meeting the next year (1848):—"A vote of thanks to the Corporation for so readily having granted a lease of the Castle, and for the munificent donation of £250 towards the restoration of the building, was carried by acclamation."

The work of restoration was begun at once, under the care of Mr. Dobson, an eminent architect of that day; and on the 3rd August of the same year, the banquet, to which I have already referred, was held in the great hall, to commemorate our occupation of the grand old keep. Long ago we had an eye to the Black Gate. In the *Gateshead Observer* of October 6th, 1855, is the following reference to the subject, at a meeting held here on the previous Wednesday:—"Dr. Charlton returned to the subject of the Black Gate of the Castle. The Duke of Northumberland, he said, had suggested its conversion into a muniment room, in which Newcastle and Northumberland records and papers might be preserved for reference. He should regret to see a relic, of which they ought to be so proud, destroyed or occupied as miserable tenements. Mr. Clayton, who was in the chair, said "the town, he was sure, would view the question with no sordid feelings. The Black Gate now yielded a revenue to the Corporation of £60, being occupied by twelve families comprising sixty individuals. It was a garrison in itself. No doubt it could be restored, or rather developed—for little restoration would be required. And in doing so the Corporation would only be following up the step which they took some forty years ago, when they purchased the Castle from the grantees of the Crown, and preserved it from destruction. The purchase was made in 1813, at a cost of £600; besides which a larger sum, probably, had been expended on the Castle, but no account had been kept. The inhabitants of the Black Gate, he was inclined to believe, would be loth to abandon their stronghold, for there were families in it who had lived there twenty years."

Now, happily, the Black Gate has been developed, and put to a use worthy of its historic interest.

After the Society removed from the rooms of the Literary Society to the Castle, as its permanent abode, it recovered its former vigour and activity. But there were some signs of the formation of two parties—the old party and the young party. The young ones thought that the old ones did not move fast enough—the old ones thought the young ones wanted to go too fast. Now that I am an old man, and have the feelings of one, I wish, in reviewing this part of our Society's history, that we of the young party had deferred more to the feelings of the founders of the Society—Mr. Adamson and Mr. Bell. I wish that all feeling had been repressed, and that we had patiently waited till each step could have been unanimously and harmoniously taken. However, we are thoroughly harmonious now, and long may we continue to be so.

And now I have done. These jottings have run on to a greater length than I had anticipated, and yet I have left unnamed several men who served the Society well.

Sir Cuthbert Sharp, the author of the *History of Hartlepool*, the *Memorials of the Rebellion of 1569*, and of the *Bishopric Garlands*, was one of its earliest members, but, on his removal to a distance, he ceased to attend; but he rejoined us when he became Collector of the Customs of Newcastle. He backed up us of the younger party in our little controversies, on account of which, I suppose, Mr. Bell, in his Collections, amusingly denominates him "Cuddy Sharp." Mr. John Fenwick, was an early member, and he continued to be so till his death. Dr. Charlton was the author of several papers in our Transactions, and did good service for many years in the capacity of Secretary. The late Mr. Ralph Carr-Ellison was an earnest worker; of him I have already given some jottings (see *Proceedings*, Vol. I., p. 125). Mr. Kell, a solicitor, and for some time Town Clerk of Gateshead, helped on greatly the common cause. He rendered me invaluable assistance in the pilgrimage along the Roman Wall, which some of us undertook in the summer of 1848; and he was the soul of the Melodies Committee, which put forth strenuous efforts to preserve from oblivion the ancient music of Northumbria; and Mr. Robert White, who was a poet as well



*Very truly yours,
Ralph Carr Ellison.*

RALPH CARR-ELLISON, Esq., J.P.,
ONE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY.





Yours truly
Robert White.

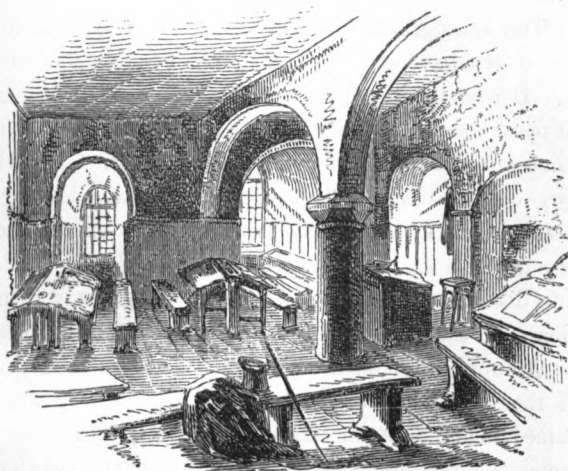




as an antiquary. He was the author of a valuable work on the Battle of Otterburn, of papers in our Transactions on the Battles of Flodden Field and Neville's Cross, and of another in which he pays a graceful tribute to the memory of Mr. J. Hodgson Hinde. He wrote also several interesting papers for *Richardson's Table Book*.* These old members, and several others, I hope, some one else will ere long bring under our notice.

My remarks have for the most part been of a light and trivial nature. My papers, usually, from the dryness of their details, are not a little trying to the patience of those who are not addicted to epigraphical pursuits. In endeavouring for once to change my course, I have, perhaps, overshot the mark; in which case I hope you will excuse me.

* For a genial notice of Mr. Robert White, by Mr. Clephan, see *Archæologia Æliana*, Vol. VII., p. 274, etc.



Library of the Society in the Castle; formerly used as a School Room.