

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

M.DCCC.LXXXVI.

IN the year which has just closed, the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne has held on its way without meeting with many events that call for special remark.

Twenty-five new members have been added to its list; but as the losses by deaths, resignations, etc., amount to twenty-three, the net accession to our membership is only two. Our numbers now stand at 257, of whom 19 are Honorary Members.

The monthly meetings of the Society have been kept up with spirit, our only difficulties arising from the occasional presence of more members than our room could comfortably accommodate, and the presentation of more papers than could conveniently be read in the short space allotted to our evening meetings.

Among these papers we may especially refer to the "Notes" by Dr. Bruce "on the Founders and Early Members of the Society," and to papers read by Mr. Cadwallader J. Bates and the Rev. J. L. Low on the respective parishes of Heddon-on-the-Wall and Whittonstall.

Dr. Bruce's "Notes" will, we hope, prevent the members of this Society (whose sole object is enquiry into the records of the past) from being ill-informed as to the past of their own body; while the descriptions of the two parishes above named, each carefully prepared by the inhabitant who is most thoroughly acquainted with its past history, seem to indicate the mode in which, by a well-devised system of co-operation, we may yet attain that great desideratum of Northern Archaeology, a complete, accurate, and interesting History of the County of Northumberland.

In connection with this subject we may refer to the important work which the writer of one of the above-mentioned papers is preparing, in

illustration of the feudal antiquities of the county of Northumberland. During the past year Mr. Bates has been engaged in collecting further materials for his account of "The Border Strengths of Northumberland," and at the country meetings held by the Society at Dunstanburgh and Bothal, he read the notes he had already prepared with reference to these castles. Photographs of most of the mediaeval towers, taken by Mr. J. P. Gibson, of Hexham, at the time of the visit of the Archaeological Institute, have been most generously placed by him at the disposal of the Society; and the following, among others, have handsomely contributed towards reproducing this series by the Autotype, Ink-photo, and other processes:—The Duke of Portland (Bothal and Cockle Park), The Duke of Rutland (Etal), The Earl of Tankerville (Chillingham and Hebburn), The Earl of Ravensworth (Whittingham), Sir W. B. Riddell, Bart. (Hepple), Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., M.P. (Willimoteswick), Mr. George Howard (Morpeth and Thirlwall), Sir W. G. Armstrong (Cartington and Tosson), Mr. Watson Askew (Howtell), Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet (Rock), Miss Cresswell (Preston), Mr. John Clayton (Cocklaw), Mr. H. T. Morton (Hethpool), Mr. Hugh Taylor (Chipchase), Mr. John Hall (Bywell), Mr. Adamson (Tynemouth), etc., etc. The Duke of Northumberland has given a considerable sum for the purpose of illustrating, in a similar manner, the Castles of Alnwick, Warkworth, and Prudhoe, Newburn Hall, etc., besides lending to the Society the valuable blocks engraved for Hartshorne's Volume. Views have still to be taken of several other buildings in the County, and much has to be done in providing satisfactory ground plans. We are sure that our members will agree that this work is one worthy of the Society which has already produced the *Lapidarium Septentrionale* to illustrate the antiquities of a yet earlier age, and will wish Mr. Bates all success in completing his arduous and voluntarily undertaken labours. Mr. Bates suggested that a sum not exceeding £20 be voted by the Society for copying documents in the Record Office and the Bodleian, and this expenditure the Council recommend to the Society, believing that it will be fully justified by the results.

During the past year one of the old towers of Newcastle, that known as the Gunner Tower, situate in Pink Lane, has been demolished. Standing as it did in the immediate neighbourhood of the Central Station, where every yard of land is precious, it had of necessity an unusually precarious life, and, owing to the alterations which it had undergone in comparatively recent times, it had lost much of its interest for archaeologists. Your Council accordingly, which desires never to trouble the Corporation with unnecessary remonstrances, did not

make any effort to avert the destruction of the Gunner Tower. They are disposed to take a different view of the question of the preservation of the Corner Tower, which is in some degree threatened by contemplated improvements in its neighbourhood. They suggest that a committee be appointed to report upon the antiquarian value of this building, and, if necessary, to prepare a memorial to the City Council against the demolition.

While on this subject we may mention that the interesting and valuable thirteenth century Chapel of St. Edmund's, Gateshead, is in danger of utter destruction owing to its site being required for a new church. It is earnestly hoped that in so large a town as Gateshead some other site for the needed church may be obtained, without destroying so precious a monument of ecclesiastical antiquity.

We have not many archaeological discoveries to record for the past year, but we may mention the interesting find of Roman milestones, five in number, which have been discovered on Mr. Clayton's property at a spot exactly one Roman mile to the east of Chesterholm, the ancient VINDOLANA. These milestones bear the names of various Emperors, the earliest of whom is Severus Alexander and the latest is Constans.

In the course of the past year excursions have been made to Ryton, Dunstanburgh, Bishop Auckland and Bothal—the first and the last conjointly with the Durham and Northumberland Archaeological Society. For hospitality received and offered during our visits, we have to thank the Bishop of Durham, our colleague Mr. Bosanquet, Mr. Craster, the Vicars of Longhoughton and Escomb, and Mr. Sample.

It is proposed in the course of the present year to repeat the experiment of a pilgrimage along the line of the Roman Wall which was so successfully performed thirty-seven years ago, under the leadership of Dr. Bruce, and the Society will, we trust, be again favoured with the same experienced guidance.

The British Archaeological Association propose to hold their annual congress in the neighbouring county of Durham under the presidency of the Bishop of the Diocese, and it is not improbable that our Society may be invited to join in some of their excursions.

The Treasurer of the Black Gate Reparation Fund reports a balance in hand of £141 8s. 4d. The liabilities to the contractor and architect amount to £232 14s. 11d. It will thus be seen that he still requires nearly £100 to enable him to close the accounts, and for this sum he earnestly appeals to the liberality of the members, especially those who have not yet contributed to this most successful work.

Dr. **WILLIAM DODD, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT**

1886.		£	s.	d.
January.—	To Balance brought forward	358	1	5
	„ Subscriptions	244	13	0
	„ Collections at the Castle	91	1	6
	„ Interest	13	10	0
	„ Books sold	46	10	0

*Examined with the Vouchers and found correct,
for self and*

SHERITON HOLMES, }
JOHN PHILIPSON, } AUDITORS.

January 26th, 1886.

£753 15 11

WITH THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Cr.

1886.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January.—By	PRINTING AND STATIONERY:—						
	Andrew Reid	93	16	0			
	Geo. Nicholson	51	10	6			
	Journal Office	34	11	0			
					179	17	6
	„ ENGRAVINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, &C.:—						
	R. B. Utting	22	6	0			
	Sprague & Co.	15	15	0			
	Photo-Engraving Co.	9	8	7			
	Autotype Co.	6	19	5			
	The Meisenbach Co.	3	12	0			
	J. P. Gibson	0	10	0			
					58	11	0
	„ BOOKS AND BINDING:—						
	Asher & Co.	4	0	0			
	T. W. Waters	5	9	0			
	Jos. Foster	3	3	0			
	Lukis's <i>Stone Monuments of Cornwall</i>	0	15	0			
	A. Reid	0	7	6			
	C. Robinson	0	15	0			
	Griffin & Co.	0	7	6			
	Douglas & Foulis	0	18	0			
	Palmer's <i>The Tyne</i>	0	10	6			
	Rev. J. R. Boyle, Brand MSS.	10	0	0			
	W. Downing	1	1	6			
	Whiting & Co.	0	8	4			
	R. Robinson	0	13	0			
					28	8	4
	„ J. Gibson, 1 year's Salary				65	0	0
	„ S. Burton, for Bookcase				13	12	0
	„ J. Ventriss				5	17	6
	„ G. H. Moor				0	5	0
	„ J. A. Dotchin				0	16	0
	„ H. Watson				0	7	4
	„ Rent, Castle and Black Gate				1	12	6
	„ Insurance do.				3	7	6
	„ Income Tax				0	14	0
	„ Milling & Co.				0	6	6
	„ Subscription to Surtees Society				1	1	0
	„ Do. Harleian Society				1	1	0
	„ Compiling Index <i>Archaeologia and Proceedings</i>				5	5	0
	„ 2 Cheque Books				0	5	0
	„ Postage and Carriage				20	19	5
	„ Expenses, Country Meetings				1	12	3
	„ Coals and Firewood				2	5	6
	„ Commission on Subscriptions				11	10	0
	„ Sundries				0	8	6
	„ Balance				351	3	1

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