

to their successors the sense which we entertain of his great abilities, his true gentlemanly feeling, his kindness, and the value of his labours in elucidating the history of the land we love—the land of our nativity.

I ought not to add another word; but I think I may say that I doubt not but that his successor will follow in his footsteps. One thing I know he intends to do, and that is to take steps by which all the altars, the carved stones, the vases, and the various interesting relics which have been collected by the late Mr. Clayton during his long continued investigation of the Wall, and which are now deposited in various places in the house and in the grounds, may be brought together in one place, arranged in proper order, and rendered easily accessible to the student who has leave to visit the station of Cilurnum. This, at least, is one step in the right direction.

2.—CHARLES ROACH SMITH, F.S.A., Honorary Member; by Dr. Bruce [read on the 27th August, 1890].

It was my sad and solemn duty at the last meeting of our Society to call your attention to the loss we had sustained in the removal by death of our aged and much valued friend Mr. Clayton. At that time I had by me a letter from another valued friend and honorary associate, Mr. Charles Roach Smith, which I had intended to read on the occasion, but which in the excitement of the moment I neglected to do. I now produce it. It runs thus:—

TEMPLE PLACE, STROOD, July 16th, 1890.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

At present all I can say is that I should wish it recorded that but for my serious illness I should attend Mr. Clayton's funeral.

Years ago I proposed that a medal should be struck of him. This I hope will be one of the honours paid to his memory. Vol. 3 of my *Retrospections* has much about him. Shall I live to complete it?

Ever yours sincerely, C. ROACH SMITH.

On Saturday, the 2nd of August, shortly after noon, Mr. Roach Smith departed this life. He was, it is believed, about 84 or 85 years of age. His loss to the antiquarian world and those who had the pleasure of personally knowing him is very great.

Mr. Roach Smith was born at Landguard, near Shanklin, in the Isle of Wight.

His school-days being passed he was sent to Chichester and

apprenticed to a chemist there. Along with other books, his master happened to have a copy of *Pinkerton on Coins and Medals*. This he read to relieve him of the tedium of his life, for he did not like his profession. One day while waiting for change in a shop he noticed in the till across the counter what he fancied must be a Roman coin. He was right; it was a second brass coin of the elder Faustina. Unlooked-for good fortune soon followed (he tells us in his *Retrospections*) and placed in his hands a considerable number of Roman denarii. The discovery of a Roman altar in his neighbourhood and a visit to the Roman villa at Bignor fostered his antiquarian tastes, and prepared him for the important work he was to do in his maturer years.

In due time he found it desirable to commence business on his own account. He migrated to London and secured premises in Lothbury at the back of the Bank of England. In this crowded neighbourhood he succeeded well in business. At this time extensive excavations were being carried on for improvements in the city. By this means large tracts of Roman remains were discovered. These attracted our friend's attention, and he resolved to study and understand them. As the city authorities at that time cared nothing for the antiquarian remains which were discovered Mr. Roach Smith was able to add many of them to his own collection. These in time became so important that he was induced to write a paper upon them for the Society of Antiquaries. The sequel of this was his being elected a Fellow of the Society 'by one of the largest majorities ever known in a ballot of the Society.'

Meanwhile the excavations in the city were proceeding eastward and ramifying in all directions. The piling and the foundations of old London Bridge were being removed and the river deepened by the process called ballast-heaving. This (he tells us) opened a little mine of Roman art; coins, bronze statuettes of the most exquisite workmanship, a fine bronze head of a statue of Hadrian, and other objects were found. These were not neglected by Mr. Roach Smith. Perfect success (he says) attended his business, so that he could afford to be liberal in prosecuting his researches.

Now adversity overtook him. The houses in Lothbury were wanted for city improvements and he was turned out of his shop. Unfriendly influences prevented him procuring another in that



CHARLES ROACH SMITH, F.S.A.

(From the *Illustrated London News*, by permission of the publishers.)



vicinity, and he was obliged to transfer his business to Liverpool Street, a comparatively dull and quiet neighbourhood. Here he enjoyed one advantage: he had ample space in which to display the objects in his museum. For long this museum had been an object of attraction, and was visited by inquiring students and antiquaries of distinction. By this means he tells us he formed many friendships. When I began to pay attention to Roman antiquities I found a visit to Liverpool Street to be a great advantage. In his *Retrospections* he writes, 'Mr. John Brodribb Bergne brought me and Dr. J. Collingwood Bruce together, and the great Roman Wall and its wonderful teachings.' In the North of England the Romans were always subject to the incursions of their enemies, and hence the strengthening of their positions, not the adornment of their dwellings, was the chief object to be aimed at. In the south they enjoyed perfect security, and hence could indulge in all the luxuries of advanced civilization. In Mr. Roach Smith's museum, and through his kindly instructions, I was able to obtain much valuable information which was of use to me in my northern studies.

After a time his business in Liverpool Street dwindled away, and he resolved to relinquish it and to retire into the country. Temple Place, in the outskirts of Strood, in Kent, became his residence. Here he had an excellent garden which employed his leisure. In cultivating it he manifested great skill, producing the finest grapes in the open air, and other fruits of great excellence. Here, however, he had his troubles, the neighbouring stream occasionally flooding his garden.

Before leaving London he found it necessary to dispose of his museum. He would only part with it on condition that it was kept entire, as its usefulness would otherwise be greatly diminished. The late Lord Londesborough, an antiquary of repute, and who was one of his personal friends, sent him a cheque for £3,000, but as he could not undertake to preserve the collection entire, the sum was returned. The museum was eventually transferred to the British Museum for the sum of £2,000, where it now remains in its integrity.

During the active part of his life Mr. Roach Smith visited various parts of England, studying their antiquities, and in many cases originating and superintending excavations which were needful for their display. He visited France several times, and he was successful in more than one instance in drawing the attention of the authorities

to the value and importance of the Roman remains in their neighbourhood. Occasionally he visited us in this district. In his *Retro-spections* he has this sentence, 'Mr. John Bell, of Gateshead, was my oldest correspondent in the north; but after the Chester congress I visited Dr. Bruce, and by him was introduced to Mr. John Clayton, and the Roman Wall, and thus had the great advantage of studying this noble monument of Roman power from sea to sea.' His last visit to these parts was in July of last year, when he met us at our monthly meeting here, and afterwards went to Chesters.

One of the most important actions of his life was the part he took in the origination of the British Archaeological Association. This Association, through some misunderstanding, gave rise in a very short space of time to the Royal Archaeological Institute; and, owing to the springing up of these two active antiquarian societies, numerous other county institutions have been formed. The Association dates from the year 1843, and all the rest are subsequent to it; so that our Newcastle Society, which sprang into being in 1813, can look down upon them all with patronizing approval.

Mr. Roach Smith was the author and the editor of several important works. The earliest and the chief of these is the *Collectanea Antiqua*, containing etchings and notices of ancient remains, illustrative of the habits, customs, and history of past ages. He lived to issue seven volumes of this work. One object which he had in view in the preparation of it was to show how necessary it was that papers descriptive of antiquarian objects should be well illustrated, and that the needful illustrations did not require to be elaborate. In the preface to the first volume he says—'For purposes of science it is not necessary that sketches should be elaborately prepared and artistically finished. Truth and fidelity to the objects portrayed are indispensable; but these requisites may be ensured by a little care and attention; and it is better that engravings be given, even rudely, and in the slightest outline, if supplied liberally, than that they should be limited in number for the sake of elaborate execution.' He thought also that some of our existing publications were governed by councils 'interested only in one subject, who would be tempted to undervalue the labours of their colleagues who worked in a different field.' The *Collectanea Antiqua* certainly abounds with information upon every antiquarian subject, and is most abundantly illustrated.

Several volumes in 4to, abundantly illustrated, came from his pen; these were *The Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver, and Lymne; Illustrations of Roman London; Reports of Excavations on Sites of Roman Castra at Pevensey and Lymne*. He published in 8vo *Notes on the Antiquities of Trèves, Mayence, Wiesbaden, Niederbieber, Bonn, and Cologne*; and *A Catalogue of his Museum of London Antiquities*.

Mr. Roach Smith was an ardent admirer of Shakespeare, and he published two small works having reference to our great poet—*The Rural Life of Shakespeare as illustrated by his Works*; and *Shakespeare: his Birthplace, etc.*

Mr. Roach Smith edited two books of great importance. One of these was the *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, which is an account of a very important collection of Saxon antiquities dug up in the county of Kent by the Rev. Bryan Fausset, between the years 1757 and 1773. As Saxon antiquities are very rare, this book is of great value. The collection, after being declined by the British Museum, was purchased by Mr. Mayer, of Liverpool. The other book is one which bears the date of 1889. It is *A Dictionary of Roman Coins*, commenced by the late Seth William Stevenson, F.S.A., revised in part by C. Roach Smith, F.S.A., and completed by Frederick W. Madden, M.R.A.S. When I state that it is illustrated by seven hundred engravings on wood, chiefly executed by the late F. W. Fairholt, F.S.A., its value may be easily conceived.

His latest work was *Retrospections, Social and Archaeological*: Of this two volumes have been published, and a third was far advanced at press when the pen fell from his hand. The book, as its title implies, consists of pleasant reminiscences of his personal history and travels, and kindly notices of the friends he had found in life's journey. Amongst other things he describes his various visits to the Roman Wall. I will make only one extract from the work; it occurs in the first volume:—'My visit [to the Wall] with Mr. Fairholt, engaged by Dr. Bruce to make sketches for his *Roman Wall*, was a bright holiday: He was not a little surprized in finding upon the breakfast table of the hotel at Newcastle, where we stayed the night after our arrival, a free pass for the railway from Newcastle to Carlisle during our stay, so long as that might be. I at once recognized the benign influence of my friend at Chesters. These visits brought me into personal acquaintance with Mr. John Fenwick, Dr. Charlton, Mr. Hylton Longstaffe,

Mr. Hodgson Hinde, Mr. Kell, Mr. Brockett, Mr. Adamson, Mr. John Bell, Mr. Matthew Clayton, and other eminent men, conspicuous where so many are eminent; for in art, science, and literature, Newcastle can show a splendid array of worthies. Of all whom I have named, Mr. Longstaffe is the only survivor. From the ardour with which he walked with me and Mr. Robert Blair from the Chesters to Procolitia, a few years since, and from his apparent good health, I hope he may be long spared to us.'

Mr. Roach Smith suffered from an illness extending over a period of nine or ten months, but it was not until six days before his death that he was confined to his bed. Some time ago the archaeologists of England, headed, I believe, by Dr. John Evans, president of the Society of Antiquaries of London, conceived the idea of having a medal struck in his honour bearing his likeness. So heartily was the measure entered into that after paying for the medal a hundred pounds of the subscriptions remained. In consequence of our friend's advancing illness, the presentation of the medal and the accumulated funds had to be done in private. I can conceive how much he would be cheered by the thoughtfulness and liberality of his admirers.

Mr. Roach Smith was a kind man. He took an especial interest in the young men of Strood and Rochester, and spared no pains to promote their interests. The *Chatham and Rochester Observer* newspaper, in noticing Mr. Roach Smith's death, has these remarks, and with them I will conclude my observations:—'Probably few, if any, possessed such a disinterested and charitable nature as did the gentleman whose death we have to deplore. Throughout his long and useful life he was ever ready with hand and purse to render assistance to a poorer brother. In fact, nobody could tell the amount of good he did in this way, and as many of those who were recipients are now numbered with their fathers, the true extent of Mr. Roach Smith's disinterestedness and charitable feelings will never be known. This is as he would have wished, for he loved to do good by stealth.'

In losing Mr. Roach Smith many of us have lost an esteemed friend, and the antiquarian world has lost an invaluable labourer. His departure, following so soon after that of our chieftain, Mr. Clayton, clouds us with sorrow.