



MEMORIAL BRASS, CHESTER-LE-STREET CHURCH.

XXX.—FOUR MEMORIAL BRASSES IN THE COUNTY OF DURHAM.

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[Read on the 23rd December 1891.]

So far as I know five monumental brasses, still existing in the county of Durham, are omitted from Mr. Waller's list.¹ One of the omissions has been supplied by Mr. Blair.² Of the four remaining brasses I have prepared brief notices, so as to make the series published in the transactions as complete as possible.

1. **St. Andrew's Auckland.**—An inscribed brass on the floor of the nave, near the west end; the inscription which is perfectly distinct, reads as follows:—

*hic jacet lanstotus Claxton q' obiit xi^o die mēl' februarij
Anno dñi M^o CCCC^o vi^o cui' aie p'piciet' deus Amen*

2. **Chester-le-Street.**—A brass without inscription, representing the full-length figure of a lady in costume of the first half of the fifteenth century. The herald's visitation of Durham of 1575 mentions the brass of William Lambton and Alice Salcock, his wife, as then existing in the south aisle. Some inscription, long since lost, may have enabled Garter King at Arms to arrive at the identification. The position indicated is that in which the existing brass remained till the time of the deplorable violations of Chester church carried out during the incumbency of the late Mr. De Pledge; and within living memory the remaining effigy was accompanied by that of a male. Under these circumstances we can have no hesitation in identifying the brass as that of Alice Salcock of Salcock in the county of Lancaster, wife of William Lambton of Lambton. She died in 1434, and her husband died four years before her. The most noticeable feature in the effigy is the extreme simplicity with which the folds of the drapery are represented. The lines are few, but are engraved with great boldness, and do not lack dignity and grace. The head is covered by a veil which falls on the shoulders. The principal garment is a gown which descends to and covers the feet. The shoulders are covered by an

¹ *Vide p. 76.*² *Vide p. 207.*

NOTE.—The round mark on the forehead of the effigy illustrated on the opposite page is that of a modern screw-hole.

equally long cloak, which is held in position by a cord. The hands are folded on the breast in the act of prayer. (See illustration of this brass page 310.)

3. **Dinsdale.**—A late, small, but extremely beautiful brass. It measures only eleven and a half inches by eight and a half inches. A line of beaded ornament runs round the edge. In the two upper corners are the words:—

MEMORIAE | SACRUM

The following is the inscription:—

Mary Wivill, deceased, late wife of Tho: Wyvill of Spennithorne & daughter of | Christo Place of Dinsdale Esq^r Provided six pounds yearely forever towards the releife | of the Poor inhabiting in the Parish of Dinsdale to be pd by equall Portions vpon the | 23^d Decembr & 23^d of Iune in manner following; viz 3 pounds 10 shil: yearely as | aboves^d dureing the life of Tho: Wyvill afores^d & of her Hurice now living in Winston | & after the decease of the fore menconed Hurice 10 shillings more & after the decease | of the s^d Tho: 2 pounds more, in all six pound, Issuing & to issue out of certaine | Lands belonging to the s^d Tho: Wyvill & by his Deede granted to Rowland Place of Dinsdale Esq^r Robert Place of Dinsdale gent. Will Killinghall of Low midleton Esq. & John | Garnet of Eglescliffe gent. & their heires forever for the uses above-said, to be | paid & distributed by the Parson, Churchwardens & overseers for the Poore of the | said Parish, & their Successors forever. Which said Deed is in the custody | of the said Heoffees or some of them. The s^d Mary Wyvell dyed the 24 of Iune | 1668 & lyeth buried in the Quire in Spennithorne Church

Nearly the whole of the higher half of the brass is occupied by a coat of eight quarterings, surmounted by helmet and crest, a wyvern or winged dragon, and surrounded by most graceful mantling. The shield should really be described as a coat of four quarters impaling a coat of four quarters. The first quarters are:—1. Three chevrons, a chief; 2. three hammers, two and one, a crescent for

difference; 3. a chief dancette; 4. a bend, a label of three points.³ The impaled quarters are:—1. a lion passant counterchanged; 2. three chevrons; 3. ermine, an orle;⁴ 4. a fess between six *fleurs de lys*.

4. **Lanchester.**—An inscribed brass, inlaid in a huge slab of limestone in the floor of the chancel. The inscription is printed, but very inaccurately, by Surtees.⁵ It is greatly worn by the passing of the feet of many generations, and can only be read with extreme difficulty. The following is perhaps as correct a reading as it is now possible to recover:—

Orate p̄ aīa m̄ri Joh̄is Rudde in decretis baccalarīi
quondam̄ decani hui' loci qui obiit xxix die decebr'
Anno dñi M° CCCC° lxxx cui' aīe pp̄iciet de' amen

The interest of this inscription is very great. In one of the glass cases in the library at Ushaw college is a manuscript missal, written in a hand of the fifteenth century. On the fly-leaf at the beginning is the following inscription:—

*Liber capelli p'oc'li de Eshe ex dono miri Johis Rudde in decretis
baccalarīi quondam̄ decani de Lanchestr̄ cuius anima prop̄ietu'
Deus Amen.*

The history of this book from the time of its gift by Rudde is soon told. At the Reformation it passed into the hands of the family of Smyth of Esh Hall. In their possession it remained till after the establishment of the college of English Catholics at Ushaw, when it was given to the library of that institution. Apart from its historic associations this book is of the greatest possible value. It is the only medieval service book belonging to any church in the diocese of Durham now known to exist. The late rev. J. L. Low somewhere laments that he has been unable to discover whether the use of York, Salisbury, or Hereford, was accepted in the diocese of Durham. An examination of this book would decide the question. The book and the brass are so intimately associated that I may be forgiven this little digression.

³ Robson, in his *British Herald*, gives: quarterly 1st, *gu.* three chev. braced, in base, *vair* [the brass shows this]; a chief *or.* for WYVILL; 2nd, *sa.* three pick-axes *ar.* for FIGOTT; 3rd, *az.* a chief indented *or.* for FITZ-RANDALL; 4th, *az.* a bend *or.* over all a label of 3 point *ar.* for SCOOP (*sic*) [SCROOP]. The arms on the brass have a mullet in the centre.

⁴ 3rd, erm. on a canton *gu.* an orle *or* or *ar.*, for SURTEES.

⁵ *Durham*, vol. ii. p. 314, copied probably from Hutchinson, *Durham*, vol. ii. p. 356.