

R E P O R T  
OF  
**The Society of Antiquaries**  
OF  
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

ANNUAL MEETING, M.DCCC.XCVI.

THE Newcastle-upon-Tyne Society of Antiquaries has not much of especial interest to report for the year 1895. The publication of the new *County History of Northumberland* is being steadily proceeded with, and the third volume, dealing with Hexham, is now completed and will be issued shortly.

An important contribution to the medieval history of our city has been made by our member Mr. F. W. Dendy, who has edited for the Surtees Society the first volume of *Extracts from the Records of the Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne*. This volume contains (in the words of the preface) 'a fairly complete history of the company as a burghal merchants' guild.' A second volume will, it is hoped, give an account of the transactions of the company as a foreign trading company, and will also furnish some valuable materials to the local genealogist. The interest of the present volume is much enhanced by a carefully-written introduction, tracing 'the early prosperity and the subsequent decay of the gild system,' as illustrated by these records.

The exploration of the Roman camp at Great Chesters has been successfully prosecuted by the Northumberland Excavation Committee, and the excavations have disclosed the existence of a western gateway unknown to Bruce and Maclauchlan. Interesting evidences are afforded of at least three distinct periods in the history of the camp, separated by intervening periods of demolition. The committee earnestly hopes to continue the operations in the central part of the camp next

summer, but unless subscriptions are furnished on a more liberal scale than during the past year the work will have to be restricted to a very narrow area.

In connection with the operations undertaken by the Cumberland Society at Walltown, our member and vice-president, Mr. Cadwallader J. Bates, has discovered what appear to be the traces of a turf wall, similar to that which the Glasgow explorers have found between Forth and Clyde. It is too early as yet to appraise the consequences of this discovery, which may open out one of the most interesting chapters in the story of the scientific exploration of the Roman Wall.

In this connection we ought also to mention that it is to Mr. Bates that we are indebted for a very valuable and thorough *History of Northumberland*, published in Mr. Elliot Stock's series of county histories. This is, we believe, the first time that an author has been found capable of compressing the rich and varied history of our county within the compass of a single volume without omitting any important particulars.

During the year discoveries have been made in the great hall of the keep, elucidating some structural features of the castle of Newcastle, which will be noted in a paper to be read at a future meeting.

The first part of the general index is ready for issue to members who pay in advance the sum of 5s. per copy, which we have thought a proper sum to charge for it.

We appointed a sub-committee to consider the financial position of the society, in view of the fact that the expenditure for the year 1895 exceeded the income by the sum of £70 13s. 2d., and the following is their report to us, which we recommend to the society for adoption:—

In the year 1890 the council, basing its calculations upon an annual income of £445, apportioned the expenditure among the various departments as follows:—

|                     |     |     | Per Annum. |    |    |   |      |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----|------------|----|----|---|------|-----|
|                     |     |     | £          | s. | d. |   |      |     |
| <i>Archaeologia</i> | ... | ... | 80         | 0  | 0  | } | £445 | 0 0 |
| <i>Proceedings</i>  | ... | ... | 45         | 0  | 0  |   |      |     |
| Illustrations       | ... | ... | 55         | 0  | 0  |   |      |     |
| Books for library   | ... | ... | 30         | 0  | 0  |   |      |     |
| Castle              | ... | ... | 80         | 0  | 0  |   |      |     |
| Black Gate          | ... | ... | 35         | 0  | 0  |   |      |     |
| Museum              | ... | ... | 10         | 0  | 0  |   |      |     |
| Sundries            | ... | ... | 70         | 0  | 0  |   |      |     |
| Secretary           | ... | ... | 40         | 0  | 0  |   |      |     |

During that year (1890) the expenditure was a few pounds within the allotted sums, but every subsequent year has shown an increase, culminating in an aggregate excess of £281, of which £118 is attributable to this last year.

The department in which the largest increase has occurred is that of the *Archaeologia*. For the six years 1890-95 the expenditure at £80 per annum should have been £480. The actual outlay has been £687, showing an excess of £207, of which sum £58 is attributable to 1895, and £75 to 1891. It is to be noted, however, that whereas in the five years 1890-94 only three volumes (XIV-XVI.) of *Archaeologia* were issued, a whole volume (XVII.) has been completed in 1895.

We have ascertained the approximate cost of these four volumes, and find it to be—

|  | £     | s. | d. |
|--|-------|----|----|
| Vol. XIV.—489 pages ... ..                 | 160   | 0  | 0  |
| „ XV.—455 „ ... ..                         | 149   | 0  | 0  |
| „ XVI.—540 „ ... ..                        | 171   | 0  | 0  |
| „ XVII.—362 „ ... ..                       | 118   | 0  | 0  |
|  | <hr/> |    |    |
|  | £598  | 0  | 0  |
| Leaving for covers and illustrations, etc. | 89    | 1  | 9  |
|  | <hr/> |    |    |
| Making a total of ... ..                   | £687  | 1  | 9  |

Another department in which there has been a substantial increase is that of books purchased for the society's library. For the six years above-named the allotted expenditure amounted to £180, the sum spent was £238, an excess of £58.

The aggregate expenditure upon the castle has exceeded the allotment by £18, the item of sundries shows an excess of £13, the *Proceedings* £10, and the Black Gate £6. The remaining departments show a saving—museum £24, and illustrations £8. All these figures are even pounds, omitting shillings and pence.

It must be borne in mind that although the expenditure has greatly exceeded the allotment the income of the society since the allotment was made shows a material increase. Over the estimate of £445 the annual augmentations of income have been as follows:—For 1890, £1 1s. 10d.; 1891, £87 4s.; 1892, £53 11s. 4d.; 1893, £41 17s.; 1894, £45 12s. 1d.; 1895, £47 18s. 11d.; making a total of £277 5s. 2d.

If these figures be deducted from the £281 3s. 10d., by which the six years' outlay exceeds the allotment, it will be found that the excess is £3 18s. 8d., in other words, that we have spent all our income in that period, and £3 18s. 8d. beyond.

The sub-committee is of opinion that a new scheme of apportionment should now be made, and that great care should be taken to keep each department within the prescribed limits of expenditure.

The council is therefore recommended to adopt the following:—

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| The sum allotted to the <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> to be ...   | £100 0 0 |
| Being an increase of £20 per annum upon the sum apportioned in 1890, the editor to reduce the size of the separate parts issued, in conformity with this recommendation.  |          |
| The sum allotted to the <i>Proceedings</i> to be ... ..   | 55 0 0   |
| Being an increase of £10 per annum to cover the cost of printing the Parish Registers, the editor is advised not to repeat details of places previously visited, or of which adequate descriptions have been already published in the <i>Proceedings</i> or <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> . |          |
| The sum to be spent upon books for the library each year not to exceed ... ..   | 20 0 0   |
|   | £175 0 0 |

Other items to remain the same, namely :—Illustrations, £55 ; the Castle, £80 ; the Black Gate, £35 ; the Museum, £10 ; Sundries, £70 ; Secretary, £40 ; total, £465.

The income for 1895 was £492 18s. 11d., and assuming that the income for 1896 is no less, the observance of the recommendations herein contained will leave a credit balance of £27 18s. 11d.

The following is the report of the curators to us :—

‘The objects presented to the museum in the past year numbered twenty-six. Seventeen of these are domestic and other articles, of comparatively recent date ; the remaining items include one engraving, one plan, a large utensil of hewn sandstone, a medieval vaulting boss, a pre-Conquest fragment, the large Roman stone from Corstopitum, and the classical capital and base now placed at the entrance of the library.

It has been found difficult to utilize the three cases which occupied the floor of the uppermost apartment of the Black Gate museum. These cabinets were made for the narrow window-splays of the Old Castle, and, when removed to their new positions at the Black Gate, they not only proved inefficient, but added an ungainly feature to the room. In order, therefore, to adapt them to the place, their entire reconstruction, a work of considerable expence, became necessary. In your curators’ last report it was mentioned that two new cabinets of special design had been presented for the Roman room of the museum ; from the same source, the whole cost of reconstructing and enlarging the three old cases has been defrayed. The appearance of the museum

is greatly enhanced by this improvement, and it has now become possible to proceed with the re-arrangement of the society's collection. When this is completed the museum will be rendered of increasing value to students of archaeology, and will become, it is hoped, an attraction to the public at large. The importance of the latter consideration is apparent in view of the continuous annual loss which the maintenance of the museum entails upon the society. Your curators suggest the desirability of adopting means to popularise this important collection of antiquities.

The cannons which lay on the basement floor of the keep have now been mounted and placed in positions favourable for the inspection of these important examples of ancient gunnery.

The ordnance upon the gun platforms of the keep remain in the deplorable state already reported by your curators, and with each year the decay of the gun carriages increases. Some of the cannons are dismantled, and now lie where their neglected state adds an unsightly feature to the battlements and an element of danger to the visitor. The guns are public property, and are only within the province of the society as their custodians. In this relation it is suggested that an application to the proper quarter would, with little difficulty, obtain a grant of discarded ship's carriages suitable for the remount of the ordnance. If any further inducement is required to urge this repair, it is in the interest attaching to these relics of old Newcastle. Their salutes accompanied the civic pageant and played their part in every public demonstration of joy. Thus, as old servants of the town, if not of the state, they appeal for our consideration.'

#### DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

1895.

Jan. 30. From Mr. CHARLES JOHNSON—

Large iron key, from Old Mansion House, Newcastle.

A bundle of 'spunks' (brimstone matches for use with a tinder box).

Three 'steels,' for striking with flint.

Two portable boxes of steel, one of which is intended for holding tinder and the other a flint.

Oval plate; one of the plates formerly affixed by fire insurance companies to the houses insured by them. This plate was removed from the Tiger inn, west end of the Close, Newcastle. It bears the device and policy number of the Newcastle Fire Office (*Proc.* vol. vii. p. 2).

- Apr. 24. From Mr. HOBATIO A. ADAMSON (vice-president)—  
 Corinthian capital and base of a column, brought from a ruined temple at Ascalon, Syria. These relics were purchased in 1875 by the master of the s.s. 'Ethelred,' of North Shields, who happened to visit Ascalon whilst excavations were in progress (*Proc.* vol. vii. pp. 42, 50, and 52).
- From Mr. SHERITON HOLMES (treasurer)—  
 A plan of the Roman station at Great Chesters (Aesica), from the survey by himself (*ibid.* vol. vii. p. 42).
- May 29. From Mr. GEORGE CARR, Goldspink Cottage—  
 Papier-maché snuff box, three and a half inches diameter, and a cigar case of the same material. Both of these are decorated with painted figures.
- From Mr. T. G. GIBSON—  
 A parcel of old deeds, damaged by the great fire resulting from the explosion at Gateshead in 1854.
- From Mr. JOHN A. DOTCHIN—  
 A large teapot of white earthenware, from the Old Mansion House, Newcastle.
- From the Rev. Canon RAINE (vice-president)—  
 Matrix of a small oval seal, bearing the arms of Newcastle, and inscribed round the verge: 'NEWCASTLE INSTITUTE FOR THE GENERAL PROMOTION OF THE FINE ARTS,' and under the arms, 'Established A.D. 1823.'
- From Mr. T. H. ROBINSON, Corbridge—  
 A large oblong tombstone of the Roman period, measuring forty-four inches by twenty-four inches, and six inches thick. It was found in digging the foundations for houses at Trinity Terrace, Corbridge, a little east of the site of the Roman Corstopitum, and near it were also found two large vennel stones apparently on the site of a conduit used for bringing water from the direction of Prior Mains to the station. The tombstone shows signs of calcination, and is completely shattered. Under a pediment, in which an object like a fir cone appears, the lettering is apparently  
 D.M. | IVL PR //// SVE | CO // VGIC | PC.
- From the Rev. R. COULTON (vicar of Kirkmerrington)—  
 An early eighteenth-century medal of brass, with a stem, probably used as a pipe stopper, representing on one side the head of a pope, on the other that of a cardinal, found in Kirkmerrington churchyard. When the medal is turned upside down the profiles appear as the devil and a fool respectively (*Proc.* vol. vii. p. 50).
- July 31. From Mr. W. RINGWOOD—  
 Old padlock, measuring twelve inches long by six inches across at its widest part, having keyhole cover opening with a spring catch. Large key for above.  
 A flint and steel mill, as used by miners, but adapted subsequently for turning a small grindstone (*Proc.* vol. vii. p. 94).

- Aug. 28. From The Rev. E. HUSSEY ADAMSON (vice-president)—  
 Framed engraving representing a coat of arms showing all the quarterings of the Percy family, together with a letterpress key to the same (*ibid.* vol. vii. p. 134).
- From Mr. GEORGE IRVING—  
 Two phials containing charred wheat from the Roman camps at Birrens and at Great Chesters (*ibid.* vol. vii. p. 134).
- Nov. 27. From Mr. W. A. OLIVER, Newcastle—  
 A circular vessel of hewn sandstone found in an excavation at the back of Rewcastle Chare during the current month. It measures about thirty inches diameter, is roughly hewn, and appears to have been used in some process of manufacture (*ibid.* vol. vii. p. 153).
- Dec. 18. From Mr. CHAS. L. BELL, Woolsington—  
 Carved vaulting boss, sixteen inches diameter, with crouching figures clasped, of probably early fifteenth-century date. Origin unknown (*ibid.* vol. vii. p. 161).
- From Mr. S. S. CARR—  
 Fragment of the shaft of a pre-Conquest cross found in the castle yard, Tynemouth (*ibid.* vol. vii. pp. 161 and 163).



PORTION OF SHAFT OF PRE-CONQUEST CROSS FROM TYNEMOUTH

The following is the

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

for the year ending December 31st, 1895 :—

‘ During the past year there has been a loss of 30 members arising from deaths, resignations, and other causes, and 21 members have been elected. The present number of ordinary members is 329, of whom four are life members.

The balance of revenue account carried forward to 1896 is £130 11s. 10d., and the capital invested in  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. consols now amounts to £49 8s. 9d.

During the year £100 of the bank balance has been placed on deposit account with our bankers, Messrs. Lambton & Co., in accordance with a resolution of the council.

The total income from all sources has been £492 18s. 11d., which is slightly in advance of 1894 ; but the expenditure has been very considerably increased beyond that of the previous year, and has amounted to £563 12s. 1d., an increase of £56 13s. 6d. over that of 1894, and which leaves a debit balance upon the year of £70 13s. 2d.

This increase of expenditure has arisen chiefly under the heads of *Archaeologia*, *Proceedings*, and the purchase of books, though it may be noted that the cost of the *Proceedings* has been swollen by the printing of the registers of the parish of Esh, which have occupied about fifty pages.

The receipts from members’ subscriptions have been £333 18s., a falling off of fourteen guineas from that of the previous year.

The sale of the society’s publications has amounted to £31 7s. 9d., compared with £16 3s. 9d. during 1894.

The expenditure for the castle is about £8 over that of last year, but it includes a sum of £17 paid for a case to hold the numerous woodcuts and other blocks belonging to the society. The expenditure on the Black Gate is nearly the same as last year, but the receipts show an increase of £5 8s. 4d., which is curious, as during the year the castle receipts have decreased about £4. The balance of receipts against expenditure upon the two places for the year shows a loss of £2 7s. 10d.

Sheriton Holmes, Hon. Treasurer.’



*Sheriton Holmes, Treasurer, in account with the Society of Antiquaries  
of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.*

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31ST, 1895.

|                                  | Receipts. |    |    | Expenditure. |    |    |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----|----|--------------|----|----|
|                                  | £         | s. | d. | £            | s. | d. |
| Balance on January 1st, 1895     | 201       | 5  | 0  |              |    |    |
| Members' Subscriptions           | 333       | 18 | 0  |              |    |    |
| Castle                           | 102       | 10 | 6  | 91           | 19 | 6  |
| Black Gate                       | 25        | 2  | 8  | 38           | 1  | 6  |
| Museum                           |           |    |    | 2            | 13 | 10 |
| Books                            | 31        | 7  | 9  | 47           | 19 | 1  |
| <i>Archæologia Aeliana</i>       |           |    |    | 138          | 8  | 6  |
| <i>Proceedings and Registers</i> |           |    |    | 75           | 3  | 9  |
| Illustrations                    |           |    |    | 56           | 7  | 5  |
| Sundries                         |           |    |    | 72           | 18 | 6  |
| Secretary (clerical assistance)  |           |    |    | 40           | 0  | 0  |
| Balance                          |           |    |    | 130          | 11 | 10 |
|                                  | <hr/>     |    |    | <hr/>        |    |    |
|                                  | £694      | 3  | 11 | £694         | 3  | 11 |

## Capital Account.

|                                  | £     | s. | d. | £     | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------|-------|----|----|-------|----|----|
| Invested in 2½ per cent. Consols | 42    | 18 | 5  |       |    |    |
| Interest to end of 1895          | 6     | 10 | 4  |       |    |    |
|                                  | <hr/> |    |    | 49    | 8  | 9  |
|                                  | <hr/> |    |    | <hr/> |    |    |
|                                  |       |    |    | £49   | 8  | 9  |

Audited and certified,

J. A. DIXON.

R. W. SISSON.

24th January, 1896.

## Details of Expenditure.

| CASTLE—                        | £     | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| Salaries                       | 65    | 16 | 0  |
| Gas                            | 0     | 5  | 6  |
| Water                          | 0     | 6  | 0  |
| Property Tax                   | 1     | 10 | 6  |
| Insurance                      | 0     | 7  | 6  |
| Rent                           | 0     | 2  | 6  |
| Sundries: Coal, Firewood, etc. | 2     | 14 | 5  |
| Curtains for Library           | 2     | 16 | 1  |
| Excavations in Walls of Keep   | 0     | 11 | 0  |
| Case for Wood Blocks, etc.     | 17    | 10 | 0  |
|                                | <hr/> |    |    |
|                                | £91   | 19 | 6  |

| BLACK GATE—  |     | £     | s. | d. |
|--|-----|-------|----|----|
| Salaries ...   | ... | 20    | 16 | 0  |
| Gas ...  | ... | 1     | 9  | 3  |
| Water ...  | ... | 1     | 0  | 0  |
| Property Tax ...   | ... | 1     | 5  | 0  |
| Insurance ...  | ... | 2     | 15 | 0  |
| Rent ...   | ... | 1     | 0  | 0  |
| Repairs ...  | ... | 7     | 2  | 2  |
| Sundries (Coal, etc.) ...  | ... | 1     | 9  | 1  |
| Bell Fixing ...  | ... | 0     | 12 | 6  |
| Show Case ...  | ... | 0     | 12 | 6  |
|  |     | <hr/> |    |    |
|  |     | £38   | 1  | 6  |
|  |     | <hr/> |    |    |
| MUSEUM—  |     | £     | s. | d. |
| Engraved Plate for Mr. Walker's Portrait ...                     | ... | 0     | 6  | 0  |
| Carriage of Stones from Aesica ...                               | ... | 0     | 9  | 10 |
| Cases for Roman Slabs ...  | ... | 1     | 18 | 0  |
|  |     | <hr/> |    |    |
|  |     | £2    | 13 | 10 |
|  |     | <hr/> |    |    |
| BOOKS BOUGHT—  |     | £     | s. | d. |
| Cohen's <i>Médailles Impériales</i> ...                          | ... | 0     | 16 | 0  |
| Boecking's <i>Notitia Dignitatum</i> ...                         | ... | 0     | 18 | 0  |
| Tanner's <i>Notitia Monastica</i> ...                            | ... | 3     | 12 | 6  |
| Reports of German <i>Limes</i> Commission ...                    | ... | 0     | 7  | 10 |
| <i>Cumberland Worthies</i> , 6 vols. ...                         | ... | 0     | 18 | 0  |
| Sharp's <i>Hartlepool</i> ...                                    | ... | 0     | 8  | 6  |
| Summers's <i>Sunderland</i> ...                                  | ... | 1     | 1  | 0  |
| <i>Calendar of State Papers</i> , 2 vols. ...                    | ... | 1     | 10 | 0  |
| Surtees Society publications, vols. 13, 15, 24, 36, 82 ...       | ... | 5     | 18 | 6  |
| <i>Northumberland County History</i> , vol. 2 ...                | ... | 1     | 1  | 0  |
| Tomlinson's <i>Denton Hall</i> ...                               | ... | 0     | 12 | 6  |
| <i>Year-book of Societies</i> ...                                | ... | 0     | 7  | 6  |
| <i>Antike Denkmäler</i> ...                                      | ... | 2     | 1  | 2  |
| Haswell's <i>The Maister</i> ...                                 | ... | 0     | 10 | 6  |
| <i>Reliquary and Antiquary</i> ...                               | ... | 1     | 9  | 2  |
| Transactions of the Imperial German Archaeological Institute ... | ... | 2     | 10 | 6  |
| Bates's <i>History of Northumberland</i> ...                     | ... | 0     | 6  | 0  |
| <i>The London Companies</i> ...                                  | ... | 0     | 10 | 0  |
| Shelf Register for the Library ...                               | ... | 10    | 5  | 0  |
| Waters for binding Books ...                                     | ... | 9     | 2  | 8  |
| General Index to Society's Transactions ...                      | ... | 3     | 12 | 9  |
|  |     | <hr/> |    |    |
|  |     | £47   | 19 | 1  |
|  |     | <hr/> |    |    |
| SUNDRIES—  |     | £     | s. | d. |
| Cheque Book ...  | ... | 0     | 5  | 0  |
| Nicholson for general printing ...                               | ... | 25    | 12 | 6  |
| Reid & Co. do. do. ...   | ... | 6     | 3  | 1  |
| Hughes for Frames ...  | ... | 0     | 4  | 6  |
| Moor for re-caning Chairs ...                                    | ... | 1     | 19 | 8  |
| Gibson, postage and carriage ...                                 | ... | 12    | 5  | 0  |
| Income Tax ...   | ... | 0     | 4  | 4  |
| Subscription—Harleian Society ...                                | ... | 1     | 1  | 0  |
| Do. —Surtees Society ...   | ... | 1     | 1  | 0  |
| Secretary's petty disbursements ...                              | ... | 18    | 0  | 5  |
| Treasurer's do. do. ...  | ... | 2     | 6  | 6  |
| Index to <i>Archæologia</i> ...                                  | ... | 3     | 3  | 0  |
| Sundries ...   | ... | 0     | 12 | 6  |
|  |     | <hr/> |    |    |
|  |     | £72   | 18 | 6  |
|  |     | <hr/> |    |    |