

on. His spelling also is sometimes phonographic. A few sentences from the preface to his handbook will give a good idea of the general effect which is thus produced.

‘Foreword.

I have often been askt to publish in a cheap and handy shape the rune-laves in my great folio volumes which many cannot well buy or have time to read. And this I have long wisht to do: but I waited for more finds and a better knowledge of this hard science. The day has now come when I can lay this HANDBOOK before all lovers of our Northern mother-tung. Sametimely with my *third folio tome*, which holds more than 70 new pieces bearing Old-Northern staves. (The whole tale of these O.N. rune-laves is now about 250, of which nearly 1-third is from ENGLAND ALONE, Scandinavia’s oldest colony.) This additional gathering and the onflow of Runic studies have, of course, thrown fresh light on the monuments already known.’

The venerable professor celebrated his *diamond* wedding on the 16th of January, 1894. Our member, Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson, called upon him in Copenhagen on the 6th of August, 1895; he was then very ill, but his British pluck kept him in his library at work a few hours each day until the 7th, when his work ended. He conversed with Mr. Hodgson freely on subjects of archaeological interest, and presented him with copies of his published pamphlets. On the morning of the 9th he passed peacefully away, full of years and honour. He was a lion-like man, an ardent and truth-seeking scholar, one whom England may well be proud of having lent for sixty years to her Scandinavian sisters.

2.—WILLIAM WOODMAN, one of the Vice Presidents.

By J. CRAWFORD HODGSON.

[Read on the 30th October, 1895.]

He who learns from the old, to what is he like?

‘To one who eats ripe grapes and drinks old wine.’

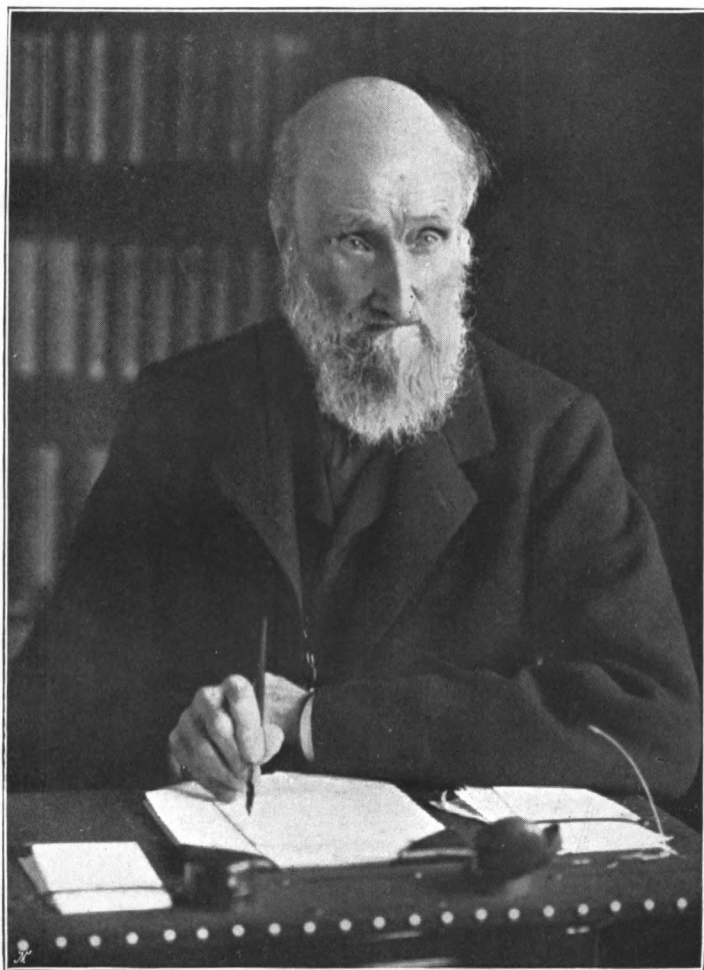
—*The Ethics of the Fathers.*

ABOUT the middle of the seventeenth century, Heron’s Close, in the chapelry of Hebburn, was purchased by Thomas Woodman a Hexham yeoman, and thenceforth became the seat and home of the

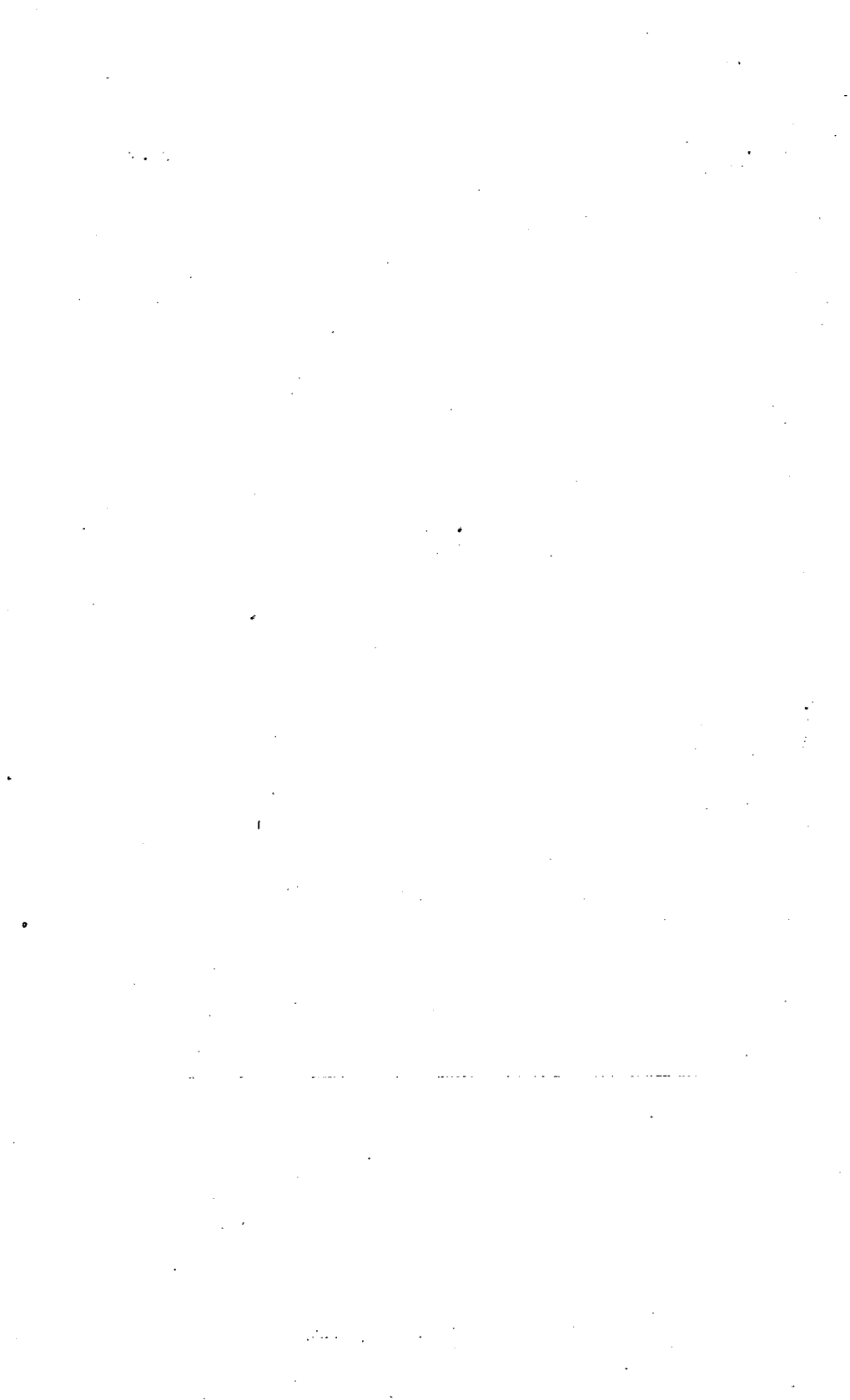
family. His great grandson, who bore the same christian name, married Isabella Newton, of the Hawkwell family, and had three sons, of whom the second, William, born *circa* 1737, was apprenticed to Richard Fenwick, tanner and freeman of Morpeth. After serving his time as an apprentice, William Woodman was admitted free of the Tanners' Company, and established himself in that respectable (and at that time lucrative) trade, which was then, and for a hundred years to come, the most important industry of the town. He married Mary, daughter of Benjamin Bennet, of an influential Morpeth family. His eldest surviving son, Benjamin, born in 1766, followed his father's calling, and was a man of strong determined character, who a great number of times filled with honour the office of bailiff, and with disinterestedness and public spirit served his native town in many ways. His reading was wide and extensive in the days when reading meant acquisition and assimilation of knowledge rather than pastime. By his marriage with Frances, daughter of Edward Wilson of Ulgham, he connected himself with that respectable family as well as with the Cooks of Togston and Blakemoor, the Lawsons of Longhirst, Old Moor, and of Ulgham, the Fenwicks of Ulgham, the Smiths of Togston, and the congeries of gentle and yeomanly families which parcelled the district between the Coquet and Wansbeck. Of this marriage the third child and eldest surviving son is the subject of our notice.

William Woodman was born at Morpeth on the 19th March, 1806, was educated at the king Edward VI. grammar school in his native town, a care which he afterwards repaid a thousandfold, becoming to that school 'the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths,' and almost its second founder. He afterwards proceeded to Bruce's school in Newcastle, where he formed friendships which helped to direct and develop the tastes cultivated in after years, and which continued through life.

In his school days (as Mr. Woodman has told the writer) the Christmas holidays began on the 16th December, 'O Sapientia,' when the boys brought horns, bored and polished, to school, and made sweet music as they went homeward : on Christmas Eve they called at well nigh every door asking for Hogmanay. On the Tuesday before Lent the schools and shops were closed, so that pancakes might be



Wm. Woodman
W. Woodman



made and eaten : on the Monday and Tuesday of Easter week the boys resorted to the North Field with paste eggs and to play ball : on Royal Oak day, having provided themselves with oak branches, they repaired to school early, said their lessons, and had holiday after 8 a.m. : at Midsummer they resorted to the woods with branches of the rowan ; and they were also in evidence at the fair, boulder-riding, and on municipal feasts. Mr. Woodman has often spoken to the writer of the reception of the news of the battle of Waterloo, and of his being seated in the following year in the emperor Napoleon's travelling carriage, a small brougham, with half the seat extended to the front to serve as a table.

Mr. Woodman was articled to Mr. Anthony Charlton, an attorney of repute in Morpeth, was admitted an attorney in Hilary term, 1832, and established himself in the exercise of his profession. His ability, industry, and single-eyed devotion to the true interests of his clients soon procured a large share of the best class of business from the outside, as well as a preponderating influence within the town. He was elected to various public offices, and became successively town clerk of Morpeth, clerk to the justices of the West and South divisions of Coquetdale Ward, clerk to the Rothbury Poor Law Guardians, and treasurer of the County Courts of Northumberland and Durham.

Besides taking an active and leading part in the changes which followed the reform of parliamentary and municipal representation and government, and the transfer of the duties, responsibilities, and powers which followed the latter, he was also engaged in the protracted negotiations which preceded the decisive selection of the route of the North-Eastern railway. To him it is largely owing that Morpeth is an important station on the main line between London and Edinburgh, and not merely connected with it by a loop line or branch. In 1849 he prepared the evidence presented at the public enquiry held, under the Public Health Act, by Mr. (afterwards sir) Robert Rawlinson, an enquiry which led to a revolution in the sanitary condition of Morpeth.

But the case in which his keen insight, his wide grasp and marvellous aptitude for details, attracted the greatest interest and closest attention, was that known as the 'Morpeth grammar school suit.'

The royal grammar school of Morpeth was founded by king Edward VI. on an older foundation, and by him was endowed with the lands of the suppressed chantry of St. Giles. The chief part of the lands lay at Netherwitton, where they had 'for some centuries been held by the Thornton family, till the landlord and tenant alike forgot there were lands, and honestly imagined that the sum paid and received was but a money payment to which the land was liable.' From 1685 the annual sum paid was £45, but in 1710 the master of the school, who, as master, was a beneficiary of the trust of which the bailiffs were the trustees, deeming this rent inadequate, commenced an action in the Court of Chancery, and obtained a decision that the school was entitled to the lands. A compromise was agreed upon that £2,000 should be invested in lands, and that until this was done £100 a year should be paid. This payment continued until 1832, when Mr. Woodman, acting for the then master of the school, revived the suit. The court again decreed that the school was entitled to the lands, and held the compromise to be invalid, but threw upon the plaintiff the duty of pointing where the lands were. This was the task to which Mr. Woodman addressed himself, and it was one which required all his ripened experience and penetrative mind. In 1685 'the lands at Netherwitton had been neither divided nor enclosed, and the portion belonging to the charity lay intermixed in the common fields.' In order, therefore, to recover the charity lands, it was necessary to distinguish them from the rest of the land of the township. The evidence collected fills many folio volumes, and convinced the court that a large proportion of the township belonged to the school, in redemption of which the large sum of £15,000 was accepted by the trustees. As a public recognition of Mr. Woodman's exertions in bringing the suit to such a termination, a service of plate, the result of a public subscription, was presented to him in 1857.

As early as 1832 a graceful tribute was paid to Mr. Woodman's literary ability and archaeological skill by the rev. John Hodgson, who, in the preface to the second or Morpeth volume of his parochial history of Northumberland wrote :—'The active mind and ready pen of Mr. Woodman, solicitor, in Morpeth, left me comparatively little to do in searching for material for my account of the corporation of that

town, in which, however copious it may seem, I have inserted only a very small part of the information he has given me.' He rendered substantial help to Mr. J. H. Parker in the preparation of his *Domestic Architecture in England in the Fourteenth Century*, to the rev. J. T. Fowler in the editing of the *Newminster Chartulary* (the original of which he was the means of rescuing from loss and oblivion and placing with the earl of Carlisle), and to many other writers. After the formation of the Northumberland County History Committee he read most of the proofs of the first two volumes, and rendered to a work which is intended to complete and supplement the labours of the great historian of Northumberland, help not less valuable than that acknowledged by the latter over sixty years ago.

Mr. Woodman's published papers though not numerous are valuable, among them are *Ulgham and its Story*, published anonymously; on 'Chibburn,' printed in the *Archaeological Journal*; 'On a Leaden Seal of Henry IV. found at Catchburn,' in the *Archaeologia Aeliana*; 'Reminiscences and Desultory Notes of Morpeth Social Customs now obsolete,' written in 1894 and printed in the *History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club*. Among his numerous literary correspondents were numbered Mr. John Mitchel Kemble, Mr. Frederick Seebohm, the rev. Lambert Larking, sir Henry Maine, the second and third earls Grey, sir George Grey, and the duke of Argyle. His magnificent collections of MSS., plans, and drawings relating chiefly to Morpeth and district have yielded documents and facts freely placed by him at the service of other enquirers and writers.

Mr. Woodman was elected a member of this Society in 1848, and subsequently a vice-president. He died at his residence at the East Riding, near Morpeth, *inter sylvas et flumina habitans*, on the 19th September, 1895, in his 90th year, leaving, out of a family of eight sons and daughters, four surviving children.

3.—THE REV. GEORGE ROME HALL, F.S.A., a Vice-President of the Society. By R. CECIL HEDLEY.

[Read on the 27th November, 1895.]

DEATH has lately deprived this society of several of its most respected and most gifted members. We have, as a society, but the poor satisfaction of knowing that they have left the impress of their learn-