

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

ANNUAL MEETING, M.DCCC.XCVII.

THE year 1896 does not offer many events for the report of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The membership of the society has been well maintained, our numbers now amounting to 345. Thirty-four new members have been elected during the year, while we have lost nineteen by deaths and resignations. By the death of the Rev. James Raine, D.C.L., chancellor and a canon residentiary of York, not only is the society deprived of a vice-president and an eminent member, but archaeology loses one of the best topographical writers and one of the most skilled among northern genealogists. In the course of this year the monument to our late vice-president Dr. Bruce, has been completed and placed in St. Margaret's chantry in the cathedral church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, where it was unveiled on the 5th day of October last by our president the Earl of Ravensworth.

In conjunction with the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society the third 'pilgrimage' along the Roman Wall took place in June last. On the two former occasions the route was from east to west, but on this it was reversed being from west to east, from Bowness to Wallsend. On the whole it was a successful expedition notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather on three days. About 40 members and friends went from Carlisle to Newcastle.

The Excavation Committee regret that partly owing to the unfavourable character of the weather during the past autumn no

progress has been made with the excavations at Great Chesters (*Aesica*). They hope to be able to describe a better state of things at the close of 1897.

The members of the society have heard with deep regret that one of the few remaining medieval towers on the Walls of Newcastle is threatened with demolition. It is earnestly hoped that the corporation may be able to intervene to prevent such an act of barbarism and to preserve the Herber tower (as the structure is called), and the fine stretch of the walls adjoining, as a slight memorial for the citizens of Newcastle of the more stormy, but also more picturesque, age in which these works of defence were reared by their ancestors.

The committee appointed by the council of the society upon the subject of the tower have had an interview with the mayor, who has expressed his sympathy with the movement for its preservation, and the committee has received assurances from the mayor, the town clerk, and many members of the city council of their desire that the tower should be spared. In order to ascertain if any way can be devised to effect this object, a sub-committee of the Town Improvement Committee has been appointed with instructions to confer with the society's committee upon the subject. The two committees have not yet met, but the society's committee hopes to be in a position to make a further report at the February meeting. With respect to those portions of the town wall of Newcastle which the ravages of time and the hands of man have spared, an effort should be made, and that speedily, to prevent further destruction.

Mr. W. H. Knowles, one of the council of this society, has attended a meeting of the Parks Committee of the corporation, and repeated the suggestions made by him in a paper which he read at the November meeting for the preservation of the interesting thirteenth century ruin, in Heaton park, known as 'King John's Palace': it is hoped that the corporation will undertake the slight but necessary work for its protection.

It has been reported to the council that a portion of the south wall of Doddington pele, an interesting though late tower, has fallen down. The Earl of Tankerville is the owner. Mr. R. G. Bolam, his agent, one of our members, is taking steps to prevent further

damage, and it is intended to remove the farm buildings which abut on the tower, so that there may be a clear space all round.

The library has been enriched by the gift from Miss Woodman of the valuable and unique collection made by her late father Mr. William Woodman (a vice-president of the society), of MSS., prints, maps, and printed books relating to and illustrative of the history of Northumberland, more especially to the district of Morpeth and the valley of the Wansbeck. A new catalogue of the books in the library of the society has been prepared and printed and is now for sale. The general index to the transactions of the society has been printed down to the end of the letter N, and has been issued in two parts, the second of which is now ready for subscribers.

The following is the

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

The number of members at the end of the year was 345, of whom 5 are life members. The deaths during the year numbered 3, and the resignations 16, together making a loss of 19, which is more than compensated for by the election of 34 new members.

The total revenue from all sources has been £535 16s. 3d., and the total expenditure £593 19s. 2d., showing a balance of expenditure over receipts of £58 2s. 11d. The receipts from members' subscriptions amounted to £340 4s.

During the year there has been paid for the completion of the book catalogue, and printing the same, £58 3s., making, with the expenditure of former years, a total of £88 5s. 10d. for card catalogue, shelf register, and printed book catalogue. On account of the general index there has been paid during the year £37 7s. 3d., making, with former payments, £67 17s. to date. There has also been paid, as a contribution to the excavation fund, a sum of £20, and for the cabinet, to contain the valuable gift of Woodman books and MSS., £9 5s. 6d. So that what may be considered as extraneous expenditure has amounted, during the twelve months, to the large sum of £124 15s. 9d.

The Castle shows a balance of receipts, over expenditure, of £29 8s. 4d., and the Black Gate, for the first time, has met its outlay, there being a credit balance upon it of a few shillings.

The *Archaeologia Aeliana* has cost £116 11s. 6d., the *Proceedings* and registers £53 16s. 3d., and the illustrations £59 6s. 6d. The sale of the society's publications continues steadily to increase. The sum received from this source having been £57 15s., which is an advance upon any former year.

The balance carried forward to 1897 is £72 8s. 11d.

The capital account now stands at £49 14s. 11d.

The engraved plate of St. Nicholas's church, purchased by the society, and from which 50 impressions were taken to be sold to members at 7s. 6d. each, has just about repaid the cost of the plate and printing, and has left the plate, in good condition, an asset for the Black Gate museum.

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, 1896.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance on January 1st, 1896	130	11	10			
Members' Subscriptions (including bank interest £2 15s. 4d.)	342	19	4			
Castle	104	15	6	75	7	2
Black Gate	30	6	5	29	13	2
Museum				0	16	6
Books	57	15	0	121	10	2
<i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>				116	11	6
<i>Proceedings</i>				53	16	3
Illustrations				59	6	6
Sundries				96	17	11
Secretary (clerical assistance)				40	0	0
Balance				72	8	11
	<u>£666</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>£666</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>

Examined and approved,

JOHN PHILIPSON.

JOHN M. WINTER.

26th January 1897.

NOTE.—Included in the item of books bought are for shelf register, catalogues, and printing the same (balance)...

... ..	58 3 0	
And on account for the general index	37 7 3	
	<hr/>	95 10 3
The item of sundries includes a subscription towards the Excavation Fund	20 0 0	
And the Cabinet for the Woodman gift	9 5 6	
	<hr/>	29 5 6

Capital Account.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Invested in 2½ per cent. Consols	42 18 5	
Dividends and interest	6 16 6	
	<hr/>	49 14 11
		<hr/>
		<u>£49 14 11</u>

Details of Expenditure.

CASTLE—	£ s. d.
Salaries	66 0 0
Gas and Water	0 10 8
Property Tax and Income Tax	3 3 0
Insurance	0 7 6
Rent	0 2 6
Pedestal for Ascalon Capital	1 11 0
Wiring Windows	0 18 8
Sundries: Coal, Candles, Brushes, etc.	2 13 10
	<hr/>
	<u>£75 7 2</u>

BLACK GATE—	£ s. d.
Salaries	20 16 0
Gas	1 11 5
Water	1 0 0
Property Tax	2 10 0
Insurance	2 15 0
Rent	1 0 0
Paint	0 0 9
	<hr/>
	<u>£29 13 2</u>

MUSEUM—	£ s. d.
Carriage and Removal of Stones	0 16 6
	<hr/>
	<u>£0 16 6</u>

BOOKS BOUGHT—	£	s.	d.
<i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> , parts 34, 38 and 47	1	18	0
<i>New County History of Northumberland</i> , vols. III. and IV. ...	2	2	0
State Papers, William and Mary, 2 vols....	1	3	6
<i>Northern Genealogist</i>	1	1	0
Transactions of the Imperial German Archaeological Institute	1	10	0
<i>Year-book of Societies</i>	0	7	6
Smith's <i>Retrospections</i> , vol. 3	0	12	6
<i>Collectanea Genealogica</i>	0	6	0
Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. 16	1	0	0
<i>Antiquary</i>	0	10	6
<i>Reliquary</i>	0	10	0
Stevenson's <i>Roman Coins</i>	0	19	0
<i>German Roman Wall</i>	0	2	8
Macgibbon and Ross, <i>Ecclesiastical Architecture of Scotland</i> , vols. 1 & 2	3	10	0
Binding	6	3	3
Indexing <i>Proceedings</i> , vol. VII.	3	3	0
Catalogue and Shelf Register	58	3	0
General Index (on account)	37	7	3
	<hr/>	£120	9 2
			<hr/>
SUNDRIES—	£	s.	d.
Letter Rack for the Castle	0	1	6
Nicholson, general printing... ..	30	16	0
Reid & Co. do. do. and sundries	6	14	7
Subscription—Harleian Society	1	1	0
Do. —Surtees Society	1	1	0
Do. —Register Society	1	1	0
Entertainment to Roman Wall 'Pilgrims'	2	13	6
Cabinet for Woodman gift	9	5	6
Secretary's expences	15	7	7
Treasurer's do.	1	7	8
Letter-book for Secretary	0	7	6
Gibson, postage and carriage	8	2	1
Contribution to Excavation Fund	20	0	0
	<hr/>	£97	18 11
			<hr/>

CURATORS' REPORT, JANUARY, 1897.

The donations to the museum in the past year, as detailed in the accompanying list, amount to twelve in number. One of these is of prehistoric character; three of the items are Roman, and eight are of more or less modern origin.

These presentations include the collection of Roman antiquities formed by Mr. Robert Blair by purchase from 'prospectors,' after

the close of the excavations on the site of the Roman Station at South Shields between the years 1875 and 1877. It embraces a very large number of objects, some of which possess special interest and artistic beauty, and it is particularly valuable in illustrating the Roman occupation of this portion of Britain. Up to the present time it has formed a prominent feature in the Black Gate museum, where it has been lent for exhibition. Its permanent possession is now assured; for the entire collection has been purchased, and has been presented to the society. The conditions imposed are, that the collection shall be kept together, and that it shall henceforth be known as "The Blair Collection."

By Order
J. Spence.

The presentation of show-cases, referred to in our last report, has enabled the work of re-arrangement to be continued, and the museum apartments already present a more attractive appearance to visitors. In this, as in all their work, your curators have had the able assistance of Mr. John Gibson, the warden of the castle, whose excellent services they gratefully acknowledge.

C. J. SPENCE,
R. OLIVER HESLOP, } *Hon. Curators.*

DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

1896.

- Jan. 29. From Mr. H. MCCALMONT, Bishopswood-on-Wye (per Mrs. Bagnall-Oakley).—135 Roman coins, small brass of the Constantine period, from the hoard discovered at Bishopswood in April, 1895 (*Proc.* vol. vii. p. 166).
- Mar. 25. From Mr. SHERIDON HOLMES, treasurer of the society.—Fragment of delft ware, found during excavations in the ditch of the town wall, north of St. Andrew's church, Newcastle (*Arch. Ael.* vol. xviii. p. 110; *Proc.* vol. vii. p. 181).
- From Mr. A. E. INGLEDEW.—Seven wrought iron coffin handles, from the site of the Nonconformists' burial ground, formerly existing at the corner of Percy street and St. Thomas's street, Newcastle (*ibid.* p. 181).
- From Mr. BROWN (per Mr. G. Reavely, jun.)—A cup-marked boulder, found in the walls of an old house at Wooler (*ibid.* p. 181).
- From Mr. M. MACKEY, jun., hon. librarian to the society.—A ring sundial in brass, adapted for the pocket. Latitudes of London, York, Durham, Newcastle, Alnwick, and Berwick, indicate its use for the great north road. It is of London make, *circa* 1700 (*ibid.* pp. 181 and 182).

- July 29. From the Rev. W. R. BURNETT, vicar of Kelloe, hon. canon of Durham.—A small window frame, enclosing two glass panes taken out of Coxhoe vicarage. On one of the panes, 'Charming Mrs. Barrett, Coxhoe beauty !!!,' is scratched with the words 'Pead Ned,' below (*ibid.* pp. 144 and 253).
- From Mr. R. OLIVER HESLOP, one of the hon. curators.—A farmhouse candle mould from Thockrington, Northumberland (*Proc.* vol. vii. p. 238).
- Through the Hon. Curators.—'The Blair Collection' of Roman antiquities found on the site of the station at the Lawe, South Shields (*ibid.* vii. p. 258).
- Sept. 30. From Mr. JOHN HOPPER.—A pocket frizzle, or flint and steel in case. A steel is attached to the bottom of a small pocket for holding the flint (*ibid.* p. 250).
- Oct. 28 From Messrs. DINNING & COOKE, Newcastle.—Metal fire back from the Old Mansion House, Close, Newcastle (*ibid.* p. 289).
- Nov. 25 From Mr. CHARLES MACDONALD, Wallsend (per Mr. A. Constable).—Fragment of slab with a portion of a Roman inscription (*ibid.* p. 298).
- From Mr. JOHN GIBSON, warden of the castle.—A series illustrating the methods of domestic lighting formerly in use, comprising rush-lights, straws, and home-made mould candles.



ROMAN GOLD BULLA IN CALLALY CASTLE MUSEUM
(see *Proc.* viii. i.)