



REPORT
OF
The Society of Antiquaries

OF
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

ANNUAL MEETING, M.DCCC.XCVIII.

THE monthly meetings of the society have been well attended throughout the year, and several interesting papers contributed by members, some of which will be of permanent value as preserved in the *Archaeologia Aeliana*. Your council, however, think it right to point out that good and interesting as the papers have been, they were contributed by only a very few of our members; and they would urge all the members of the society to take part in its primary work, by reading notes or papers on matters of local history.

Though very inadequately supported by the Northumbrian public, the Northumberland Excavation Committee has continued its operations this year and has achieved some interesting results. The Roman camp of *Aesica* (Great Chesters) has again been the scene of the excavators' labours. A large building outside of the camp on the south-east has been excavated and reveals several chambers, some of them furnished with hypocausts; this was probably the home of one of the officers of the garrison with his family, or, from the size of the building, we may conjecture that more than one distinguished family has here taken up its quarters. Excavations have also been made in the centre of the camp which have at last brought to light some inscribed stones. Three fine examples have been discovered, one of them bearing an interesting inscription to the memory of a young Roman lady who probably died at *Aesica*.*

* *Vide Arch. Ael.* vol. xix. p. 268.

Other Roman inscriptions recently discovered, include the slab at Chesters recording the supply of water to *Cilurnum* while Ulpius Marcellus was governor of Britain and the second cohort of Asturians in garrison, and an altar at South Shields naming Julius Verax, a centurion of the sixth legion.*

The eastern portion of the late sixteenth century pele of Doddington the most prominent object in the village, and a picturesque building, 'one of the most charming remains of border architecture,' fell down during a storm in the early part of the year; the remaining portion is in danger of sharing the same fate. It has been asserted that there is neither written history nor tradition about the tower, but as has been truly said, its history 'was clearly written on its walls. In 1584 Sir Thomas Grey was obliged to build a strong house of this description for the protection of his tenants at Doddington, but art and industry had so decayed on the Border that he was unable to build it of better masonry. It is of great importance to keep up this unique building now that its counterpart at Kilham is gone.'

The members of the Armourers' company have granted a repairing lease of the Herber tower to the corporation of Newcastle for a long term, so that this interesting and valuable building, the most complete of the few wall towers remaining, is now saved from destruction.

The corporation of Newcastle, at our suggestion, has placed the old *camera* of Adam de Gesmuth in Heaton Park, locally known as 'King John's Palace,' in a condition of repair sufficient to resist the action of the weather.

The corporation of Newcastle, under the direction of the city engineer (Mr. W. G. Laws), has remounted the ordnance on the battlements of the keep, and the new gun-carriages restore the carronades to the embrasures where they once more present an effective feature of the parapets of the Old Castle.

During three days in May last an exhibition of silver plate manufactured in Newcastle was held under the auspices of the society in the uppermost room of the Black Gate museum. It was in every way successful; it was highly appreciated by the public, as every class of work, ecclesiastical and civil, was represented in the collection. A

* *Vide Arch. Ael.* vol. xix. p. 273.

catalogue of the different objects is being prepared and will be ready shortly for issue to the members. It will be fully illustrated, several of the exhibitors having given illustrations of their respective exhibits.

The banners in the great hall of the Castle yet require the arms of Sir Ralph de Neville, Radcliffe, Lord Derwentwater, Sir Robert Bertram, Sir William de Montagu, Sir William de Tyndall, Robert de Raymes, Sir William de Herle, the Countess of Pembroke, Sir John d'Arcy and Clavering (all to be of silk and four feet six inches square, except the Neville banner, which is to be six feet square), to make up the number of baronial feudatories who served in castleward the Castle of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, etc. An appeal is made, especially to the lady members of our society, for assistance in rendering this highly decorative feature of the building complete. Any member wishing to present one of the banners may obtain particulars of the arms from Mr. Blair one of our secretaries.*

Country meetings during the year were held at Corbridge and Dilston, at Easington, Dalton-le-Dale and Seaham, and at Elsdon, Otterburn and Bellingham, and were well attended. The respective parties were hospitably received at Dilston castle by our member, Mr. James Hall, who, with Mr. Heslop, described the building, and at Seaham vicarage, where the vicar, the Rev. A. Bethune, pointed out the objects of interest in and about his church. Our thanks are due to them.

Under the scheme adopted by the society in 1894, as much progress has been made in the printing of our parish registers as the small sum allocated for that purpose would permit. The registers of Esh down to 1813 and Dinsdale baptisms and burials to the same year are in the hands of the members, as are also instalments of the registers of Elsdon and Warkworth. To Mr. Crawford Hodgson and to one or two of his friends the society is indebted for a contribution of £15 towards the cost of printing the Warkworth register, and to Dr. Longstaff of £5 towards that of the Dinsdale register. Mr. D. D. Dixon, one of our members, is continuing the printing of the Rothbury registers in the *Rothbury Parish Magazine*, and Dr. Burman, another member, has commenced to print the Alnwick

* *V. Proc.* III. 10, 17, 42, 49, 134, 177, 216, 248; and IV. 178.

registers at his private press. An appeal has been made to our members for assistance in printing local parish registers, and it is hoped that the favourable terms on which a local organization is enabled to co-operate with the Register Society will induce a cordial response to the invitation to send names of subscribers to Mr. H. M. Wood of Whickham.

We have entrusted Mr. Sheriton Holmes with the task of compiling a short guide for visitors to the keep of the castle, and congratulate the members on having secured the services of one whose knowledge of the structure and whose literary and artistic accomplishments are a guarantee that this desirable work will be satisfactorily carried out.

The printing of the general index to the transactions of the society (*Archaeologia* and *Proceedings*) has been completed, and it is now in the hands of the subscribers.

The fourth volume of the great *County History of Northumberland*, concluding the account of Hexhamshire, has just been completed, and our fellow-member, Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson, under whose editorship it has been produced, is to be congratulated on the admirable manner in which he has carried out his arduous and honorary task.

Another work of historical interest has been published by our fellow-member, Mr. William Weaver Tomlinson, whose *Life in Northumberland during the Sixteenth Century* is not only a description of contemporary history but a work of literary ability.

Amongst the members whose loss by death during the year the society has to regret are Mr. John Crosse Brooks, one of the vice-presidents and the generous donor to the society of the large collection of valuable autographs, portraits, etc., and Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks, the president of the Society of Antiquaries of London, an honorary member.

TREASURER'S REPORT, DECEMBER 31ST, 1897.

During the year three deaths have occurred, including that of our late vice-president, Mr. J. C. Brooks. There has otherwise been a loss of twenty-two members, which has been equivalented by the election of twenty-two new members. The total number of ordinary members now stands at 344, of whom five have compounded for their subscriptions.

The total revenue has been £538 3s. 8d., and the expenditure £510 2s. 11d., showing a balance of income over expenditure of £28 2s. 9d. The receipts from members' subscriptions have been £356 18s.

There has been a considerable falling off in the number of publications sold at the Castle, due possibly, in some measure, to the absence for some weeks of our warden, Mr. Gibson, who has had a serious illness. He is now, I am happy to state, sufficiently recovered to be able again to attend to his duties. The amount paid for books stands at £16 18s. 8d. The second part of the general index has cost £26.

The repairs to the Castle and Black Gate buildings have been heavy, and the balance of receipts and expenditure on the two buildings therefore shows a profit of only £9.

The printing of the *Proceedings* and registers has cost £76 17s. 6d., but of this sum £20 is borne by Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson and a few friends and by Dr. Longstaff, who have subscribed, the former £15 towards the Warkworth, and the latter £5 towards the Dinsdale, registers.

The expenditure upon the *Archaeologia Aeliana* has amounted to £81 17s. 6d. only, as against £116 11s. 6d. last year. The cost of the illustrations has also been less.

The expenditure on account of the museum amounts to £21 8s. 11d., £20 of which is due to a contribution of the society towards the cost of the various articles of antiquity found in making the excavations at the station of Aesica, on the Roman Wall.

The expenditure under the head of sundries has been £81 7s. 8d., but this includes a sum of £12 9s., the cost of insurance and watching at the Black Gate during the exhibition of Newcastle plate in that building.

The balance carried forward to 1898 is £100 9s. 8d., and the capital account with interest now stands at £51 1s. 8d.

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, 1897.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance on January 1st, 1897	72	8	11			
Members' Subscriptions	356	18	0			
Books	15	17	9	16	18	8
Castle	116	4	7	89	6	9
Black Gate	27	8	4	45	12	8
Printing: <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>				81	17	6
<i>Proceedings</i> and registers	20	0	0	76	17	6
General Index (part ii.)				26	0	0
Illustrations				28	18	3
Museum				21	8	11
Sundries	1	15	0	83	2	8
Secretary (clerical assistance)				40	0	0
Balance				100	9	8
	£610 12 7			£610 12 7		

NOTE.—The cost of printing the Warkworth and Dinsdale registers is included in the item *Proceedings* and registers, but the cost to the society of this is lessened by the following donations:—

Mr. Crawford Hodgson, towards cost of Warkworth register	£15	0	0
Dr. Longstaff, towards cost of Dinsdale register	5	0	0

£20 0 0

Examined and approved,

JOHN PHILIPSON.

20th January 1898.

p.p. JOHN M. WINTER, ROBT. P. WINTER.

Capital Account.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Invested in 2½ per cent. Consols	42	18	5			
Dividends and interest to December 31st, 1897	8	3	3			
				51	1	8
				£51 1 8		

CASTLE—

Details of Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	69	16	0
Insurance	0	7	6
Rent	0	2	6
Water Rate	0	6	0
Gas	0	4	10
Poors Rate	0	19	2
Property Tax	1	10	6
Incandescent Gas Burners	4	0	0
Gas Fittings	0	11	6
Repairs to Building	9	0	0
Coal and Sundries	2	8	9
	£89 6 9		

BLACK GATE—		£	s.	d.
Salaries ...	...	21	6	0
Insurance ...	...	2	15	0
Rent ...	...	1	0	0
Water Rate ...	...	1	0	0
Gas ...	...	2	7	10
Poors Rate ...	...	0	15	5
Property Tax ...	...	1	5	0
Repairs to Building ...	...	15	1	9
Floor Cloth ...	...	0	1	8
		<hr/>		
		£45	12	8

MUSEUM—		£	s.	d.
Carriage of Stones from <i>Aesica</i> ...	...	0	7	11
Two Diamond Jubilee Medals ...	...	0	5	0
Frames and Glasses for Pictures ...	...	0	16	0
Contribution towards the Payment for the Antiquities found at <i>Aesica</i> ...	...	20	0	0
		<hr/>		
		£21	8	11

BOOKS, &c., BOUGHT—		£	s.	d.
Drawings by the Rev. W. Darnell ...	...	3	3	0
Bourne's <i>History of Ryton</i> ...	...	0	3	6
Leland's <i>Collectanea</i> ...	...	1	15	0
Plummer's <i>Baedae</i> ...	...	1	1	0
Macdonald's <i>Birrens and its Antiquities</i> ...	...	0	3	6
Transactions of the Imperial German Archaeological Institute	...	0	17	0
Cocks's <i>Church Bells of Buckinghamshire</i> ...	...	1	1	6
<i>History of Doddington, Lincolnshire</i> ...	...	0	8	10
<i>Year-book of Societies</i> ...	...	0	7	6
<i>Austin Canons</i> ...	...	0	12	6
<i>Der Obergermanisch-Raetisches Wall</i> ...	...	0	3	6
Bedford's <i>Blazon of Episcopacy</i> ...	...	1	1	0
Prescott's <i>Register of the Priory of Wetherall</i> ...	...	0	15	5
Macgibbon & Ross, <i>Ecclesiastical Architecture of Scotland</i> , vol. iii. ...	...	1	15	0
<i>Catalogue of the Edinburgh Antiquarian Museum</i> ...	...	0	1	5
Tuer's <i>History of the Horn Book</i> ...	...	0	5	0
<i>Northern Genealogist</i> ...	...	0	10	6
Tomlinson's <i>Guide to Northumberland</i> ...	...	0	3	9
Waters, for Binding ...	...	2	9	9
		<hr/>		
		£16	18	8

SUNDRIES—		£	s.	d.
Reid & Co., for general printing, etc. ...	...	7	8	7
Nicholson, for general printing ...	...	33	18	5
Gibson, postage and carriage ...	...	8	9	1
Secretary's expences ...	...	14	8	7
Treasurer's do. ...	...	1	6	0
		<hr/>		
Carried forward ...	...	65	10	8

SUNDRIES (*Continued*)—

		£	s.	d.
	Brought forward...		65	10 8
Cheque Book			0	5 0
Subscription—Harleian Society			1	1 0
Do. —Surtees Society			1	1 0
Do. —Register Society			1	1 0
Expences attending the exhibition of Newcastle plate in Black Gate :—				
Insurance against fire	£3	0	0	
Do. do. burglary	2	10	0	
Watching expences	8	14	0	
		14	4	0
<i>Less</i> —Balance received from Plate Committee	1	15	0	
			12	9 0
			£81	7 8

The curators reported that the following donations to the museum had been made during 1897 :—

1897.

- Feb. 24. From Mr. A. D. PARK :—(i.) A sand-glass, with a run of two hours' duration, formerly attached to the pulpit of a church; (ii.) pair of Mexican spurs, with long-pointed rowels of antique pattern; (iii.) a fabricated heirloom belonging to the stock of the *quasi* 'Countess of Derwentwater'; this is a German hunting knife, the maker's stamp on which is 1810; an inscription has been cut 'From the isle of Derwent, 1310,' in order to give to it a fictitious antiquity; (iv.) a horn lantern, which was formerly in the possession of Mr. John Hancock (*Proc.* vol. viii. pp. 13 and 32).
- April 28. From Mr. WM. OLLIFF, Newcastle :—A bicycle, made in 1864, of the type now commonly known as 'a boneshaker' (*ibid.* p. 32).
- July 28. From Mr. H. W. YOUNG, F.S.A. Scot. :—Plaster cast of an early Christian inscription discovered at Burghead, Moray Firth (*ibid.* vol. viii. p. 62).
- Aug. 25. From Mr. JOHN VENTRESS :—Plaster cast of the Newcastle goldsmiths' punch-plate (*ibid.* p. 84).
- Sept. 29. From Mr. JOHN BRAITHWAITE, Gosforth, Newcastle :—Flail from Hall Flat farm, Irton, Cumberland (*ibid.* p. 88).
- Nov. 24. From Mr. JOHN GOOLDEN, ex-Mayor of Newcastle :—Iron key from the Old Gaol, Newgate, Newcastle (*ibid.* p. 98).
- Dec. 15. From Mr. W. J. SANDERSON, Gosforth, Newcastle (per Messrs. Oliver & Leeson) :—Two sculptured stones of medieval date, found in demolishing houses in the Crown and Thistle-yard, Pudding chare, immediately behind the west end of Collingwood street, Newcastle, one a grave cover, the other a gable cross (*ibid.* pp. 98 and 105).

1898.

- Jan. 26.. From Dr. G. ALDER BLUMER, Utica, U.S.A. :—A small Roman coin of the Constantine period found during the restoration of Monkwearmouth church several years ago. The inscription on the obverse is CONSTANTINOPOLIS, and on the reverse the letters TR · P. in the exergue (*ibid.* p. 110).