

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

ANNUAL MEETING, M.DCCC.XCIX.

The year's report of the council of the society is in one respect a melancholy one. No fewer than three of the vice-presidents, Messrs. Longstaffe, Philipson, and Adamson, have been removed by death during its course; and now, just at its close, the name of the distinguished nobleman who has for so many years been the patron of our society has also to be removed from our roll, the sixth Duke of Northumberland having been gathered to his fathers. Before this sad event occurred the council had decided to request Earl Percy to accept the office of president vacated by the resignation of the earl of Ravensworth and he had kindly allowed himself to be put in nomination accordingly. Now we have to recommend that the present duke of Northumberland be elected patron and president thus combining the two offices in one. The society desires to express its sincere thanks to the retiring president, Lord Ravensworth, for the interest which he has often manifested in its proceedings, and regrets that the pressure of public duties of another kind has of late made it difficult and almost impossible for him to attend our meetings.

This anniversary meeting—the 86th—is noteworthy owing to the circumstance that it is the fiftieth since the society first met within the walls of this ancient building. The occasion was celebrated by a public dinner presided over by the then duke of Northumberland, and now that we have reached the jubilee of our occupancy, the advisability of having either a dinner or some public ceremony in commemoration is well worth consideration.

The series of silk banners for the great hall of the Castle has just been completed by the promise of the only remaining one—that of

Robert de Clifford. During the past year the banners of Radcliffe and of Bertram of Bothal have been presented. Sir E. W. Blakett of Matfen, the successor in title of the Raymes family, the early owners of Aydon castle, has promised the banner of Robert de Raymes, but owing to the difficulty in deciding what were the arms of this family, delay has been occasioned.

A short illustrated guide to the Keep and to the Black Gate and museum has been prepared by two of our members, Messrs. Holmes and Heslop. It is already in type and will, it is hoped, be ready for sale to the public, at a very small price, in the course of a few days. It will doubtless prove a boon to visitors to these buildings.

By permission of the owner of the site, Mr. J. B. Clayton, and by the assistance of the subscribers to the Northumberland Excavation Fund, we have made during the past year a series of excavations in the Roman camp at Housesteads. The excavations, which have been conducted under the able superintendence of Mr. R. C. Bosanquet, have produced very valuable results, and it is believed that the report, which will probably be issued in an early part of our *Archaeologia*, will be one of the most important contributions yet made to the history of Roman castrametation in Britain. Mr. J. P. Gibson, our colleague, is preparing a report on the excavations in the Roman station of *Aesica*, and he has kindly consented to allow his fine photographs, both of *Aesica* and of *Borcovicus*, to be reproduced to illustrate the reports.

At Housesteads a most successful meeting of members of this society, of the Durham and Northumberland Archaeological Society and of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society, was held in August, when addresses were given by Mr. Bosanquet, Dr. Hodgkin, and others.

Within the past few days the lighthouse at Tynemouth has been taken down. During the demolition a large number of moulded stones from the neighbouring priory have been discovered in the walls. With the exception of a double-cushion capital they are all of early thirteenth-century date, and nearly all bear the dog-tooth ornament. They are much weather-worn. Thanks to Mr. S. S. Carr's vigilance, the attention of our vice-president, Mr. H. A. Adamson, was drawn to them. He without delay placed himself in communication with the Trinity House of London, the owners of the lighthouse, who at

once presented the stones to the Corporation of Tynemouth. They will again be placed within the ruins of the priory church from which doubtless they were obtained in the beginning of this century when the lighthouse was built.

The Dinsdale registers, with an index, title page, etc., have been completed and issued to members, and the last part of those of Warkworth is nearly ready. Owing to the great expenditure during the past year, we recommend the society to suspend the printing of parish registers, at any rate for the present, after the indexes to those already in hand—Warkworth and Elsdon (to the end of the fourth volume)—have been printed.

Two books by young authors which have been published in the course of the past year give satisfactory proof that antiquarian lore is not likely to lack enthusiastic students in the coming generation. Miss Daphne Rendel's little work on *Newcastle [up]on Tyne, its Municipal Origin and Growth*, gives a clear and well arranged account of the corporate life of our ancient city under the Plantagenets, Tudors, and Stuarts; while *An Amateur Antiquary*, by Mr. R. H. Forster, a member of our society, reveals a genuine enthusiasm for the great remains of Roman antiquity in our county, and lights up the hard facts of antiquarian science by the vivid glow of poetic imagination.

During the past year members have visited several places of interest, amongst them the castle of Raby and the church of Staindrop, where they had the benefit of the guidance of the Rev. J. F. Hodgson, the vicar of Witton, the principal authority on these buildings. He also pointed out the interesting features of Finchale priory, which was visited on another day. Very successful meetings were likewise held at Sherburn hospital, Pitlington, and Houghton-le-Spring, and at Bamburgh castle. The master of Sherburn hospital (the Rev. H. A. Mitton) read a paper on the hospital, which is printed in our *Proceedings*. At Pitlington and at Houghton the Rev. H. E. Savage, a member of the council, acted as guide. Mr. Mitton and the Rev. S. B. Guest-Williams (vicar of Pitlington) most kindly entertained the members, as did our colleague, Dr. Hodgkin, on the occasion of our visit to Bamburgh. Our thanks are due to them and to others who kindly pointed out objects of interest at the different places visited.

## TREASURER'S REPORT, DECEMBER 31ST, 1898.

The number of members is now 353. During the year death has robbed us of nine (of whom two were life members), seven have resigned, and two have been struck off for non-payment. The number of new members from October, 1897, to October, 1898, has been thirty. The number of life members is now three.

The total revenue for the year has been £529 7s. 7d., and the expenditure £618 12s. 6d., showing an expenditure over receipts of £89 4s. 11d. a result, not altogether happy, which may be accounted for chiefly by four items, viz. : the expenditure upon the *Archaeologia Aeliana*, the contribution of £25 to the Excavation Fund, the purchase of the model of the Castle for £10, and the printing of part iii. of the general index costing £25 0s. 6d. The total cost of compiling and printing this index has amounted to £118 17s. 6d.

There has been paid for the printing of the *Archaeologia Aeliana* this year £176 12s. 6d., but a portion of this was due upon last year's volume. If the expenditure for the two years be taken together, viz. : for 1897, £81 17s. 6d., and this year £176 12s. 6d., it gives an average for each year of £129 5s. 0d.

The sale of publications at the Castle has been £23 2s. 0d., an increase of £7 4s. 3d. upon the previous year.

The printing of the *Proceedings* and parish registers has cost £59 9s. 0d. The council has decided to suspend the publication of the parish registers for the present for financial reasons.

The illustrations have cost £54 1s. 3d., and the item of sundries amounts to £76 13s. 11d.

The Black Gate shows the heavy deficit of £24 8s. 1d., the receipts having been £23 2s. 1d. against an expenditure of £53 2s. 2d. The result is chiefly due to the expense of cleaning and painting. Fortunately the Castle has more than covered the loss, and the balance of the two buildings shows a surplus of £8 5s. 8d.

Sheriton Holmes, Honorary 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, 1898.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance on January 1st, 1898 ... ..	100	9	8			
Additional from the Account of 1897 ... ..	0	1	6			
Members' Subscriptions ... ..	371	14	0			
Books ... ..	23	2	0	27	11	5
Castle ... ..	110	3	6	73	3	9
Black Gate ... ..	24	8	1	53	2	2
Printing: <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> ... ..				176	12	6
<i>Proceedings</i> and parish registers ... ..				59	9	0
General Index (part iii.) ... ..				25	0	6
Illustrations ... ..				54	1	3
Museum ... ..						
Sundries ... ..				74	11	11
Contribution to Excavation Fund ... ..				25	0	0
Mr. Ventress for Model of the Castle ... ..				10	0	0
Secretary (clerical assistance) ... ..				40	0	0
Balance in Bank ... ..				10	15	6
Do. in Treasurer's hands ... ..				0	10	9
	£629 18 9			£629 18 9		

Examined with the Vouchers and found correct,

18th January, 1899.

JOHN M. WINTER, Honorary Auditor.

**Capital Statement.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Invested in 2½ per cent. Consols ... ..	42	18	5			
Dividends and interest to December 31st, 1898 ... ..	9	10	10			
				52	9	3
				£52 9 3		

CASTLE—

**Details of Expenditure.**

	£	s.	d.
Salaries ... ..	65	0	0
Insurance ... ..	0	7	6
Rent ... ..	0	2	6
Water Rate ... ..	0	6	0
Gas ... ..	0	3	1
Poor Rate ... ..	0	15	4
Property Tax ... ..	1	10	6
Wash-stand ... ..	0	15	0
Repairs ... ..	1	3	6
Sundries ... ..	3	0	4
	£73 3 9		

<b>BLACK GATE—</b>		£	s.	d.	
Salaries ...	...	20	16	0	
Insurance ...	...	2	15	0	
Rent ...	...	1	0	0	
Water Rate ...	...	1	0	0	
Gas ...	...	1	15	11	
Poor Rate ...	...	0	12	4	
Property Tax ...	...	1	5	0	
Repairs ...	...	2	3	0	
Shackle for Hoist ...	...	0	7	0	
Painting and Whitewashing...	...	21	7	11	
		<hr/>			
		£53	2	2	
		<hr/>			
<b>BOOKS BOUGHT—</b>		£	s.	d.	
Subscriptions to Societies—					
Surtees Society ...	...	1	1	0	
Harleian Society ...	...	1	1	0	
Do. Registers of Durham Cathedral Church	...	0	10	6	
Parish Register Society ...	...	1	1	0	
Durham and Northumberland Parish Register Society ...	...	0	10	6	
		<hr/>			
			4	4	0
Calendar of State Papers ...	...	3	15	0	
Calendar of Patent Rolls (2 vols.) ...	...	1	10	0	
<i>Inquis. Post Mortem</i> (1 vol.) ...	...	0	15	0	
Catalogue of Ancient Deeds (2 vols.)...	...	1	10	0	
Border Papers, vol. ii. ...	...	0	15	0	
		<hr/>			
			8	5	0
Oxford English Dictionary (5 pts.) ...	...	1	15	8	
Somerset Archaeological Society Transactions (2 vols.) ...	...	0	9	5	
Imperial German Archaeological Institute Transactions ...	...	6	1	9	
Catalogue of Roman Inscriptions in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow ...	...	0	15	0	
Year-book of Societies ...	...	0	7	6	
MSS. Deeds, etc. ...	...	0	8	0	
The German Roman Wall ...	...	0	12	7	
<i>The Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist</i> ...	...	1	0	0	
<i>The Antiquary</i> (for 4 years) ...	...	1	2	6	
		<hr/>			
			2	2	6
Bookbinding ...	...	2	10	0	
		<hr/>			
		£27	11	5	
		<hr/>			
<b>SUNDRIES—</b>		£	s.	d.	
Cheque Books ...	...	0	10	0	
Registrar of Friendly Societies ...	...	1	1	0	
Plate Exhibition, 1897 ...	...	1	7	10	
Property Tax ...	...	0	4	8	
Autotype Portrait of the Rev. W. Greenwell, and frame ...	...	1	1	0	
		<hr/>			
Carried forward...	...	4	4	6	

SUNDRIES ( <i>Continued</i> )—		£	s.	d.
Brought forward...	...	4	4	6
Reid & Co., general printing and sundries	...	7	8	4
G. Nicholson, do.	...	29	6	6
Secretary's petty disbursements	...	15	11	1
Treasurer's do.	...	1	4	9
Postage and Carriage of <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> , etc.	...	15	9	0
Sundries	...	1	7	9
		<hr/>		
		£74 11 11		
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CURATORS' REPORT.

Six donations have been made to the museum during the past year; two of these are of Roman, one of medieval, and three of comparatively modern date.

The interest in the objects of Roman date lies in the peculiar localities in which they were severally discovered; the small Constantine-type coin was found during excavations at St. Peter's church, Monkwearmouth, and the Roman lamp in the old workings of a Spanish ironstone mine. It will be remembered that the Roman water-wheel, already in our collection, was discovered in the interior workings of a similar Spanish mine.

The chief feature of our acquisition has been in the addition to the number of the remarkable missiles of stone, now placed in the basement of the Keep. These have been either dredged from the river near the Tyne Bridge, or dug out in course of excavations on the Sandhill immediately below the Castle enclosure. They are chiefly of two dimensions, indicated by numerals on the surface, and are in almost every example carefully and accurately finished. The assumption is that they had been discharged at various times from the walls of the Old Castle, by means of a ballista, or by gravitation, and had buried themselves in the sand below in which they were discovered. Our collection now numbers more than thirty examples of these spherical stones, and the special interest attached to this large collection is best appreciated by examining them where they are now brought together. The basement-chamber of the Keep is now largely devoted to their storage and their appearance there re-furnishes the Castle with a stock of the actual munitions of war used by that important functionary the ballistier of ancient times.

## DONATIONS.

- 1898.
- Jan. 26. From G. ALDER BLUMER, M.D., Utica, U.S.A. :—A small Roman coin of the Constantine period, minted at Trier, found about 25 years ago during restorations at the church of St. Peter, Monkwearmouth, and handed to Dr. Blumer's father, one of the churchwardens at that period (*Proceedings*, vol. viii. p. 110).
- April 27. From Mrs. BAGNALL-OAKELEY, Newland, Coleford, Gloucestershire:—A Roman lamp of earthenware, found in an ironstone mine near Orviedo, Spain (*Proceedings*, vol. viii. p. 133).
- „ „ From the Corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, *per* the Directors of the Newcastle Commercial Exchange :—Thirteen large balls of sandstone, found in excavating below the outer north wall of the Exchange on the Sandhill, near the Watergate. These, with other three which are retained in the Exchange, were found lying embedded together in groups, apparently in pockets in the sand into which they had gravitated after being discharged from the battery of the Castle immediately above the place of their discovery (*Proceedings*, vol. viii. p. 133).
- May 25. From SHERITON HOLMES, treasurer :—Frame of wheel with cogs of wood, from a threshing machine at an old farm steading, just demolished, near the head of Highbury Avenue, West Jesmond (*Proceedings*, vol. viii. with sketch, p. 142).
- June 29. From WALTER REID, Wentworth Place, Newcastle :—Chemical balance in glass case, of early eighteenth-century date, formerly the property of the Goldsmiths' Company of Newcastle, and used by the Assay Master in the Newcastle Assay Office (*Proceedings*, vol. viii. p. 152).
- Oct. 26. From J. CRAWFORD HODGSON, F.S.A. :—An old horn lantern, in which plates of horn take the place of glass (*Proceedings*, vol. viii. p. 240).