



*Yours truly
Rich^d S Ferguson*

end of 1899. The heart disease of which he died four months later had already impaired his physical powers, but it happily left his mind unclouded to the end. Many of the members of the society joined in paying him the last token of their respect when his body was committed to the earth at St. Andrew's cemetery on the 5th of May, 1900.

Mr. Holmes was married on the 6th of July, 1859. His wife died before him on the 19th of January, 1899, and at his death he left surviving him two children—a son, Mr. Ralph Sheriton Holmes, who is a member of this society, and a daughter, who is unmarried.

The memory of those who knew him the best, and therefore loved and respected him the most, turns, not so much to the work he did, as to the man he was—kindly, upright, generous, fearless, and companionable, with a keen sense of humour, a strong love of nature, and an appreciation both of what was beautiful and fair in the life around him and of what was memorable and sacred in the days of old.

One by one the members of our society depart this life. The place which once knew them so well knows them no more for ever. For a time their memory lingers in the hearts and minds of their contemporaries, and then nothing is left but the more shadowy, although more lasting, written record of their labours. May the task which thus falls to the survivors, of holding up the light which glimmers on by-gone times, find in the future as able and as willing hands as those now laid to their eternal rest.

2. The late R. S. FERGUSON, LL.D., F.S.A., and chancellor of Carlisle.

By T. HODGKIN, D.C.L., F.S.A.

[Read on the 28th March, 1900.]

The cause of archaeological science in the North of England has sustained a heavy loss by the death of Richard Saul Ferguson, chancellor of the diocese of Carlisle, and a member of our own and many other antiquarian societies.

Mr. Ferguson, who was descended from a family which has for several generations held a high position as manufacturers in Carlisle, was born in that city on the 28th of July, 1837. After spending his schoolboy days at the Grammar Schools of Carlisle and Shrewsbury,

he went up to Cambridge and became a student at the College of St. John. Like the majority of students at that college he directed his chief attention to mathematics, and with such success that in the year 1860 he came out as twenty-seventh wrangler. In 1862 he was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, and practised for some years as a Chancery barrister, being also examiner in law for the University of Cambridge. He was, however, compelled by ill-health to retire from the practice of his profession at the early age of thirty-five. A long journey which he took in Egypt, Australia, and America seems to have in some measure restored his health, but he continued to be a delicate man, suffering much in the later years of his life from asthma.

Returning thus with somewhat recruited health to his native city, he abandoned the idea of a professional life and devoted himself to archaeological pursuits, in which he had already attained some proficiency. In 1862 he had joined in founding the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society, of which he became eventually President, and he was from the beginning editor of their transactions, contributing to them a great number of articles and impressing on all its publications the mark of his own accurate though manifold learning, sound judgment, and enthusiasm for the past history of his native county.

In 1878, when he had entered upon the fifth decade of his life, Mr. Ferguson began to take an active part in municipal affairs, entering the Town Council of Carlisle as representative of St. Cuthbert's ward : and first as town councillor, afterwards as alderman, he played a conspicuous and most useful part in the management of the affairs of the city.

His helpful service in these two very different branches of work, archaeological research and civic administration, was fittingly rewarded when in 1882 he officiated as mayor of Carlisle at the meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute in that city. The writer, who was one of the guests on that occasion, well remembers the dignity with which, clad in his robe of office and looking like a mediæval burgomaster, Mr. Ferguson presided at some of the meetings of the institute. Equally vivid is his remembrance of the efficient services which he rendered as guide to the various excursion parties organised in connection with the meeting, and especially of the

admirable little handbook which he prepared for the use of visitors, and which was itself almost a county history in miniature.

In 1887, Mr. Ferguson was appointed by the late Bishop Harvey Goodwin chancellor of the diocese of Carlisle, an office which he held till his death, and for the duties of which he was exceptionally qualified by his legal training, his enthusiasm for archaeology, and his intimate acquaintance with the ecclesiastical history of the County of Cumberland.

Mr. Ferguson's careful study of the Roman antiquities of the North of England of course necessitated a minute examination of the Roman Wall throughout its entire course, and thus brought him into connection with the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries. We can recur to many occasions when we have had the benefit of his company, and have sometimes heard his voice in animated debate at joint-meetings of our two societies at Housesteads and elsewhere. Perhaps his most conspicuous services to archaeological science were rendered in connection with the Roman stations west of AMBOGLANNA. It is well known that these cannot be identified with anything like the same certainty as those east of that part; and to Mr. Ferguson is due the clever suggestion that the list in the *Notitia* is compiled of two lists, furnished perhaps to some official at Eburacum who may have in ignorance transposed the names in the western or Cumbrian list, inserting the names arranged from west to east as if they were still following the previous order from east to west.

We must leave to our brethren in Cumberland the honourable task of enumerating the various papers on archaeological subjects which proceeded from the diligent pen of their late president. It will be sufficient here to allude to the two admirable county histories of Cumberland and Westmorland which he contributed to the series published by Mr. Elliot Stock. He had collected materials for a much larger and more complete history of his native county as a part of the great Victorian history of England now in course of publication by an influential committee. Of the Cumberland and Westmorland volumes of this history he had been appointed editor. It will be a somewhat formidable undertaking for any younger archaeologist to bend the bow of Ulysses.

Mr. Ferguson, who, as we have said, had for many years suffered

terribly from asthma, was attacked with serious illness of the heart early in February, and died at his residence in Carlisle on Saturday, the 3rd of March, in the sixty-third year of his age. He leaves two children surviving, Captain Spencer Charles Ferguson, now serving with Lord Methuen in South Africa, and Margaret Josephine, wife of the Rev. F. L. H. Millard, vicar of Aspatria.

Mr. Ferguson was a very voluminous writer and no genuine remnant of antiquity was beneath the notice of his ready pen. Amongst his contributions to the transactions of our society are the following :—

On a Roman inscribed tombstone found at Carlisle.—*Arch. Ael.* vol. xi. p. 127.

Report of Excavations in Cumberland *per lineam Valli*.—*Ibid.* vol. xii. p. 159. *Proceedings* vol. ii. p. 315.

On a Roman inscription.—*Arch. Ael.* vol. xii. p. 289.

On Hadrian's Great Barrier.—*Ibid.* vol. xiii. p. 86.

On the Wall and Vallum.—*Ibid.* p. 181.

On Roman potters' marks.—*Ibid.* p. 198.

On a Roman sepulchral inscription from Carlisle.—*Proceedings* vol. ii. p. 25.

Notes on the *Lapidarium*.—*Ibid.* p. 142.

On two Roman inscriptions.—*Ibid.* p. 251.

On a forged figure of Saturn.—*Ibid.* p. 328.

On Heworth Paten and Chalice.—*Ibid.* vol. iii. p. 48.

On the site of the Roman bridge over the Eden.—*Ibid.* p. 157.

On an unknown Percy medal.—*Ibid.* p. 200, and *Arch. Ael.* xiii. p. 69.

On Uses of Roman Wall and Vallum.—*Proceedings* vol. iii. p. 228.

On Roman potters' names found in Carlisle.—*Ibid.* p. 250.

On the Retreat of the Highlanders in 1745.—*Ibid.* p. 278.

On Roman inscriptions in Cumberland and Westmoreland.—*Ibid.* vol. v. p. 16.

On a stockade discovered in Carlisle.—*Ibid.* p. 156.

On a gold coin of Beneventum found at Carlisle, and on Discoveries at Tullie House, Carlisle, and at Hardknot.—*Ibid.* p. 185.