

ix

R E P O R T

OF

The Society of Antiquaries

OF

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

ANNUAL MEETING, MDCCCXI.

Your Council presents its report under the shadow of the death of our late beloved sovereign, Queen Victoria, and in the midst of the demonstrations of loyalty exhibited in the proclamation of the accession of His Most Gracious Majesty, King Edward the Seventh.

The beginning of a new century may afford opportunity to recall the fact that our society, now entering upon its eighty-ninth year, has reached what may already be called a venerable age, for it is only eleven years short of being itself a centenarian.

At its foundation, on the 6th day of February, 1813, the purpose of its institution was declared to be:—‘Inquiry into Antiquities in general, but especially into those of the North of England, and of the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland and Durham in particular.’ In pursuance of this object the Rev. John Hodgson, secretary of the society at that time, remarked:—‘If any real gratification is to arise to us as individuals, or respectability is to attach to us as a body, they can only be effected by every member zealously contributing his portion of knowledge; and each of us certainly has it in his power, by adding something to the common stock of information, to further the designs of the institution.’ In how far that exhortation has been acted upon in the past might form an instructive topic for review, and if a retrospect of the past century shows that the design of the founders has been taken up from time to time by members whose eminent services have contributed to make the annals of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne worthy of their origin and intention, it will add to our responsibility as successors to such an inheritance and incite us to renewed effort in maintaining the efficiency of the institution committed to our care.

In looking back upon our past achievements we shall realize how great a field of enquiry remains unexplored notwithstanding the work already achieved. If much has been done, much more lies before us ; for the scope of our investigations has widened vastly with the process of the years ; and the specialization of pursuits has continually opened out fresh avenues for discovery. With such considerations we may confidently anticipate the prospect before us in the new period of time upon which we now enter.

During the past year two parts, forming volume xxii of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, have been published, containing papers on swords in the society's possession, by Mr. Parker Brewis ; on a hitherto little known landing by the French on the coast of Northumberland, by Mr. W. W. Tomlinson ; on the descent of the Town Fields of South Shields, by Mr. Philip E. Mather ; and a very important paper on Jarrow, by the Rev. H. E. Savage. Coquetdale in its relation to the county militia forms the subject of a paper by Mr. D. D. Dixon ; the rector of Edmundbyers records the history of his parish ; and Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson, F.S.A., contributes some of the fruits of his research as editor of the new County History in the Proofs of Age produced at enquiries into heirships to estates in the fifteenth century. The volume also contains biographical articles on the late Mr. Sheriton Holmes, and the late Chancellor of Carlisle, respectively contributed by Mr. F. W. Dendy and Dr. Hodgkin. The ninth volume of the *Proceedings* has also been completed, and one or two additional instalments of the Elsdon Parish Registers have been printed.

26 new members have been elected and 354 are now enrolled ; but your Council has to deplore losses sustained by deaths during the year. These include the names of Sheriton Holmes, Alex. Shannon Stevenson, and Dr. Dennis Embleton, all three vice-presidents of the society. Their genial presence at our meetings and their continuous interest in our pursuits are now deprivations which will long be felt. In the death of the worshipful Chancellor Ferguson a loss well nigh irreparable has been sustained. Works of varied character, historical and archaeological, have followed each other from his pen in prolific succession, whilst his character and presence at once animated and linked together the two northern societies of Cumberland and Newcastle.

Further losses in our membership include the names of the late Lord Armstrong, who welcomed our visits to his castles of Bamborough and Cartington, and who received our members so hospitably at Cragside; the late Mr. Joseph Cowen, whose interest in our proceedings never flagged, and of whom a happy recollection remains in the reception given to the society at Stella hall and the address to which we listened on that occasion. We have further to lament Mr. J. B. Clayton, the Rev. R. W. Dixon, and our genial friend and colleague the late Mr. Hugh Taylor. Nor can we pause even here, for by the death of General Pitt-Rivers, an honorary member of our society, the loss to archaeology is a national one.

Our monthly meetings in the castle have been continued throughout the year with unabated interest and on more than one occasion our noble president has occupied the chair. Our meeting on April 25th was opened in the castle and adjourned to the lecture room of the Literary and Philosophical Society, courteously granted for the occasion, where Mr. J. P. Gibson exhibited his series of views illustrating recent discoveries on the Roman Wall, accompanying them with a most interesting personal description of each scene. Our July meeting was held at 2 p.m. with a view to meet the convenience of country members, but the numbers present hardly justified the innovation. Our out-door meetings have been held at Harbottle, Mount Grace, and at Norton. At Harbottle the excursion was most genially and ably conducted by Mr. D. D. Dixon who not only acted as guide throughout but read most valuable papers descriptive of the places visited. These included the castle of Harbottle, Alwinton church, Hepple Woodhouses pele and Hepple. The second meeting included visits to Kirk Levington, Crathorne, and Mount Grace priory, where members were met by Sir Lowthian Bell, the owner, and the remains were described by Mr. William Brown, F.S.A., the former owner. At the third meeting Norton, Billingham and Great-ham were visited under the guidance of the Rev. J. F. Hodgson and the Rev. G. W. Reynolds, whose valuable remarks will be found in our *Proceedings*.

The important question of continued excavations on the line of the Roman Wall has occupied the attention of your council, and in

order to ensure efficiency in future operations the excavation committee has been re-constituted and a consideration of further investigations has been remitted to their special oversight.

Cuttings made privately within the station of *Cilurnum*, across the axis formed by the junction of the line of the Wall with the walls of the camp, appear to reveal the existence of an earlier fosse.

Since our last annual report Mr. Robert Coltman Clephan, F.S.A., one of our colleagues, has published an important treatise on *The Defensive Armour and the Weapons and Engines of War of Medieval Times and of the Renaissance*. We have been indebted to Mr. Clephan for directing special attention to this important subject of research and to its examples in the collection in possession of the society. In the present volume the lucid exposition in the text and the abundant illustrations with which it is accompanied contribute to a work on the accomplishment of which Mr. Clephan is to be heartily congratulated.

During the year 1901 our district will be visited by the British Archaeological Association, when its members will be received by his Worship the Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The event will be anticipated with pleasure by our members and it is hoped that by it, and by the participation and presence of distinguished archaeologists, a renewed impulse may be given to the study of antiquity in general and to the elucidation of objects presented so abundantly in our own district in particular.

Your council's record would be incomplete without an expression of the regret with which they have heard of the lamented death of the bishop of London. Although not latterly connected with our society, his reputation as a historian of itself claims our regard; and his treatise on the tenures of the Northumberland Border brings home to us researches of the utmost value. To most of us, however, he will continue to be remembered by his long residence in Northumberland when, as the Rev. Mandell Creighton, he held the living of Embleton during a period of ten years, from 1874 to 1884. By his birth in the adjacent county of Cumberland, his education at the Durham Grammar School, and his long attachment to our own Northumberland Border we may well claim him as a conspicuous example of a north countryman.

The following is the

TREASURER'S REPORT, WITH BALANCE SHEET.

The number of members is now 354, comprising 349 ordinary and 5 life members. During the year 16 members have resigned, and we have lost 9 by death. The number of new members elected during the year is 26, including one life member. The new life member is the Trinity College Library, Dublin, and the composition of twelve guineas paid by it has been paid into the Post Office Savings Bank to the credit of the capital account, in accordance with the Council's order of the year 1890 to that effect.

The total revenue for the year is £541 2s. 3d. (including the twelve guineas received from the Trinity College Library, Dublin), and the expenditure has been £503 8s. 10d. (adding the debit balance of £2 5s. 4d. brought forward from last year), leaving a balance in hand of £37 13s. 5d. In this connexion it is only right to point out that the printers' account for the printing of the 55th part of the *Archaeologia Aeliana* was not received in time to be passed at the November meeting of the Council, otherwise the balance would have been reduced by about £33 0s. 0d.

The amounts paid for printing the *Archaeologia Aeliana* and the *Proceedings* have been considerably less than last year:—viz., for the former £45 7s. 3d., as against £141 14s. 6d., and for the latter, £49 2s. 0d., as against £75 7s. 6d. But there has been an exceptionally heavy outlay for the printing of *Parish Registers*, viz., £65 11s. 9d.

The illustrations have cost £7 7s. 3d. more than last year.

The Castle receipts show a falling off to the extent of £4 11s. 1d., while those of the Black Gate are practically the same as last year. The increase in the expenditure on the Castle is accounted for by the purchase of three new bookcases, which cost £33 0s. 0d.; while the extra outlay on the Black Gate arose from the necessity of putting the drains in proper order, which has cost the Society £10 16s. 11d.

The item of sundries shows a considerable reduction this year, being £76 6s. 10d., as against £95 5s. 5d. for 1899. A detailed statement is attached to the balance-sheet.

R. S. Nisbet, hon. treasurer.

*R. S. Nisbet, treasurer, in account with the Society of Antiquaries,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.*

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER, 1900.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance 1st January, 1900					2	5 4
Members' Subscriptions	382	4	0			
Books	17	15	3	20	8	4
Castle	115	12	0	105	4	0
Black Gate	25	11	0	41	19	0
PRINTING :—						
<i>Archæologia Aeliana</i>				45	7	3
<i>Proceedings</i>				49	2	0
<i>Parish Registers</i>				65	11	9
Illustrations				35	7	7
Museum				10	5	9
Sundries				75	5	10
Secretary, for Clerical Assistancce... ..				40	0	0
Amount invested in Post Office Savings Bank				12	12	0
Balance in Bank	£34	2	6			
Do. Treasurer's hands... ..	3	10	11			
				37	13	5
	£541	2	3	£541	2	3

Investments.

2½ per cent. Consols				42	18	5
POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK—						
As at 31st December, 1899	£23	11	0			
ADD—Deposit this year... ..	£12	12	0			
Interest „ „	1	15	8	14	7	8
				37	18	8
				£80	17	1

Examined with Vouchers and found correct,

JOHN M. WINTER,

Chartered Accountant.

18th January, 1901.

Details of Expenditure.

CASTLE—			BLACK GATE—		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries	65	0 0	Salaries	21	12 0
Insurance	0	7 6	Insurance	2	15 0
Carried forward	65	7 6	Carried forward	24	7 0

Brought forward 65 7 6				Brought forward 24 7 0			
Rent	...	...	0 2 6	Rent	...	...	1 0 0
Water rate	...	...	0 6 0	Water Rate	...	...	1 0 0
Gas	...	...	0 2 7	Gas	...	...	2 7 7
Repairs	...	...	3 1 4	Repairs	...	...	10 16 11
Bookcases	...	...	33 0 0	Income Tax	...	...	1 5 0
Sundries: brushes, fire-wood, candles, &c.	...	...	0 12 1	Coals	...	...	1 2 6
Coal	...	...	1 1 6				<u>£41 19 0</u>
Income Tax	...	...	1 10 6				
			<u>£105 4 0</u>				

BOOKS BOUGHT, ETC.—

Subscriptions to Societies—				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Parish Register Society	...	...	...	1	1	0			
Harleian Society	...	...	...	1	1	0			
Surtees Society	...	...	...	1	1	0			
National Trust Society	...	...	...	1	1	0			
							4	4	0
Terry's <i>Campaigns of Alexander Leslie</i>	...	...	...				0	13	1
<i>County History of Northumberland</i> , vol. 5	...	...	...				1	6	0
Calverley's <i>Early Sculptured Crosses in the Diocese of Carlisle</i>	...	...	...				1	1	0
Gilbank's <i>Cistercian Abbey (Holme Cultrum)</i>	...	...	...				0	5	0
Lang's <i>Scotland</i>	...	...	...				0	15	0
<i>Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist</i>	...	...	...				0	10	0
<i>Antiquary and Notes and Queries</i>	...	...	...				1	0	4
Clephan's <i>Medieval Armour, &c.</i>	...	...	...				0	7	6
<i>Feudal Aids...</i>	...	...	...				0	15	0
Calendar of State Papers— <i>Catalogue of Ancient Deeds</i> , vol. iii.	...	...	...				0	15	0
<i>Year Book of Learned Societies</i>	...	...	...				0	7	6
Wilson's <i>Ancient Sculptured Crosses</i>	...	...	...				0	10	0
Asher & Co. for <i>Transactions of Imperial German Archaeological Institute</i>	...	...	...				1	10	6
Holmes's <i>Town Walls of Newcastle</i> (60 copies)	...	...	...				2	0	0
Elworthy's <i>Evil Eye and Horns of Honour</i>	...	...	...				1	8	0
Phillips's <i>Token Money of Bank of England</i>	...	...	...				0	2	6
Murray's <i>Dictionary</i> (S. 3, part 3)	...	...	...				0	10	6
<i>English Dialect Dictionary</i> , parts 9 and 10	...	...	...				1	1	0
German Roman Wall (parts 11 and 12)	...	...	...				0	7	8
J. C. Wilson for bookbinding	...	...	...				0	18	9
							<u>£20 8 4</u>		

SUNDRIES—	£	s.	d.
Debit Balance from 1899...	2	5	4
A. Reid & Co., Ltd., for sundries	5	12	6
G. Nicholson, for general printing	32	15	6
Kilgour & Liddell, repairing chair	0	9	0
J. A. Dotchin & Co., brushes	0	9	9
Hy. Watson & Son, plumbing work for conversazione	6	11	4
Postage, and carriage of parcels	8	2	5
Cheque book	0	5	0
Railway carriage on Cheese-Press	0	16	8
Index to vol. xxii. <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>	3	3	0
Fire insurance premium on 'Brooks Collection'	1	15	0
Secretary's out of pocket expenses	11	10	4
Treasurer's do. do.	1	10	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	75	5	10

The following is the

CURATORS' REPORT

for the year 1900 :—

'The donations to the Museum have been five in number, received from four contributors, and particulars of the objects presented are given below.

The public interest in the Old Castle and in the Society's collection of antiquities has been continuous, and the visitors have included numerous members of the Church Congress and of the Congregational Union, whose assemblies were lately held in Newcastle. Other societies, including the Northern Architectural Association, and the Throckley Co-operative Reading Society, visited the Castle and Black Gate by special arrangement, and were conducted by your curators.

The popular Guide Book, published by the Society, has now been sold out. As many objects in our Museum have been recently rearranged, it will be necessary to rewrite the brochure should the publication of a new edition be decided on by the society.

Your curators have to acknowledge their indebtedness to the unremitting services rendered them by Mr. John Gibson, custodian of the Castle, whose life-long and invaluable co-operation in the work of the society cannot be too highly appreciated.'

DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

- 1900.
- Feb. 28. From Mr. D. D. DIXON, Rothbury :—(1) A pair of hand wool-carders, called 'floghters,' used in Upper Coquetdale early in the nineteenth century. (2) A shepherd's staff with iron crook, used by flockmasters in the Vale of Whittingham, and dating between the years 1810 and 1820 (*Proceedings*, vol. ix. p. 205).
- May 20. From Mr. T. GLOVER :—A smoke-jack for roasting meat, taken from the chimney of an old house in Wellington Street, South Shields. In this contrivance the ascending current of air in the flue acted upon a circular fan and gave the rotary motion for turning the spit, which worked by a pulley and chain (*Proceedings*, vol. ix. p. 226).
- July 25. From Mr. C. CARVER, 4 Prince Consort Road, Gateshead:—A heavy hunting rifle of German make, *circa* 1820 or 1830 (*Proceedings*, vol. ix. p. 262.)
- " " From Mr. FOGGIN, Main Street, Corbridge:—A Roman bas relief on a fragmentary slab, measuring fourteen and a half by twelve inches, with a sculptured figure of Mercury wearing the *petasus* and carrying the *bursa* in his right hand and the *caduceus* on his left arm. The stone was found in excavating for a drain in the road between Halton Castle and the neighbouring colliery in the month of July (*Proceedings*, vol. ix. p. 263.) See illustration below.



FIGURE OF MERCURY FROM NEAR HALTON CASTLE.