

REPORT
OF
The Society of Antiquaries
OF
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

ANNUAL MEETING, MDCCCIII.

OUR society commemorates to-day its ninetieth anniversary and in the year that is past we look back upon a period memorable in our national history. The alternations of light and shadow in our annals have seldom followed each other in more rapid succession. The celebration of peace, the suspense during the illness of the king, and his majesty's happy recovery were the immediate precursors of the great event of the year, the coronation on the ninth of August of our most gracious sovereign king Edward VII.

A period of absorption in public events may well have monopolised attention. But, be this as it may, the work accomplished by many public institutions appears to have suffered diminution and to have attracted a lessened interest in comparison with that of former years, and our own society is probably no exception to the general experience.

Perhaps the uppermost feeling in our minds at this moment recalls the personality of the chairman who presided over our last annual meeting. The speech with which he concluded the business of that day was a characteristic utterance; but we have now to look back upon its frank and genial periods with all the poignancy that marks the récollection of a valedictory address. They were the last words uttered in our midst by our late vice-president, Mr. Cadwallader John Bates; for on the twentieth of March, his untimely death overshadowed the year. It has been said that as

an antiquary his loss is an incalculable one. It may well be added that as a friend his loss is irreparable. We are yet too near to realize the full extent of our deprivation, for it may be said that from first to last his enthusiastic interest pervaded every department of our society's work. Mr. Bates was elected a member in 1882. In 1891 he contributed to our transactions the first part of his 'Border Holds of Northumberland,' a work of xxiv—465 pages, forming an entire volume (xiv.) of *Archaeologia Aeliana*. By his premature death this important publication has been left unfinished; but, incomplete though it be, it will remain a standing memorial of the ability and thoroughness with which his investigations were characterized. A bibliography of the writings of Mr. Bates has been compiled by our colleague, Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson. This will appear in the forthcoming part of *Archaeologia Aeliana* appended to an obituary notice by Dr. Hodgkin. At the suggestion of Mr. J. C. Hodgson your council has lent its sanction to the publication, by subscription, of a memorial volume to consist of a selection of letters on archaeological subjects written by Mr. Bates, and the editorship of these has been generously undertaken by the rev. M. Culley. In his hands we may feel confident that the task will prove a labour of love.

More recently we have to deplore the death of Mr. William Searle Hicks, who was elected to our membership in 1883. As an ecclesiastical architect Mr. Hicks was widely known and highly regarded in his profession, and his services as a specialist in medieval art and as an ecclesiologist have been on many occasions rendered to our society. Ever unobtrusively, but always generously given, these services have been at all times greatly appreciated; so that in the twenty years of his membership we have learned to realize the estimable character of one whose gracious nature and retiring disposition added dignity to his professional accomplishments and whose premature death leaves so grievous a blank.

We have also to record the death of our aged colleague, Mr. John Ventress. A paper on the bells of St. Nicholas's church, Newcastle, was contributed by him to the second volume of the new series of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, and from that time till the year of his death detached notes on old features of the city appeared from him in our

Proceedings. The model of the castle, now in the Black Gate museum, was entirely his own handiwork. Its execution represents a work of years, its plan being taken as far as possible from data obtained in actual excavations. Whilst, however, much of its elevation is conjectural, and the wall circuit of the inner bailey is largely on traditional lines, the model itself forms an invaluable plan of the whole enclosure and an accurate key to the sites of the subsidiary structures. Mr. Ventress originally joined our society in 1856, and, after an intermission of some years, became a regular attender at our meetings until within a short time before his death at the advanced age of 84. He had been well acquainted with many of the early members of our society and his presence was an interesting link between the present and the past.

In addition to our ordinary monthly meetings in the castle, six country meetings have been held during the year.

On June the fifth, members assembled at Rothbury, under the guidance of their colleague, Mr. D. D. Dixon, when Brinkburn priory, Whitton tower, Cragside and Rothbury church were visited in succession. A series of valuable historical notes was read by Mr. Dixon at the several halts by the way, rendering the visit to each object one of special interest.

On Friday, August the first, a country meeting was held at Morpeth, Bothal and Cockle Park. Mr. Knowles described the archaeological features of Morpeth church and Cockle Park tower, and the intimate local knowledge of our valued colleague, the rev. John Walker, and that of the hon. and rev. W. Ellis, contributed greatly to the success of the meeting. At Morpeth, our party was received by the mayor, Mr. Young, who kindly exhibited the council chamber and the historic treasures of the borough. At Cockle Park tower, the experimental farm of the Northumberland County Council was shewn by county alderman T. Carrick, who also received the members in the tower. At Bothal, members were welcomed by the rector, the hon. and rev. W. Ellis, who shewed them his grounds of Bothalhaugh and accompanied them in an inspection of the church and castle, both of which he described.

An afternoon meeting was held at Tynemouth on August the second, when our vice-president, Mr. H. A. Adamson, received the

He was in
his 87th year
according
to the
advertisement
announcing
his death on
the 11/12/1902

members, describing the monastic history and remains of the priory, and conducting them, by permission of major Chamberlain, R.A., through the governor's house, about to be demolished.*

The fifth country meeting was held on Monday, September the first, at Barnard Castle, members proceeding thence by Egliston abbey and Greta Bridge to Rokeby.

A second afternoon meeting was held on October the fourth at Corbridge, where the party was conducted by the junior secretary. The church and pele were examined and described, and the way was then taken by the bridle path to Aydon castle, on the road to which the remaining field strips were examined with interest.

The mid-summer meeting, extending over two days, was held on the line of the Antonine Wall on July the first and second, Falkirk being adopted as a centre. Arrangements for the visit were carried out in the most complete manner by Mr. J. R. MacLuckie, F.S.A. (Scot.), and under his guidance the party successively visited Falkirk church, Callendar house and South Bantaskine on the first day, and the Roman camp at Camelon, the broch of Tappock, Torwoodhead castle, Dunipace house, the excavations at the stationary camp near Castlecary, the castle there, and the line of the turf Wall on the return by Rough Castle to Falkirk on the second day. Tappock broch and Torwood and Castlecary castles were described by Mr. Thomas Ross, F.S.A. (Scot.), and the camps at Castlecary and Rough Castle were severally described by Mr. Cunningham, C.E., secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and by Mr. Mungo Buchanan, other places of interest being described by Mr. MacLuckie himself. The inadequate accommodation obtainable in the Falkirk hotels was supplemented by the private entertainment provided for a considerable number of our members. This generous hospitality was equalled by the devotion displayed by the Scottish antiquaries on every hand, and with this happy combination the meeting was felt to be altogether successful. The unanimous feeling of all present found utterance in a suggestion that it would be a courteous return were we to extend an invitation to our Scottish hosts, many of whom expressed a strong desire to visit the line of the southern Wall. Your council would gladly accede to the proposition, and in so doing suggest that a country meeting be

* Since the meeting the building has been razed to the ground.

held in the summer of the present year on the Roman Wall in Northumberland, and that our conductors at Falkirk, with their friends, be invited to join with us. Such a conference, duly arranged, would not only prove a friendly visit, but afford opportunity for an exchange of observations on the respective lines of investigation.

During the year the fifty-eighth part of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, consisting of two hundred and nine pages of letterpress, has been issued. It contains the first instalment of the report on the excavations conducted by the Roman Wall Excavation Committee, to which our vice-president, Dr. Hodgkin, contributes an introduction. Mr. J. P. Gibson describes his discovery of a hitherto unknown wall-turret on Mucklebank, following this by a circumstantial account of the excavations conducted at AESICA in the years 1894, 5 and 7. Plates, from Mr. Gibson's own photographs, and a plan from the late Mr. Sheriton Holmes's survey, enhance the interest of the important details and discoveries described by Mr. Gibson. The part also contains an account by Mr. J. P. Pritchett of recent discoveries in the chapel of Raby castle, illustrated by a complete series of plans, sections and elevations of the windows, doors, sedilia, and other features now brought to light. In another paper our vice-president, Mr. R. Coltman Clephan, F.S.A., furnishes a treatise on military engines of the Roman and medieval periods, detailing and illustrating his subject with the pains and care of a specialist. The remainder of the part consists of four contributions to material for local history. In one of these Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson has edited Miss Martin's digest of the Brumell collection of charters, deposited with our society. In a brief paper Mr. T. M. Fallow, F.S.A., has made an abstract of deeds relating to Chester-le-Street. Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson also continues the series of 'Proofs of Age' in two more abstracts, and our vice-president, Mr. Richard Welford, adds fifty closely printed pages as a second instalment of local muniments. It is hardly possible to exaggerate the importance of contributions of this character, and it may be safely said that they will render the pages of *Archaeologia Aeliana* a storehouse of information to the topographer and to the genealogist in time to come.

Besides the *Archaeologia Aeliana*, the *Proceedings* of the society, issued to members during the past year, occupy one hundred and sixty-four pages of the tenth volume of the series, which are profusely illustrated. When complete the volume will be not only a digest of the society's proceedings, but it will even excel its predecessors as a *repertoire* of notes and documents, the fruit of assiduous care and pains on the part of our editorial secretary. To these notes the rev. canon Baily has added further extracts from Ryton church briefs.

His grace the duke of Northumberland, president of our society, has carried out important excavations at the gatehouse of Alnwick castle during the past year. These have disclosed the masonry and abutments about the moat and draw-bridge, including the chamber from which the latter was worked. The method adopted for raising and lowering the draw-bridge is rendered apparent by this discovery and is seen to be one of peculiar arrangement. In its exceptional character it is possibly the first of its kind yet found in England. Our colleague, Mr. W. H. Knowles, F.S.A., who directed the excavations, has promised to read a paper to the society on the subject.

The demolition of house property in Newcastle for the purpose of clearing sites for new buildings has been one of the incidents of the past year. So rapidly and extensively has this been carried out that the appearance of some old thoroughfares has already suffered transformation. Strange to say the finds made in the process have been remarkably few, although careful watch has been kept in view of the possible disinterment of relics. Perhaps the most noteworthy features observable have been the demolition of the workshop of Thomas Bewick in St Nicholas's churchyard, of the birthplace of admiral lord Collingwood at the Head of the Side, and the total disappearance of the frontage from that point downwards in the steep thoroughfare to the lower Side. Most of the houses were timber-framed from ground to ridge, with upper storeys projecting over the pathway, giving a seventeenth century aspect to the acclivity. Some of the shops retained to the last their unglazed and perfectly open 'bulks,' where, until the middle of the nineteenth century, the flax-dresser's stock might be seen, with its carded bundles ready for the spinning wheel, while the merchant himself stood white-

aproned beside his scale-beam, the entire establishment lying open to the street. One result of the operations in the Side has been to open out the conduit in which the stream, formerly flowing between the tower of St. Nicholas and Denton chare (supplying on its way the Pant at the Head of the Side), had long been confined. The demolition of the seventeenth century houses disclosed, too, the earlier medieval street line and the great retaining wall of the churchyard behind. Many walls and foundations of ancient masonry, in which ashlar courses had been constructed from yet earlier materials, stood conspicuous in the area. The appearance of the site clearly indicates that as the thoroughfare had been improved and the stream bed raised to carry a wider pavement the ground recovered between the medieval buildings and the stream had been utilized as the site of the seventeenth century frontage now demolished.

In this connexion your council, hearing that negociations were in progress for the sale of the open site on the north side of the Black Gate, agreed to appoint a deputation to the Corporation on the subject. This piece of ground was originally occupied by a group of half-timber houses, built on the western extremity of what was formerly known as 'Laurence Acton's Waste,' a steep slope lying between the enceinte of the castle and the thoroughfare from the Head of the Side to the 'Dog Loup' stairs. The uppermost buildings on this street line had long screened the Black Gate from public view; their removal in 1877 not only revealed the thirteenth century masonry of the great gate, but formed an open space in a congested locality and added a striking feature to the town by the view thus disclosed. For the first time in modern days it became possible to appreciate the group of historic buildings formed by the castle, the Black Gate and the cathedral church of Saint Nicholas, now made visible from the main thoroughfare. These features are justly admired by every visitor to Newcastle as the most characteristic association of buildings in the city. The Parks Committee of the Corporation had added greatly to the effect at this point by enclosing and planting it. It was therefore with some dismay that your council heard of a contemplated sale of the ground for the erection of business premises on the site, a project which would have screened from view the northern face of the bastion, and marred the unique prospect. Our president

cordially approved of the resolution of protest and the deputation formed to wait upon the Estates and Property Committee of the Corporation on April 28th last, was accompanied by Sir B. C. Browne, Mr. C. W. Mitchell, and Mr. L. W. Adamson, LL.D., receiving besides the support of Mr. Wigham Richardson, Mr. Robert Knight, and other influential citizens, unable to be present in person. The case of our society, introduced to the committee of the City Council by Mr. Dendy, seconded by Sir B. C. Browne and Dr. Adamson, was listened to with attention, and the deputation received assurance that their protest should meet with every consideration.

One of the features of the past year has been the increasing number of societies attracted to the castle and to the Black Gate museum. Parties of these, chiefly young people connected with various organisations, have from time to time availed themselves of the special charge made for admission in such cases. Their evident interest in the objects belonging to our society suggests the desirability of still further popularizing the study of antiquities by systematic effort in this direction. It will be remembered that this was a function recognised by our early members, and the present time is opportune for enlisting an intelligent interest in the objects of our pursuit. Your council therefore recommend for consideration the question of holding a series of lectures to be arranged for experimentally during next winter. It might be possible in this way to secure on occasion distinguished men from a distance as well as to utilize the services of specialists in our own membership.

For the purpose of our ordinary monthly meetings, the library has undergone repairs in making tight the window frames and in instituting a new warming apparatus. It is hoped that our meetings may henceforth take place under greatly ameliorated conditions, and that a largely increased attendance of members may justify the changes effected.

In conclusion, your council refer with pleasure to the publication in the past year of the sixth volume of the Northumberland County History, the appearance of which was anticipated in our last report. The volume deals with the twin parishes of Bywell, and the various township histories are detailed with the research and ability which we are accustomed to look for in the work of the indefatigable

editor, our colleague, Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson. The book also possesses a special attraction in its monograph on the Baliols, formerly lords of the barony of Bywell. This important section traces the rise and fall of a name vastly prominent in English and Scottish history but never before treated with the research, the discrimination of character, and the mastery of detail here shown. Its particular interest to ourselves lies in the fact that it is the work of our distinguished and venerable vice-president, the rev. W. Greenwell.

The following is the

TREASURER'S REPORT, WITH BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1902.

The number of members at present on the roll is 335—namely, 331 ordinary and 4 life members. During the year nine members have resigned, seven have died, the membership of three has lapsed through their leaving the district, and one has been struck off the roll by order of the council, a total of 20; while twelve new members have been elected.

The total income for the year (together with the balance brought forward) has been £604 9s. 10d., and the expenditure £533 3s. 1d., leaving a credit balance of £71 6s. 9d. The increased expenditure on the *Archaeologia Aeliana* (being an increase of £88 15s. 0d.) was anticipated in last year's report, while the cost of printing the *Proceedings* shows an increase of £2 10s. 0d. only. The expenditure on illustrations has been £6 15s. 4d. less than last year, while the sundries account also shows a decrease of £16 10s. 1d.

It is gratifying to note that the receipts at the Castle still continue to advance, showing a total for the year of £128 16s. 0d., as against £119 17s. 3d. for 1901, an increase of £8 18s. 9d. The increase at the Black Gate is £1 19s. 2d.

The amount received for books sold is £26 1s. 3d., as against £12 5s. 9d., an increase of £13 15s. 6d.

The cost of printing and illustrating the AESICA report amounts to £23 10s. 1d., which is included in this year's accounts.

A detailed statement of the expenditure accompanies the balance sheet.

R. S. NISBET, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE SOCIETY OF
ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER, 1902.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance 1st January, 1902	...	...	...	77	3	1
Members' Subscriptions	345	9	0			
Castle	128	16	0	72	2	8
Black Gate	27	0	6	34	9	0
Books sold at Castle	26	1	3			
Books bought	...	...	...	48	10	0
PRINTING:—						
<i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>	...	...	...	161	12	0
<i>Proceedings</i>	...	...	...	59	8	0
Illustrations	...	...	...	46	13	3
Sundries	...	...	...	70	8	2
Secretary, for clerical assistance	...	...	...	40	0	0
Balance in Bank	£71	0	3			
Do. Treasurer's hands	0	6	6			
				71	6	9
				£604	9	10
				£604	9	10

Investments.

		£	s.	d.
2½ per cent. Consols as at 31st December, 1902	...	...	...	42 18 5
In Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1901	£40	1	1	
Add interest for the year	...	...	...	42 4 6
				£85 2 11

Examined with Vouchers and found correct,

HERBERT M. WOOD,

Chartered Accountant.

Sunderland,
16th January, 1903.

Details of Expenditure.

CASTLE—	£	s.	d.	BLACK GATE—	£	s.	d.
Wages of Attendant	65	0	0	Wages of Attendant	20	16	0
Insurance	0	7	6	Rent	1	0	0
Rent	0	2	6	Income Tax	2	3	9
Income Tax	2	13	5	Water Rate	1	0	0
Water Rate	0	6	0	Gas Account	3	4	10
Gas Account	0	16	7	Coals	1	16	0
Repairs	1	4	3	Repairs	3	11	2
Coals	0	18	0	Sundries: Brushes, &c....	0	17	3
Sundries: firewood, candles, &c.	0	14	5				
					£34	9	0
	£72	2	8				

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			
Durham & Northumb ^d Parish Register Society ...	0	10	6			
				3	13	6
Printing 1,000 Guides to Black Gate and Keep'				11	15	0
<i>Oxford Dictionary</i>				2	3	9
<i>English Dialect Dictionary</i>				1	1	0
<i>Calendar of Pat. Rolls, Henry VI., vol. 1</i>				0	15	0
<i>Antiquary and Notes and Queries</i>				1	10	10
<i>The Northern Genealogist</i> , vols. iv. and v.				1	1	0
Burke's <i>Armoury</i>				4	0	0
St. John Hope's <i>Windsor Stall Plates</i> , last part				0	12	10
<i>Monastic Seals of the XIII. Century</i>				1	1	6
<i>Victoria History of Cumberland</i>				1	11	6
<i>Corp. Inscip. Lat.</i> , vol. xiii.				2	0	0
Asher & Co. for Transactions of Imperial German Archaeo- logical Institute				1	1	6
<i>Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist</i>				0	10	0
Rev. E. A. Downam for plans of earthworks (original drawings)				2	12	3
General Pitt Rivers, <i>Art of Benin</i>				0	12	6
Sepulchral Slabs				0	7	6
<i>Report on the Antonine Wall</i>				0	10	10
Lang's <i>History of Scotland</i> , vol. ii.				0	15	0
<i>The Scottish Antiquary</i> , vols. 16 and 17				0	9	0
Otto Petters, <i>Obergermanisch-Ractische Limes</i>				0	15	9
Tynemouth Parish Register				0	2	0
<i>Year Book of Learned Societies</i>				0	7	6
J. C. Wilson for bookbinding'				3	5	3
F. Sanderson, for binding 10 vols. of the 'Brooks Collection'				5	15	0
				<u>£48 10 0</u>		

SUNDRIES—

	£	s.	d.
Geo. Nicholson, for general printing	27	18	9
A. Reid & Co., Ltd., for sundries	5	10	9
Postage of <i>Archaeologia</i> , etc.	7	16	4
Carriage of books and various parcels	1	4	9
Deed book and lettering same	0	11	0
Cheque book	0	5	0
Copper plate of 'Joe the Quilter's' cottage	0	15	6
Richardson & Co., for painting casts	0	2	6
Fire insurance premium on the 'Brooks Collection'	1	16	6
Fire insurance premium for 'Black Gate'	2	15	0
Secretary's out of pocket expenses	16	11	7
Treasurer's do. do.	1	17	6
Index to <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> , vol. xxiv.	3	3	0
	<u>£70 8 2</u>		

CURATORS' REPORT FOR 1902.

During the year ten contributors have added gifts to the society's collection, particulars of which are given in the following list :—

1902.

DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

- Feb. 26. From EDITH, lady COMPTON-THORNHILL :—Portion of a pre-conquest cross shaft, 30 inches long, with two fragmentary portions of other shafts. Discovered at Carham. (*Proceedings*, vol. x. p. 153). Several coins, including a third brass of Constantine II. ; a penny of Henry III. ; groats of Edward III. and IV. ; a gold quarter-noble of Henry V. or VI. ; Calais groat of Henry VI. ; half-groat of Henry VII. ; shilling of Elizabeth (found at Gallows-hill, Wark-on-Tweed) ; shilling of Charles II. ; five Scottish hawbees and seven bodles of Charles II. ; bodle of William and Mary ; small Danish silver coin of Christian VII. ; and a Nuremberg counter (*Proceedings*, vol. x. p. 154).
- Mar. 26. From Mr. T. H. ARCHER HIND of Newton Abbot :—Coins, tokens and medals, found at various times at Morris Hall, near Norham Castle ; also a papal *bullæ* and a decorated spindle whorl. 31 of the coins are of silver, and 307—coins, tokens and medals—are chiefly of copper. Nine second and third brass Roman coins occur in the collection (*Proceedings*, vol. x. pp. 167-8).
- ” ” From Mr. JOHN WILSON, Leazes Park :—A pair of bowls used at Tudhoe in the middle of the last century (*Proceedings*, vol. x. p. 169).
- May 28. From Mr. C. WINTER :—Arms of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, carved in wood, painted and gilded ; from the canopy of the mayor's seat in the Corporation pew, formerly standing in the north aisle of the chancel of St. Nicholas's church, Newcastle (*Proceedings*, vol. x. p. 182).
- ” ” From Mr. MILLER CHRISTY, Chelmsford :—An adjustable pot-hook from an Essex cottage fire-place (*ibid.*).
- July 30. From THE MAYOR OF NEWCASTLE :—Two coronation medals in bronze struck 'in celebration of the Coronation of Their Majesties King Edward VII., and Queen Alexandra, June 26, 1902.' The date was anticipatory, for the king's illness prevented the actual ceremony until Saturday, August 9 (*Proc.*, vol. x. p. 234).
- Aug. 27. From Mr. ROBERT SPENCE, North Shields : Working model of a mangonel, a military engine used in the period between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries, for slinging heavy projectiles of stone. (*Proceedings*, vol. x. p. 269).
- ” ” From R. BLAIR (one of the secretaries) :—Iron slag found on the moors near Keyhurst farm, Netherwitton, Northumberland (*ibid.*).
- Sep. 24. From R. OLIVER HESLOP (one of the secretaries) : Old clasp knife found in the Willington Quay ballast hill, 1902 (*Proceedings*, vol. x. p. 294).
- Nov. 26. From Sir H. W. SETON-KARR, M.P. :—A number of pre-historic flints, etc., from Somaliland and Egypt.