

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

ANNUAL MEETING, MDCCCIV.

WITH their ninety-first Annual Report your Council record with regret the death of no fewer than eleven members of our society in the past year.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Ravensworth succeeded his father as president of our society in 1879, and continued in that office until the press of other matters compelled him to resign in 1898. His genial presence in the chair was, in former years, a welcome feature of our annual meetings; whilst his zeal for the society, and his interest in our pursuits were at all times manifested. These characteristics were particularly shown when it fell to his lot to represent our society on special occasions. Thus, when the Royal Archaeological Institute visited Newcastle in 1884 he received its members on behalf of our society. In the following year he formally opened the Blackgate museum. Again, in 1886, he presided at the banquet served in this building to commemorate the pilgrimage of the Roman Wall then undertaken. The addresses given at each of these gatherings were of more than passing interest, and their scope and character were admirably suited to the occasions. In the second of the addresses above referred to, that of 1885, reference was made to the peculiar relation that had existed between his family and the precincts of the old castle, and his lordship's words may be fittingly recalled at this juncture: 'I have a certain interest in this castle,' he said, 'not only as

being a member of this society myself, but from the fact that my ancestors were leaseholders of the Castle Garth for a great number of years. In 1736, my ancestor, Colonel Liddell, entered into competition with no less a body than the municipality of this ancient town; they competed for the renewal of the lease, but he got the best of it, and obtained the lease from the Crown. In 1756 the reversion of this lease was again purchased by the first Lord Ravensworth, but in 1780 it was sold to Mr. Turner, and in 1811 the Newcastle Corporation regained the possession of the Castle Garth and its surroundings.' Our late President was thus doubly related to our society; first, by his regard for the pursuits of our members, and further, in an attachment to this place with its associations of an ancestral possession.

The Rev. Anthony Johnson was elected to our membership in 1882. His monographs on Bywell and Blanchland form valuable contributions to the thirteenth and sixteenth volumes of *Archaeologia Aeliana*. A retiring disposition hardly disclosed his capabilities to those only known to him by casual contact. But on the visits of our society to Bywell and to Blanchland, where he acted as guide, his descriptions of the places were of the greatest interest, revealing, as they did, stores of local and general information and a reserve of erudition; and these services were rendered with a kindliness and geniality not to be forgotten.

Mr. William Glendenning was elected in 1878, and has thus been associated with us for a quarter of a century. To the end of this long period he sustained an observant interest in our proceedings and was a regular attender of our out-door meetings.

Mr. William Harris Robinson was an ardent collector, whose judgment and taste in matters of art were as conspicuous as his urbane and quiet character was unobtrusive. In his speciality as a numismatist his services were at the call of the investigator, and were at all times willingly rendered. From his election in 1882 until illness prevented, he was constant in his attendance at our meetings, where his kindly presence was always welcomed.

Mr. Robert Yeoman Green, elected 1883, an accomplished naturalist, was always greatly interested in archaeology. He combined a life-long intimacy with a rare knowledge of the history and

antiquities of Newcastle, where his presence suggested a connecting link between our own and an older generation of citizens whose pursuit of knowledge remains one of our worthiest traditions.

Mr. Walter Scott of Sunderland, was elected in 1888, and, although unable by distance to attend our monthly meetings, he took part in our country excursions. He was throughout quietly and observantly interested in our pursuits.

Mr. George Skelly of Alnwick, had been long and widely known as a glossarist and folk-lorist, although his membership dated only from 1892. As a painstaking observer and diligent recorder he enriched the local press from time to time with copious notes on his particular studies.

Mr. David Arundell Holdsworth was elected in 1895, and showed a keen interest in the meetings of the society. To an ardent pursuit of knowledge he added rare powers of exposition, with the promise of useful capabilities in our midst. To our deprivation is added the loss of an eager comrade.

Mr. Charles William Mitchell of Jesmond Towers, joined our membership roll in succession to his father, and was elected in 1896. Circumstances prevented an active participation in our gatherings here; but although a stranger to our meetings he was a cordial friend in all that related to our proceedings. This was shown in a marked degree when our society learned that the frontage of the Blackgate had been threatened with an obstruction. At the call of your council he gave his personal attendance and lent his influence on our behalf with helpful results in averting that threatened misfortune. It was a happiness to be associated with a colleague who had already won distinction in his high calling as an artist, and whose services to his native city had unfolded plans of the brightest promise. To ourselves, as to the community at large, his premature loss is an irreparable deprivation. And, besides, it is the loss of a rare personality; for, as one of his friends has written, 'He was, in a word, of those whom to know with any degree of intimacy is to love; and he lives in the memory as an abiding inspiration.'

Mrs. Brock-Hollinshead of Shap, late of Cheltenham, elected in 1896, as a distant resident was debarred from attendance at our customary meetings; but as a student of archaeology she took a lively

interest in our publications, and was constant in her exchange of books from our library.

Whilst so many lapses fall to be thus enumerated at home, there yet remains for us to record that of a great figure in the wider field of Continental archaeology. Professor Mommsen was elected an honorary member in June, 1883, along with Dr. Emil Hübner, whom he survived by two years. The attachment of these two eminent names to our roll of membership was a distinction to our society, and their removal leaves us all the poorer. Of the veteran Mommsen's services record has already been made by our colleague, Mr. Haverfield.* It may be mentioned, however, as exemplifying his enduring interest in our concerns that the inscription on the recently discovered Newcastle slab was submitted to him, and his reading of it was received by Mr. Haverfield only a few days before the death of the historian.

In the past year the first part of the twenty-fifth volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana* was issued. It consists of 159 pages, 135 of which are devoted to papers by members. These include the important treatise on 'Early Ordnance in Europe,' by our vice-president, Mr. R. Coltman Clephan, F.S.A., with illustrations. Mr. William Brown, F.S.A., contributes 'Local Muniments' in a series of eighteen documents relating to the two northern counties dating from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries. They are accompanied by illustrations of seals, descriptions of which are given by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope. The third item is an unfinished paper on 'Dagger Money,' by the late W. H. D. Longstaffe, communicated by Mr. F. W. Dendy. The fourth consists of notes by Mr. Heslop, one of the secretaries, on 'Structural Features of the great Tower of Newcastle.' The fifth contribution relates to the discovery by the Right Rev. Bishop Hornby, of eighteen ancient deeds relating to Gunnerton, dating from the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries and now printed.

The first volume of the new—the second—series of *Archaeologia Aeliana* is dated 1857 and with the completion of the twenty-fifth volume the resolution of the society to end the series will come into force, and the next ensuing volume will be the first of the third series.

The original issue of our publications was of demy quarto size, measuring 11 by 9 inches, and continued thus in four successive

* Page 185 of this volume.

volumes bearing the imprints of the years 1822, 1832, 1846 and 1855 respectively. It may be remembered that copperplate and lithography were then in vogue for illustrative purposes. At the annual meeting of 1856 a resolution was adopted to print future publications in demy octavo, and our second series, with its octavo page of eight and three-quarter by five and three-quarter inches, has thus continued unaltered for the past 46 years.

In portability and appearance these last twenty-five volumes leave nothing to be desired; and, so far as typography is concerned, the demy octavo form might well be continued. But the alteration made of late years in the method of illustration, by which the work of the wood engraver is superseded by the process block, had rendered it desirable to adopt a size of page that will admit a display of the modern method to the greatest advantage. It is accordingly proposed to alter the format of our volumes to a size measuring eight and three-quarter inches high by seven inches wide. No change will thus be made in the height of our volumes, so that they will continue to appear on the shelf in uniform range with the preceding series; whilst an increased width of nearly an inch and a quarter will add considerably to the capacity of the page for purposes of illustration.

A further change, of which due notice has been given, will be submitted for your consideration at the present annual meeting. In place of the issue half-yearly in covers, hitherto in practice, it is proposed to send out a complete volume of the *Archaeologia Aeliana*, bound in a suitable material, at midsummer in each year.

As the alteration in form and in manner of publication are both in response to a widely-urged request your council trusts that the changes may enhance the appreciation with which our publications are regarded.

Our *Proceedings* with the year 1903 began the first volume of the third series. One hundred and four pages of this publication have been issued in the year besides a large portion of the index to the tenth volume. Copious illustrations, many important articles, with numerous records hitherto inedited, enhance the interest attaching to these reports of our proceedings. The printing of the Elsdon registers brought down to 1813 has also been finished.

In addition to the regular monthly meetings the society has held

out-door meetings in the summer, visiting severally the Roman camp at CILURNUM, with the line of the Wall to Limestone Bank ; Mitford and Newminster ; and Ulgham, Widdrington and Chibburn. Detailed and illustrated reports of these are given in our *Proceedings*.

Two most valuable contributions to local history made in the past year have been the work of members of our society.

Our colleague Mr. George B. Hodgson, in *The Borough of South Shields from the Earliest Period to the Close of the Nineteenth Century*, has placed the community under a debt of obligation. His work embraces an amount of historical and statistical information that will prove a perfect mine of facts and figures in itself. These illustrate in the most complete manner the rise and progress of an important municipality and its relation to the port of Tyne. From an archaeological standpoint the Roman, Anglian and medieval histories are summarized with conspicuous grasp of the subjects, whilst the literary qualities displayed add to Mr. Hodgson's book an attraction of themselves. It is equally fortunate that another local history has been undertaken by one who combines the observation of a naturalist and the erudition of an antiquary with a rare power of graphic delineation. In these qualities Mr. D. D. Dixon has more than realized anticipation in the publication of his *Upper Coquetdale*. A companion volume to the author's *Vale of Whittingham* it adds another interesting section to the history, traditions and folk-lore of the romantic uplands of Northumberland and an appreciation to the charm exercised by their scenery. When the new *County History of Northumberland* in its progress overtakes these areas Mr. Dixon's pages will prove to be of the utmost value. Written in a full knowledge of their abounding interests, the record partakes the freshness of the hills themselves. The qualities of Mr. Hodgson's and Mr. Dixon's volumes call for more than ordinary recognition and congratulation for their respective authors.

An interesting feature has been added to the collection of banners in the great hall of the castle by the presentation of a framed drawing, executed and given by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Blair. Each banner is blazoned on the drawing, its position on the wall being indicated, so that the plate furnishes a key to the heraldry and may be said to add a final item to the work.

Whilst so much has been done in the past to elucidate the structure and character of the stationary camps on the line of the Wall and elsewhere it is in no small degree remarkable that discoveries in PONS AELII itself have been so few and far between, and that even the exact site of the station is still a matter of conjecture. It is, therefore, with more than ordinary interest that the discoveries made on the site of the Aelian bridge and in what appear to have been the precincts of the camp call for notice. An altar and an inscribed slab, recovered from the debris of the Roman structure in the river bed, furnish, in the one, a dedication to Ocean by the sixth legion (in exact duplicate of design to the Neptune altar from the same site, already in our museum), and in the other a commemoration of Antoninus by Julius Verus his imperial legate and propraetor. The association of Neptune and Ocean thus personified, presents, not only a combination of great rarity, but is pointed out as of significance in its relation to the conquest of Northern Britain. At the same time the accompanying slab may yet prove to have added greatly to our knowledge of the detail of Roman history. With these was found the base of a third altar, the altar itself being yet wanting.

The discoveries of a well-shaped sacrophagus in Hanover Square, accompanied by a second and rough-hewn example near by, are not only important for the sake of the objects themselves but for the indication they furnish of an adjacent highway. They thus afford the first clue yet found to guide our investigations of the direction by which the stationary camp called PONS AELII was reached from the northern abutment of the bridge itself.

It is, finally, a matter of congratulation to record that all these objects have been placed in our museum in the permanent custody of our society.

TREASURER'S REPORT, WITH BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

The number of members is now 327.

During the year we have lost by death eleven members, twelve have resigned, and two have been struck off the roll, having left the district. Sixteen new members have joined during the twelve months, including one life member. The sum of twelve guineas, paid by the new life member—Lieut.-Col. Cuthbert—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 has been £598 12s. 11d., and the expenditure £525 4s. 8d., leaving a credit balance of £73 8s. 3d. The capital account now stands at £100 1s. 6d., being £34 12s. 1d. more than it did four years ago.

The exceptionally heavy expenditure on the Castle is accounted for by the two new stoves that have been put in, one in the library and the other in the warden's room, costing £22 10s. 0d. and £5 1s. 3d. respectively.

The combined receipts at the Castle and Blackgate are practically the same as last year—£155 0s. 8d.

The amount spent on the purchase of books has been £14 15s. 10d. less than last year. The illustrations have cost £11 19s. 9d. more, but the sum required for sundries is £14 7s. 6d. less than was expended last year.

Full details of expenditure are herewith attached.

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, 1903.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance 1st January, 1903	71 6 9	
Members' Subscriptions	350 14 0	
Books sold and bought	21 11 6	33 14 2
Castle	126 8 6	103 16 7
Blackgate	28 12 2	32 12 3
PRINTING:—		
<i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>		111 17 0
<i>Proceedings</i>		74 19 0
Illustrations		58 13 0
Sundries		56 0 8
Secretary, for clerical assistance		40 0 0
Museum		1 0 0
Invested in P.O.S. Bank	£12 12 0	
Balance in Bank	67 1 7	
Do. in Treasurer's hands	6 6 8	
	£598 12 11	£598 12 11

Investments.

	£	s.	d.
2½ per cent. Consols as at 3rd December, 1903	42	18	5
In Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1902	42	4	6
Interest for this year	£2	6	7
Deposited this year	12	12	0
	£100 1 6		

Examined with Vouchers and found correct,

JOHN M. WINTER & SONS,

Chartered Accountants.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
15th January, 1904.

Details of Expenditure.

CASTLE—	£	s.	d.	BLACK GATE—	£	s.	d.
Wages of Warden	65	0	0	Wages of Attendant	20	16	0
Bonus to Warden on account of extra work	1	5	0	Electric bell fixing	2	1	10
New Stove in Library	22	10	0	Rent	1	0	0
New Stove in Warden's Room	5	1	3	Property Tax	2	6	11
Cork Carpet in do.	1	15	0	Gas Account	3	16	0
Rent	0	2	6	Water do.	1	0	0
Property Tax	2	17	3	Coals	0	17	0
Insurance	0	7	6	Carrying Coals	0	0	9
Gas Account	2	2	8	Repairs	0	3	9
Water do.	0	6	0	Gas-fittings	0	10	0
Coals	0	17	6		£32 12 3		
Repairs	0	19	2				
Sundries: firewood, black lacquer, &c.	0	12	9				
	£103 16 7						

BOOKS BOUGHT, ETC., 1903—

Subscriptions to Societies—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Surtees Society	1	1	0			
Harleian Society	1	1	0			
National Trust Society	1	1	0			
Durham & Northumb ^d Parish Register Society	0	10	6			
Tynemouth Parish Registers	0	5	0			
	3 18 6					
<i>English Dialect Dictionary</i>				2	2	0
<i>Oxford Dictionary</i>				0	10	6
<i>Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, vol. 4</i>				0	15	0

Carried forward ... £7 6 0

BOOKS BOUGHT, ETC., <i>Continued</i> :—		£	s.	d.
	Brought forward ...	7	6	0
<i>Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist</i> ... ..	...	0	10	0
Asher & Co. for Transactions of Imperial German Archaeological Institute ... ..	...	2	18	3
Hodgson's <i>Borough of South Shields</i> ... ..	...	1	1	0
Galloway's <i>The Crossbow and Laking's Armour</i> ... ..	...	3	13	6
Rev. E. A. Downman for plans of earthworks (original drawings)	...	2	16	9
Old Plan of Newcastle ... ..	...	1	1	0
<i>Chesters Museum Catalogue</i> ... ..	...	0	5	0
Christison's <i>Fortifications</i> ... ..	...	0	9	4
Roe's <i>Coffers</i> and Bateman's <i>Antiquities</i> ... ..	...	3	6	6
<i>Early Christian Monuments in Scotland</i> ... ..	...	3	3	0
<i>The Ancestor</i> , 2 vols. ... ..	...	0	6	7
<i>State Papers : Ireland</i> ... ..	...	0	15	0
<i>Year Book of Learned Societies</i> ... ..	...	0	7	6
Otto Petters, <i>Obergermanisch-Raetische Limes</i> ... ..	...	0	11	11
J. C. Wilson for bookbinding ... ..	...	3	19	0
<i>Antiquary and Notes and Queries</i> ... ..	...	1	3	10
		<hr/> <hr/>		
		£33	14	2

SUNDRIES, 1903—

		£	s.	d.
R. Simpson & Sons, for general printing ... ..	...	8	18	0
Geo. Nicholson do. do. ... ..	...	2	9	0
A. Dickson do. do. ... ..	...	4	19	3
A. Reid & Co., Ltd. do. do. ... ..	...	1	13	2
J. Burnett & Son, for packing and forwarding ancient stones found at Carham ... ..	...	0	18	7
Postage of <i>Archaeologia</i> , etc. ... ..	...	5	7	0
Rubber stamp and ink ... ..	...	0	5	0
Cheque book ... ..	...	0	5	0
Carriage on books, etc. ... ..	...	1	0	5
Carriage on box of stone implements from Madras ... ..	...	0	15	8
Mr. Hughes, framing Plan of Newcastle ... ..	...	0	4	0
J. A. Dotchin and Co., Sundries ... ..	...	0	15	5
Preparing indexes: <i>Elsdon Parish Registers</i> and vol. x. of <i>Proceedings</i> ... ..	...	6	6	0
Secretary's out of pocket expenses ... ..	...	15	5	2
Treasurer's do. do. ... ..	...	2	7	6
Fire insurance premium on the 'Brooks Collection' ... ..	...	1	16	6
Fire insurance premium for 'Black Gate' ... ..	...	2	15	0
		<hr/> <hr/>		
		£56	0	8

CURATORS' REPORT.

The following donations to the Society's museum have been received during the past year.

1903.

- Feb. 25. From THE NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY CO. (per Mr. Geo. Irving) :—
A carved stone fireplace jamb, from a house demolished near the Black Gate (*Proceedings*, 3 series vol. I. p. 26).
From Sir H. W. SETON-KERR, K.C.M.G., M.P. :—Twelve palaeolithic implements discovered by the donor at Poondi, near Madras (*Ibid.*).
From Mrs. N. G. CLAYTON, The Chesters :—Fifty-six iron arrow heads recently found with a large number of similar missiles in a chamber at Housesteads (BORCOVICUS), (*Ibid.*).
- Mar. 25. From Mr. C. H. BLAIR, Gosforth :—The royal arms of Great Britain and Ireland, of late eighteenth century work, carved in wood. This donation has been fixed on the north wall of the Great Hall in the Keep (*Proceedings*, 3 series vol. I. pp. 29-30).
- April 29. From MESSRS. A. REID & CO., LTD. :—A miner's lamp from Greece of iron and of recent date (*Proceedings*, 3 series vol. I. p. 36).
- May 28. From THE RIVER TYNE COMMISSIONERS (per Mr. James Walker, river engineer) :—A Roman altar dedicated to Ocean by the sixth Legion, found in the river Tyne on the site of the Aelian bridge at Newcastle (*Proceedings*, 3 series vol. I. p. 50).
- July 29. From Mr. J. R. CRONE (per Mr. A. L. Steavenson) :—The blade of a miner's shovel of an early form, and a pick, both conjecturally of the seventeenth or early eighteenth century. The shovel blade is of wood faced with iron on its edge and pierced with a square hole cut obliquely for a shank, with a round hole behind for a strut to the shank.
- Aug. 26. From Mr. J. S. ROBSON, Saville Row, Newcastle :—Eleven copper coins and tokens, eighteenth century (*Proceedings*, 3 series vol. I. p. 71).
- Sept. 30. From THE RIVER TYNE COMMISSIONERS (per Mr. James Walker, river engineer) :—A Roman inscription on a thin slab of fine grained (probably Heworth) sandstone, to Antoninus Pius, found on the site of the Aelian bridge in the bed of the river Tyne at Newcastle, near the altar described above (*Proceedings*, 3 series, vol. I. p. 72).
- Oct. 28. From THE CORPORATION OF NEWCASTLE (per Mr. J. F. Edge, city engineer) :—Two cistern heads, decorated, one dated 1777; from leaden downspouts on an old house just demolished between Spicer Lane and the Burn Bank on Newcastle Quay. Also a smoke-jack from the kitchen of the same building (*Proceedings*, 3 series vol. I. p. 94).
- From MESSRS. R. ROBINSON & Co. Ltd. (per Mr. F. W. Rich) :—Two *sarcophagi* of Roman date, with vessel of Caistor ware found in the larger one, and dug up from the clay in Hanover Square, near the head of the Tuthill Stairs, in course of making foundations for a new building (*Proceedings*, 3 series vol. I. p. 95, and *Arch. Ael.*, vol. xxv. p. 147).