

REPORTS  
OF  
**The Society of Antiquaries**  
OF  
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

ANNUAL MEETING, MDCCCV.

Your council would take occasion in this their ninety-second annual report to refer to the gratifying fact that two of our vice-presidents have now been enrolled as members of the society for the long period of sixty years. Our vice-president, Mr. R. R. Dees, joined the ranks about 1844. Almost contemporary in membership, our vice-president, the Rev. William Greenwell, is to be congratulated on the great measure of health and vigour, which continue to render his vast attainments a source of strength to northern archaeology.

The past year will be remembered for its long periods of sunshine, and its realization of an almost halcyon summer. Advantage has been taken of its favourable conditions to such an extent that the out-door country meetings of the society have almost equalled in number those held within these walls. These out-door meetings were preceded, on 11th June, by a perambulation of the town walls of Newcastle.

Special interest had been aroused in the ancient line of defence, in consequence of a rumour that the demolition of

Plummer tower had been contemplated. It had been ascertained that negotiations were in progress between the corporation of the city and the stewards of the Incorporated Company of Masons occupying the tower. But, of these, no definite information was allowed to transpire until 3rd November. On this date the circular convening the annual meeting of the city council contained, with other documents to be presented, the following announcement:—

Report of the Town Improvement Committee, recommending that the Plummer tower in Croft Street be purchased and removed for the purpose of widening Croft Street.

A letter, addressed to the mayor, aldermen and councillors of the city, and signed by our president, was immediately sent on behalf of this society. In it the interesting character and national importance of the remains of the town wall were emphasized, and the city council, as their natural guardians, was urged to adopt measures for the preservation of the historical monuments in our midst. At the same time the city authorities were asked to receive a deputation from our society on the subject, and, permission being granted, the mayor and council were waited upon at a special meeting of the city council, held on 8th December. We are indebted to Sir Walter Plummer, M.P., not only for introducing the deputation, but for his cordial support. Although no formal declaration has been made by the city council, it has been intimated that the object of the deputation has been achieved, and that the street plan has been abandoned so far as it involves demolition of the tower. Your council have had the strenuous and personal support of our noble president throughout these negotiations; and they have also been indebted to Lord Armstrong for writing direct to the mayor in their favour. Satisfaction with the result of this strong expression of public opinion is somewhat qualified by the re-

flection that the tower is still in the market; so that if its immediate destruction has been averted, danger of its ultimate sale and consequent demolition yet impends.

The same grave contingency applies to other remaining towers, as well as to the portions of the walls yet standing; so that the question of their acquisition will have to be faced, if means are to be adopted to ensure their permanent preservation. This would be a matter well within the province of the city council; but, unfortunately (although advances on our part have at all times been received with the utmost courtesy), so many other matters claim attention that little or no encouragement has been manifested towards such a project on their part. The alternative remains of raising a public subscription for the purchase of the walls and towers, with the intention of vesting them under safe and permanent conditions. This alternative has been strongly urged upon your council, and a considerable measure of support has already been promised, whilst it is pointed out that the present time is opportune for an appeal to the citizens at large, and that if means be not taken forthwith it will presently be too late. Whatever course of action is decided upon, it will become necessary to enlist the support of a large body of the public to act in sympathy with the undertaking, and to form a special organization, largely composed of influential and public-spirited citizens, and this will call particularly for our own earnest consideration and support.

Whilst interest had been so freshly aroused in the preservation of the ancient historical monuments of this city, something like consternation was caused by the announcement of another and very different project. This was a prematurely disclosed proposal to sell the site of the parish church of St. John and its adjacent graveyard for the purpose of augmenting the Diocesan Church Building Fund with the proceeds. The rumour gave rise to immediate and violent expressions of indignation in

the public press, and the scheme, subsequently repudiated by the vicar and churchwardens, has been apparently abandoned.

Further removal of houses at the head of the Side has opened out to view the whole of the north face of the Blackgate and the edge of the escarpment on which it stands, an aspect hitherto masked by adjacent buildings. The chief points exposed are the heavy buttresses of the tower itself and a portion of the curtain, continuing the line of the plinth from the main building. In its upper courses are several loops; and, at its base, the arched passage, probably connected with the castle moat, is now fully disclosed. These features are of unusual interest, revealing as they do the commanding character and proportions of the original structure, and it is most desirable that they should not again be obscured. It is therefore, gratifying to report that Mr. John D. Milburn, as owner of the site, has expressed his intention to re-build on it so that the view of the north front shall be as little as possible intercepted. The exposure of the Blackgate on its north side has revealed conditions necessitating certain repairs, the nature and extent of which are under the consideration of your council. In this connexion the demolition of houses on the south side (within the Great gate itself) recently uncovered a considerable length of the south curtain, connecting the Blackgate and the old, or second, gate, on the presumed site of the 'Heron Pit.' An opportunity now occurs of acquiring the tenancy of this interesting adjunct to our premises and of the accompanying strip of ground, for conversion as an annexe to the museum. Its possession will also enable us to trace the connexion between the subterranean opening in the south curtain and the archway on the north side before mentioned. In order to raise funds for carrying out these objects, an appeal for special subscriptions will be necessary.

In course of the works required in widening Newcastle quay, the corporation's officials have laid bare some massive founda-

tions of masonry at Sandgate. Your council is indebted to Mr. F. J. Edge, city engineer, not only for intimation of the discovery, but for continued courtesy in affording facilities for examining and recording particulars. These include the basement courses of the town wall between Sandgate gate and the shore of the river, having on their west face a portion of the Quayside town wall at right angles to, and bonded into, the main structure. The inner face contains a recess with pointed arch, the object of which remains conjectural, as do other features disclosed. Plans and measurements have been made by our colleague, Mr. W. H. Knowles, F.S.A., and will be laid before you.

Of publications, one hundred and eighty-seven pages, in continuation of volume I. of the third series of our *Proceedings*, with numerous illustrative plates, have been duly issued month by month to members. The altered form and conditions of publication have delayed the issue of *Archaeologia Aebiana*; but a complete volume, forming the first of the third series, is now ready. It consists of two hundred and fifty-one pages, with illustrations, and will be delivered to members in buckram binding. The entire volume is devoted to the history of the township of Jesmond, by our vice-president, Mr. F. W. Dendy.

The publication of this important contribution to our local annals is a matter of more than ordinary interest; especially as its author has brought to his task qualities of pre-eminent scholarship and original research with a degree of thoroughness that will increase a personal reputation already established, and will reflect distinction upon the publications of our own society.

The obituary of the year includes Lord Hastings, who has been on our roll since 1893, and the distinguished name of Viscount Ridley, elected in 1877, in succession to his father, Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., and representing a family time-honoured in its connexion with Newcastle. To these are added

Mr. James Hall of Dilston castle, where, more than once, members have been received and welcomed on occasions of country meetings. And lastly, we have to record the death of our colleague the Rev. Walker Featherstonhaugh, vicar of Edmundbyers. It is now fifty years since he read before our society the important paper on Roman Chester-le-Street, printed in the fourth volume of the quarto series of *Archaeologia Aeliana*. This was followed by papers on 'Saxon Sculpture at Bywell St. Andrew's,' and 'Notes on St. Edmund's Church, Edmundbyers' (*Arch. Ael.* 2nd series, II. 33, 263<sup>1</sup>). He was, besides, a generous donor of objects to our museum. In consequence of removal to a distance, his membership lapsed for a few years prior to 1866. But in that year he rejoined us, and has since then contributed many valuable notes to our *Transactions*. From these will be apparent how wide a scope was embraced in his varied interests as an antiquary. His range also included the pursuit of natural history, and he took an active part in the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club on its foundation in 1846. Its earliest list of members included the names of Embleton, Bigge, Bold, Alder, and the Hancocks; of Adamson, Kell, Charlton, Loftus, and Bruce. Besides the artists Mole and Storey, were the names of Tate of Alnwick, and Trevelyan of Wallington. And to-day, as connecting links with the talented and remarkable local circle there recorded, two yet remain to us, in the persons of the venerable members of our own society, with whose names our report began.

TREASURER'S REPORT ACCOMPANYING BALANCE SHEET FOR 1904.

The number of members on the roll at the end of 1904 is 330, including five life members. During the year twenty-four members have been elected. We have lost five members by death, and seven members have resigned.

<sup>1</sup> See also *Arch. Ael.* vol. XXII. p. 79.

The income for the year has been 530*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*, which with the balance brought forward, makes a total of 603*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* The expenditure for the year has been 527*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* leaving a credit-balance of 76*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* The capital account remains the same, with the addition of the interest and dividends amounting to 2*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* for the twelve months. The printing of *Archaeologia Aeliana* and also of the *Proceedings*, have cost a little less money this year, while the money expended on illustrations has been 13*l.* less. The amount 59*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* appearing for books, includes 12*l.* paid for printing another edition of the *Guide to the Castle* which amount of course will be recovered as the guides are disposed of.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR 1904.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance on January 1st, 1904	...	...	...	73	8	3
Members' Subscriptions	...	...	...	355	19	0
Books sold and bought	...	...	...	22	1	4
Castle	...	...	...	122	12	0
Blackgate	...	...	...	29	19	3
PRINTING—						
<i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>	...	...	...	...	105	1
<i>Proceedings</i>	...	...	...	...	6	5
Illustrations	...	...	...	...	45	0
Sundries	...	...	...	...	81	8
Secretary, for clerical assistance	...	...	...	...	40	0
Balance in Bank	...	...	£65	7	4	
Do. in hands of Treasurer	...	...	11	3	10	
				<hr/>		
				£603	19	10
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				£603	19	10
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Examined with Vouchers and found correct,

HERBERT M. WOOD,

Chartered Accountant.

Sunderland,

17th January, 1905.

TREASURER'S BALANCE SHEET FOR 1904.

INVESTMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
2½ per cent. Consols as at December 31st, 1904 ... ..	42	18	5
In Post Office Savings Bank on December 31st, 1904 ... ..	57	3	1
Interest for this year ... ..	£1	8	7
Dividend, 2½ per cent. Consols ... ..	1	1	4
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	£102 11 5		
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EXPENDITURE ON CASTLE, 1904—

	£	s.	d.
Wages of warden ...	65	0	0
Miss Telford (two weeks' wages during Mr. Gibson's holiday) ...	1	0	0
Rent ...	0	2	6
Property tax ...	2	2	0
Repairs ...	6	3	4
Gas account ...	2	6	4
Water account ...	0	6	0
Coals ...	0	17	0
Brushes ...	0	10	6
Sundries: firewood, candles, glass, etc. ...	0	9	11
Folding-steps ...	0	9	0
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	£79	6	7
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EXPENDITURE ON BLACKGATE, 1904—

	£	s.	d.
Wages of attendant ...	20	16	0
Rent ...	1	0	0
Property tax ...	1	14	5
Repairs ...	21	9	3
Gas account ...	3	10	0
Water account ...	1	0	0
Door-mat, etc. ...	0	7	0
Wall papering ...	0	16	3
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	£50	12	1
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SUNDRIES, 1904—

	£	s.	d.
A. Reid & Co., Ltd., for general printing ... ..	8	6	4
R. Robinson & Co., Ltd. do. do. ... ..	6	3	6
R. Simpson & Sons do. do. ... ..	20	1	6
Mr. Henry Robson: inscribed stone ... ..	1	0	0
Postage of <i>Archaeologia</i> , etc. ... ..	5	10	0
Carriage of stone from Benwell ... ..	0	4	8
Do. flints ... ..	0	2	6
Do. books, etc. ... ..	1	9	4
Preparing indexes: <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> , vol. xxv. and vol. I. 3rd series; and <i>Proceedings</i> , vol. I. 3rd series ... ..	9	9	0
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Carried forward ... ..	£52	6	10



TREASURER'S BALANCE SHEET FOR 1904.

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SUNDRIES, 1904— <i>Continued</i> —		£	s.	d.
Brought forward	...	52	6	10
New locks and keys for library book-cases	...	2	15	0
Mr. Hughes : framing photographs, 11s. ; plan, 6s.	...	0	17	0
Mr. Marr for operating lantern at Mr. Gibson's lecture	...	0	5	0
Cheque book	...	0	5	0
Subscription to <i>Tynemouth Parish Registers</i>	...	0	5	0
Secretary's out-of-pocket expenses	...	16	17	1
Treasurer's do. do.	...	2	12	6
Fire insurance premium, 'Blackgate and Castle'	...	3	8	2
Fire insurance premium on 'Brooks Collection'	...	1	16	6
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		£81	8	1
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BOOKS BOUGHT, ETC., 1904—

Subscriptions to Societies —	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Surtees Society	1	1	0			
Parish Register Society	1	1	0			
National Trust Society	1	1	0			
Harleian Society	1	1	0			
Northumb <sup>l</sup> and Durham Parish Register Society	0	10	6			
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				4	14	6
Old Northumberland Deeds				1	10	0
<i>Oxford Dictionary</i>				1	1	0
Wright's <i>Dialect Dictionary</i>				2	2	0
Downman's Plans of Earthworks				3	17	3
<i>Antiquary and Notes and Queries</i>				1	3	4
<i>The Ancestor</i>				1	3	5
<i>Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist</i>				0	10	0
Massé's <i>Pewter Plate</i>				1	1	0
Printing Castle Guides				12	0	0
Laking's <i>Armoury of Windsor Castle</i>				5	5	0
<i>Cal. of State Papers: Ireland, 1647-80</i>	£0	15	0			
Do. do. <i>Domestic, 1693</i>	0	15	0			
Do. do. <i>Feudal Aids</i>	0	15	0			
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				2	5	0
Dixon's <i>Upper Coquetdale</i>				1	1	0
Asher & Co., Transactions of Imperial German Archaeological Institute				4	7	0
Galletly & Taylor's <i>Ancient Doorways</i>				0	10	6
				<hr/>		
Carried forward				£42	11	0

BOOKS BOUGHT, ETC., 1905—	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ... ..	42	11	0
<i>New History of Northumberland</i> , vol. VII. ... ..	1	6	0
Taylor & Francis, <i>Roman Hayling</i> ... ..	0	5	0
May's <i>Warrington's Roman Remains</i> ... ..	0	5	4
<i>Journal of British Archaeological Association</i> (various) ... ..	0	18	0
<i>Transactions of Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham</i> and Northumberland (various) ... ..	0	10	0
Berwickshire Naturalists' Club <i>Transactions</i> (various) ... ..	2	12	6
Mackinlay's <i>Pre-Reformation Church</i> ... ..	0	12	6
Codrington's <i>Roman Roads</i> ... ..	0	4	2
Thorp's <i>London Church Staves</i> ... ..	0	2	9
<i>Scottish Historical Review</i> ... ..	0	11	0
Brenan's <i>House of Percy</i> ... ..	0	10	6
Maxwell's <i>House of Douglas</i> ... ..	0	10	6
Pedrick's <i>Borough Seals of Gothic Period</i> ... ..	1	1	0
Otto Petters, <i>Obergermanisch-Raetische Limes</i> ... ..	0	14	11
Wilson for bookbinding ... ..	6	18	1
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	£59	13	3
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## CURATORS' REPORT.

1904.

## DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

- Jan. 27. By Messrs. HOWE & THORNTON.—Portion of a stone mantelpiece found in demolishing a house on the site of the Empire Theatre, Newgate Street, Newcastle. The initials R M, A M and I M with date, supposed to refer to the family of Mould, are incised in the four quarters of a shield. (*Proc.* vol. I. 3rd series, p. 106.)
- By Mr. ROBT. BLAIR, F.S.A., one of the secretaries.—Sculptured stone representing the *Deae Matres*; found in the Roman Camp at South Shields. The figures are headless, and one of the group of three has been broken off. (*Arch. Acl.* vol. x. 2nd series, p. 318.) A sculptured marble 13 inches square, found in a stonemason's yard in South Shields, and probably brought from the East. Above the bas-relief of a mounted warrior, riding towards a palm tree on the right, is an incised inscription in Greek, the topmost line being mutilated. (*Proc.* vol. VI. 2nd series, p. 204, and vol. I. 3rd series, p. 106.)
- April 27. By Mr. H. P. THIRLWELL, Benwell.—Two fragments of an altar with the dedication *Deo Antenocitico*, by the first cohort of the Varduli; found built up into a wall at Benwell (*Condercum*). (*Proc.* vol. I. 3rd series, pp. 142, 176.)

- June 1. By Mr. J. D. WALKER, Newcastle.—An axe-hammer of stone, measuring four and three-quarter inches long, with its hole tapering from each side, having a front cutting edge of chisel shape three and a half inches across, and a back cutting edge one and a half inches wide. Found at an excavation in Burnup's timber yard, north of St. Thomas's church, and just within the township of Jesmond. (*Proc.* vol. i. 3rd series, p. 146.)
- By Messrs. WATSON, BURTON & CORDER, Newcastle.—Two sculptured stone panels, from the old Tyne bridge destroyed in 1771. One of these represents the arms of the town of Newcastle over the motto 'Fortiter defendit triumphans, 1646.' The other the arms of Lord Crewe, bishop of Durham. (*Proc.* vol. i. 3rd series, p. 147.)
- By Mr. T. M. ALLISON, M.D.—A Northumberland flail from Whitfield. (*Proc.* vol. i. 3rd series, p. 270.)
- Aug. 31. By Dr. BEDDOE, Bradford-on-Avon.—Dagger-like weapon of quartzite, used by Australian aborigines of the Dalleeburra tribe, Central Queensland. Length five and a half inches, with a coating of pitch at its upper end where used in the hand. (*Proc.* vol. i. 3rd series, p. 208.)
- Sept. 28. By Mr. I. CHALKLEY GOULD, Loughton, Essex.—Two straw splitters, used in dividing single straws into degrees of fineness for making plait. (*Proc.* vol. i. 3rd series; pp. 257, 274.)
- By the COMMITTEE of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.—A ponderous door or gate key, nine inches long, having seven barrels round a central one. It is reputed to have been obtained by a sailor in Alexandria about the middle of the eighteenth century. (*Proc.* vol. i. 3rd series, p. 258.)
- Oct. 26. By Mr. PHILIP TRUTTMANN.—Two weapons from the Argentine; used there by Gauchos of the Pampas. (i.) A large dagger called a 'machete'; and (ii.) a sheathed knife, or 'cuchilla.' The types are survivals of those introduced by the Spanish conquerors of South America. (*Proc.* vol. i. 3rd series, p. 270.)
- By Professor ADOLPH DE CEULENEER, Ghent, Hon. Member.—(i.) Nine billon coins from a hoard discovered in Luxembourg, being 'paons,' 'escalins,' 'three-sol pieces' and others of Philip II. and IV. and of Albert and Isabella of Spain, minted in the Netherlands; and (ii.) core and flake of obsidian from Guatemala. (*Proc.* vol. i. 3rd series, p. 270.)
- By Mr. ROBT. BLAIR.—(i.) Handle of a large Roman amphora; (ii.) a fragment of Samian ware bearing potter's name. Both found in St. Stephen's churchyard, South Shields. (*Proc.* vol. i. 3rd series, p. 271.)

Nov. 30. By Dr. DRUMMOND, Westoe.—A framed construction of wrought iron, apparently intended as a sling for holding a spouted vessel. It has a bow handle, hinged, for suspension. It is said to have been found in a peat moss near Birtley, North Tynedale. (*Proc.* vol. I. 3rd series, p. 286.)

By Mr. ROBT. BLAIR.—(i.) A watchman's rattle, with two cogs; (ii.) four 'legs,' or bobbins used in making pillow lace, from Roade, near Northampton. (*Proc.* vol. I. 3rd series, p. .)

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## ANNUAL MEETING, MDCCCXVI.

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If the review of the work accomplished in the past year by our society appears devoid of special features on which to report, it is, nevertheless, a matter for congratulation that, after a period of ninety-three years, the aims and objects contemplated at our foundation continue to be maintained with diligence and success.

The second volume of the third series of our *Proceedings* began with the year, and portions of this in sheets have been issued from month to month, completing two hundred and twelve printed pages in the year, with illustrations in the text, and many special plates.

Besides the monthly meetings held in the Castle, country meetings have again formed an interesting supplement to our operations. The first of these was held in August at Coldingham, Fast castle, Cockburnspath and Dungallass; in the same month an afternoon meeting was held at Hulne priory, when members were entertained by our vice-president, Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson, F.S.A.; and another afternoon meeting was held in September at Chester-le-Street and Lumley castle; the fourth meeting was held in the same month at Bellingham, when Dally and Tarsset castles were visited, and members were entertained by our vice-president, Mr. Dendy; a fifth meeting was held at Brancepeth, a visit first being made to the extensive camp on Stockley beck,