

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. .)

ANNUAL MEETING, MDCCCXVI.

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,

near that place, recently investigated by our colleague, Mr. Wooler; the castle and church were afterwards visited. Detailed and illustrated reports of these meetings are recorded in our *Proceedings*.

To the value of the papers read at our meetings, the forthcoming volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, as well as the pages of our *Proceedings*, will sufficiently testify. But these indicate only a portion of the work accomplished by members of our society in the province that concerns us. Our vice-president, Mr. Richard Welford, M.A., has brought the labours of more than four years to a close by the publication of his book entitled *Records of the Committees for Compounding with Delinquent Royalists in Durham and Northumberland during the Civil War, 1643-1660*. This has been issued as the volume for 1905 by the Surtees Society, containing twenty-four pages of historical introduction, and four hundred and sixty-one pages of text and index. So large is the number of families implicated in these proceedings, and so particularly are their estates recorded, that the work forms a text-book of reference for the genealogist and biographer, and is, in fact, little short of a seventeenth century domesday book of the two northern counties. Of its pages it may be said that not only do they reflect the scholarship of their author, but they are so presented and arranged as to render them of easy reference, and thus of greatly enhanced value to the student.

The letters, chiefly on archaeological subjects, of our late vice-president, Mr. Cadwallader J. Bates, edited by our member, the Rev. Matthew Culley, and published under the auspices of our society, are now through the press, and should be already in the hands of subscribers. Our special thanks are due to Mr. Culley, for the generous labour bestowed by him in preparing this tribute to the memory of our late accomplished friend and colleague.

Our member, Sir Gainsford Bruce, has published *The Life*

and *Letters of the Rev. John Collingwood Bruce*, a work appealing in many ways to the members of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries. It supplements Mr. John Bruce Williamson's earlier *Memorials of John Bruce*, and serves to bring before us the manifold activities displayed by the late Dr. Bruce, his enthusiasm as an archaeologist, and his long devotion to our own society.

The announcement of a monograph on the Castle and City of Durham, by Mr. C. C. Hodges, promises a work of interest and importance. It is pointed out as remarkable that hitherto this great and princely feudal castle and the walls in connexion with it have had no critical examination and delineation bestowed upon them. This, after all, is perhaps a fortunate circumstance, for Mr. Hodges has found co-workers in the task in the Rev. Dr. Greenwell, the Rev. Dr. Gee, the Rev. J. H. How, and Dr. Jeavons, whilst Mr. Hodges himself brings to his subject the detailed and technical knowledge of which he is so capable an exponent.

The early publication is announced of the first volume of a Political History of England, to be written in twelve sections by distinguished men of letters, under the general editorship of the president of the Royal Historical Society and of Dr. Reginald Lane Poole. This first section, dealing with the pre-conquest history of England, is the work of our vice-president, Dr. Hodgkin, to whom your council would express their hearty congratulations on the completion of so important an undertaking.

The committee of the New County History of Northumberland has made substantial progress with the eighth volume of the series, which is already in the press. Its editor, Mr. H. H. E. Craster, in the new part, deals with the district surrounding Tynemouth and the important monastic history of that foundation. The volume will include North Shields and the seaboard district from the river Blyth to the river Tyne, with all the ancient territory of Tynemouthshire.

The obituary of the past year has again been heavy. It includes the names of our estimable colleagues John Martin Winter (who has generously acted as one of the honorary auditors of our accounts during the last ten years), Conrad White, R. W. Sisson and C. B. P. Bosanquet. To the last named our society has been indebted on many occasions for the courtly and generous welcome always shown on our visits to his delightful home at Rock. We have also lost by death two of our vice-presidents. John Vessey Gregory joined our society in 1877, and continued to be a diligent attender of our meetings as long as his health permitted. His genial and sympathetic presence in the chair always added to the pleasure of these occasions; whilst his accomplishments, as ecclesiologist, as genealogist and as an authority on place-names, have enriched our pages and enhanced our reputation. Of our second deceased vice-president it is difficult to speak. Only those who have been privileged to enjoy a close association with Charles James Spence know what services he has rendered during the thirty-nine years of his membership, in which, from first to last, he was deeply interested in the work of our society. His generosity was as large as his objection to its publicity was intense; and it was characteristic that he desired it to be anonymous and unrecorded. In this way he added greatly to our collection of antiquities; he also designed and presented suitable cabinets for the reception of his own gifts, and for the proper display of other objects. Our published pages, as well as the second and third editions of the *Handbook to the Roman Wall*, are enriched by numerous plates drawn and etched by himself. These, with many others, were but outward and visible indications of his larger benefactions in our midst; for, as he was an accomplished antiquary and a cultured artist, he was yet more to us as a valued counsellor, a gracious presence, and a comrade beloved.

The necessity that had arisen for repairs at the Blackgate,

and the desirability of acquiring the tenancy of an adjacent site were referred to in our last report. For these objects a sub-committee was appointed, and, under Mr. W. H. Knowles's direction, plans were made and estimates obtained. A circular appealing for the necessary funds was also issued, resulting in a cordial and substantial response which was headed by our noble president. This enabled us to proceed with the most urgent part of the work; but, as the amount subscribed fell short of the estimated cost, it appeared desirable to proceed no further than the restoration of dilapidations, leaving the projected annexe to the museum to stand over. Possession of the site on the south side of the street having been obtained for this purpose, the funds remaining from the special appeal were found to be barely sufficient to make a subterranean examination of a portion of its area. At this point Mr. F. W. Dendy announced that he was authorized by a donor, who for the present remains anonymous, to make up the deficiency between the amount subscribed and the 150% estimated as the cost of the projected works. Mr. Knowles was thus enabled to proceed. 'The Heron Pit' was discovered where it had been filled up with earth and built over. On being emptied it was found to consist of four walls of well-built ashlar, forming a cell entirely underground and without access except from a trap in the floor above it, the position of which was shown by beam holes in the southern wall. As its name implied, it had been literally a pit for the reception of prisoners in custody of the sheriff. From the floor level above it a zig-zag passage leads through the thickness of the curtain wall, terminating originally, perhaps, in a latrine gallery over the moat. Between the 'Heron Pit' and the Blackgate Mr. Knowles opened out a second passage-way at a lower level. This terminated in a postern that had checks and 'spar' holes on the inside, and had led, presumably, to the outer edge of the moat for use as a sally-port. Within the curtains it had continued

through the road as a deep open cutting between walls of ashlar, forming a chasm across and breaking the causeway. In the line of traffic the vertical wall was found to be strengthened with a plinth on its western side, and recessed to a depth equal to the width of the cutting on the other. These appearances indicated the site of the inner drawbridge and the provision for its raising or withdrawal. Their examination entailed not only an amount of excavation far beyond our original estimate, but the reconstruction of the roadway and provision for its support on iron girders carrying a bed of concrete. All these features are of such archaeological interest, and reveal such unexpected remains of the original plan, that it has been decided to allow them to remain open for inspection, and for more detailed examination. At the same time more subscriptions will be necessary, if the further project of providing means of access to the underground chambers, platforms for crossing them, and a covered and roof-lighted shed for our heavier Roman antiquities is to be carried out. The generous donor, already referred to, has made it a condition that these works shall be carried out completely, and has even promised, with this proviso, to increase his first subscription, since the importance and unforeseen character of the excavations require an outlay considerably in excess of the first estimate. In recording our obligations for this opportune benefaction, your council ask for yet more contributions from our members, and from public-spirited citizens of Newcastle, to enable them to avail themselves of the donation by fulfilling on our own part the condition on which it is offered. It should be mentioned that the discoveries described are by no means the only attraction of the site now in our tenancy. A recessed portion of the curtain is seen to have been constructed for receiving the stairway giving access to the platform behind the parapet; and beyond it the unbonded wall of the curtain abuts upon the earlier wall of the castle enclosure, a portion of which,

with a plinth corresponding with the plinths of the Keep, is well exposed. The operations connected with these undertakings have entailed the expenditure of much time and technical skill on the part of our colleague, Mr. W. H. Knowles, who has directed the work by an almost daily attendance on the spot. In recording our obligations as a society to him for these generous services, your council trust they may further count upon him for a structural and detailed account showing the plan and character of this connecting link between the great gate and the encincture of the castle itself.

Your council received a communication from the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society as to the desirability of repeating the decennial 'pilgrimage' of the Roman Wall, and they unanimously resolved to act in conjunction with the Cumbrian society in making necessary arrangements for the purpose. It is proposed to negotiate with a view to hold the pilgrimage during the last week in June next, and to examine the entire length of the works from Wallsend-on-Tyne to Bowness-on-Solway in consecutive days. This will count as the fourth of similar undertakings due to the initiative of our vice-president, the late Dr. Bruce. The first of these began on June 25th, 1849. After a lapse of thirty-seven years the project was revived and a second expedition was organized, beginning on June 26th, 1886. Of this undertaking Dr. Bruce was announced as 'chief pilgrim and expounder general.' After his death in 1892, it was proposed to hold another pilgrimage at an interval of a decade, having it specially in view to commemorate thereby the distinguished services of Dr. Bruce as historian and elucidator of the wall. In this way the third of the series was begun at Bowness, on June 22nd, 1896; and in it the late Chancellor Ferguson took a prominent part. Another decade has now elapsed during which, as the results of further investigation, many new and important facts relative to the Roman occupation of these

parts have yielded themselves for consideration. The tenth anniversary of the pilgrimage of 1896, occurring in the present year, may therefore be commemorated appropriately by a repetition of the journey, directed by the united societies, who are the more specially and intimately concerned, inasmuch as the Roman Wall is within their province. Its investigation, advanced in so remarkable a degree in the eighteenth century by John Horsley, was notably continued in the nineteenth century by two former secretaries of our own society, John Hodgson and John Collingwood Bruce. By the last this has been done so conspicuously that he has identified himself with any reference to the subject, and, in popular association, Dr. Bruce will continue to be regarded as its 'chief pilgrim and expounder.' The commemoration of his great services will thus add a further interest to the projected pilgrimage of 1906.

TREASURER'S REPORT, WITH BALANCE-SHEET FOR YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1905.

The number of members now on the roll is three hundred and forty-one. During the year we have lost by death six members, ten have resigned, and one has been struck off. Twenty-eight new members have been elected during the twelve months.

The total income for the year has been 550*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, which, with the balance in hand, makes a total of 627*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* The expenditure has been 487*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, leaving a credit balance of 139*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*

The cost of printing the *Archaeologia Aeliana* and *Proceedings* has been practically the same as last year, but the amount spent on illustrations has been considerably less. The outlay on sundries also shows a substantial reduction, being 31*l.* less than last year. A gratifying feature of the balance-sheet is the

increased amount received for books sold, being 49*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, as against 22*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* for last year. This item includes a large number of guides to the castle. The amount for books purchased shows an increase of nearly 14*l.*, but this is more than explained by the exceptional quantity of arrears of binding that has been done during the year.

The investment account now stands at 105*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*

The amount collected for the Blackgate fund is 113*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31ST DECEMBER, 1905.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Balance on 1st January, 1905	76	11	2				
Members' Subscriptions	346	10	0				
Books sold and bought	49	3	4	73	4	2	
Castle	128	9	6	73	12	1	
Blackgate	26	12	6	44	10	3	
PRINTING—							
<i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>				118	0	0	
<i>Proceedings</i>				55	8	0	
Illustrations				32	4	9	
Sundries				50	7	7	
Secretary, for clerical assistance				40	0	0	
Balance in Bank				136	3	6	
Do. in hands of Treasurer					3	16	2
				<u>£627</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	
				<u>£627</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	

TREASURER'S BALANCE SHEET FOR 1905.

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INVESTMENTS.		£ s. d.
2½ per cent. Consols as at December 31st, 1905		42 18 5
In Post Office Savings Bank, December 31st, 1905		59 13 0
Dividend on Consols for the Year	£1 1 4	
Interest on Deposit Account	1 9 10	
	<hr/>	2 11 2
		<hr/> <hr/>
		£105 2 7

Examined with the Vouchers and found correct,

HERBERT M. WOOD,

Sunderland,

19th January, 1906.

Chartered Accountant.

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE.

CASTLE.	£ s. d.	BLACKGATE.	£ s. d.
Wages of warden ...	65 0 0	Wages of attendant ...	20 16 0
Bonus to Miss Telford	1 0 0	Rent	2 15 9
Rent	0 2 6	Property tax	1 17 6
Property tax	2 5 9	Gas account	4 3 9
Gas account	1 19 6	Water account	1 0 0
Water account	0 6 0	Repairs	6 12 10
Coals	0 16 6	Sundries: brooms, fire- wood, etc.	0 18 9
Repairs	1 16 7	Printing: re 'Black Gate Fund'	6 5 8
Sundries: firewood, etc.	0 5 3		
	<hr/>		
	£73 12 1		<hr/> <hr/>
			£44 10 3

BOOKS BOUGHT, ETC., DURING THE YEAR 1905—

Subscriptions to Societies—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Parish Register Society	1 1 0	
National Trust Society	1 1 0	
Surtees Society	1 1 0	
Harleian Society	1 1 0	
Congress of Archaeological Societies	1 0 0	
Northumb ^d and Durham Parish Register Society	0 10 6	
	<hr/>	5 14 6
		<hr/> <hr/>
Carried forward ...		£5 14 6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	5	14	6
<i>English Dialect Dictionary</i>	2	2	0
<i>New Oxford Dictionary</i>	0	12	6
<i>Roll of Caerlaverock</i>	1	5	0
<i>Venerable Bede</i>	0	2	6
Lang's <i>History of Scotland</i> , vol. 3	0	15	0
Baldwin Brown's <i>Early Arts in England</i> , 2 vols.	1	12	0
Macquoid's <i>History of English Furniture</i> (several parts)	3	0	0
<i>Year Book of Scientific and Learned Societies</i>	0	7	6
<i>The Ancestor</i> (several volumes)... ..	0	18	0
Asher & Co., for Transactions of Imperial German Archaeological Institute	1	17	7
Rolls of Arms	0	10	9
<i>Antiquary and Notes and Queries</i>	0	18	10
<i>The Reliquary</i>	0	10	0
<i>Archaeological Journal</i> (volume to complete set)	0	5	0
Shirley's <i>Noble and Gentle Men of England</i>	1	0	5
Rev. E. A. Downman, for Plans of Earthworks (original drawings)	1	19	0
Pitt-Rivers <i>Memoir and Index</i>	1	2	0
Auden's <i>Preservation of Antiquities</i>	0	4	6
<i>Pipe Rolls of Cumberland and Westmoreland</i>	1	0	4
<i>Victoria History of Cumberland</i>	1	11	6
<i>Scottish Historical Review</i>	0	11	0
Harleian Society's Publications, 6 vols.	4	4	0
Fox's <i>Synopsis of the Newcastle Museum</i>	0	5	0
Otto Petters for <i>Obergermanisch-Raetische Limes</i>	0	15	11
J. C. Wilson for bookbinding	39	19	4
	<u>£73</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

SUNDRIES FOR THE YEAR 1905—

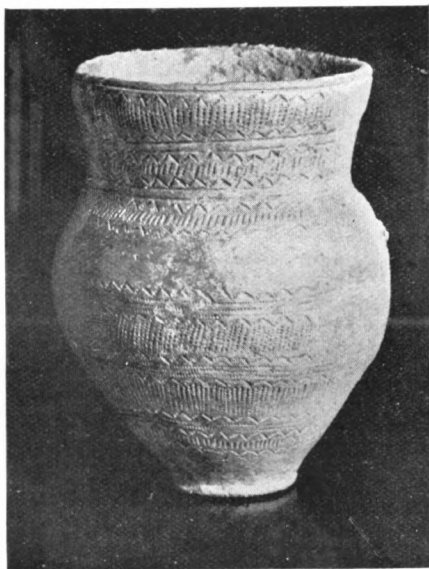
	£	s.	d.
A. Reid & Co., Ltd., for general printing	3	14	0
R. Simpson & Sons do. do.	15	4	0
Postage for <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>	4	11	8
Carriage on books, etc.	1	3	2
Cheque Book	0	5	0
Subscription refunded (overpaid)	1	1	0
Secretary's out-of-pocket expenses	16	10	4
Treasurer's do. do.	2	19	6
Fire insurance premium on 'Brook Collection'	1	16	6
Fire insurance premium for Blackgate	3	2	6
	<u>£50</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

CURATOR'S REPORT.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S MUSEUM DURING THE PAST YEAR.

1905.

- Feb. 22. By Dr. T. M. ALLISON, Newcastle. — A flail, or 'threshing stick,' from Vikebugt, near Molde, North Norway. A corn comb of beech-wood, from the same place. This instrument was used after threshing for extracting the last grains from the head of wheat (*Proceedings*, 3rd series, vol. II. pp. 14-18).
- Apr. 26. By Mr. JOHN NESBIT, Elmbank, Jesmond (per Mr. Geo. Irving).— Wood carving, representing the head of an ecclesiastic wearing a mitre. It had been originally the termination of an oak corbel or truss and had been sawn off a beam at the preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers at Low Chibburn, Northumberland (*Proceedings*, 3rd series, vol. I. p. 30).
- Nov. 29. By Mr. C. W. S. GOODGER (per Mr. R. C. Clephan).—A spring-gun (modern). The discharge of this gun, set for poachers in a plantation, caused injury to a boy who was trespassing. The circumstance led to a trial, recently held at Carlisle (*Proceedings*, 3rd series, vol. II. p. 201).

Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

URN FROM NORTH SUNDERLAND.
(In the Collection of the Rev. Dr. Greenwell.)