

## XIII.—OBITUARY NOTICES OF DECEASED MEMBERS.

1.—CHARLES JAMES SPENCE, a vice-president.

BY THOMAS HODGKIN, D.C.L., F.S.A., a vice-president.

[Read on the 25th of October, 1905.]

We regret that we have to record the death, in middle age, of one of our vice-presidents, Mr. Charles James Spence, of South Preston Lodge, North Shields.

Mr. Spence, who was born on the 20th of November, 1848, was the son of Robert Spence, banker, who was himself a man of strong literary and antiquarian tastes and an indefatigable collector of rare books, coins and autographs. From boyhood upwards the son entered with zest and enthusiasm into his father's pursuits, and, in fact, the relation between them through life was more like that of brothers than of father and son. The writer of this notice well remembers the unfailing accuracy with which C. J. Spence, while still a small boy, would pick out the coins of the Roman Emperors in his father's collection, identifying them by their profiles, without the necessity of looking at the inscription.

About 1861 he went to the Friends' School at Bootham, York, and remained there for four years. This school has had a remarkable influence in developing the faculty of the scholars for independent study on their own lines and, in various ways, Mr. Spence exhibited in after life the qualities which such an education was fitted to foster.

He never went to college, but on leaving school, entered immediately his father's business, in the firm of Hodgkin, Barnett, Pease & Spence, with which he was connected for



Yours very sincerely  
C. D. Spence

the remaining forty years of his life. Though a steady and industrious worker at the bank, he always kept up his interests in the pursuits of his school-days. He was an artist of no mean power; he etched and was skilful in all kinds of handiwork; besides being an extensive reader, chiefly of history. In 1866 he joined the Society of Antiquaries, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and was a frequent attender at its meetings. Though he contributed few papers to the *Transactions*, his pencil was often employed in illustrating the papers of his fellow-members, and the second and third editions of Dr. Bruce's *Handbook to the Roman Wall* owe the series of fine etchings to his skill. He was always a generous contributor to the cause of antiquarian research and was one of the main supporters of the Excavation Fund. The handsome mahogany table cases in the Roman room at the Blackgate museum were his own design and gift to the society. He also made many other presents to the museum of which he was for many years a curator.

The free library at North Shields was the public institution in which he seemed to take the keenest interest, and he filled the office of chairman for 13 years with unfailing courtesy, making the most of a rather slender endowment for the improvement of the library.

From 1890 till his death he was treasurer of the Literary and Philosophical Society, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

He was also much interested in the prosperity of the School of Art, which has been for many years affiliated to the College of Science at Newcastle, and since the death of Mr. Charles William Mitchell in 1903, he has acted as its chairman.

His health suddenly failed during a visit to the Cumberland lakes last July, and the end came with startling rapidity. He died on the 8th of October, 1905. He leaves two sons and a daughter surviving him. Both of the former inherit his artistic talent and have exhibited pictures in the Paris Salon and in the Royal Academy.

In reviewing his life, we feel that besides the personal loss of the many friends whom he had made by his bright and cheerful temper and his loving heart, the cause both of antiquarian research and of artistic culture in the North of England is a heavy loser by his premature decease.

He contributed to *Archaeologia Aeliana* (xiii., 285) a valuable paper on Gardner's *England's Grievance Discovered* of 1655, illustrated with etchings by himself. In addition to bearing the cost of the illustrations, he contributed the two plans attached to the paper. In the *Proceedings* (iv., 212) there is a short note by him with an illustration of a pocket dial. He contributed illustrations to the following papers:—The writer's on the *Pfahlgraben* (*Arch. Ael.* ix.), and on the battle of Flodden (*Ibid.*, xvi.), the Rev. E. H. Adamson's on *The Delavals* (*Ibid.*, xii., 215), to Mr. H. A. Adamson's *Tynemouth Castle* (*Ibid.*, xviii., 82), besides many other drawings in *Archaeologia Aeliana* and in the *Proceedings* of the society.

---

2.—JOHN VESSEY GREGORY, a vice-president.

BY RICHARD WELFORD, M.A., a vice-president.

[Read on the 26th of July, 1905.]

Died, at his residence in Framlington Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the 11th of May, 1905, in his 78th year, Mr. John Vessey Gregory, one of the vice-presidents of this society.

A native of Sheffield, Mr. Gregory came to Newcastle in 1845 as a clerk in the Quayside office of a firm which, in its later developments, under the name of John Bowes, esq., and Partners, occupies a leading position in the coal trade of the North of England. With that firm, rising by degrees to the posts of fitter and commercial manager, he remained till his decease.