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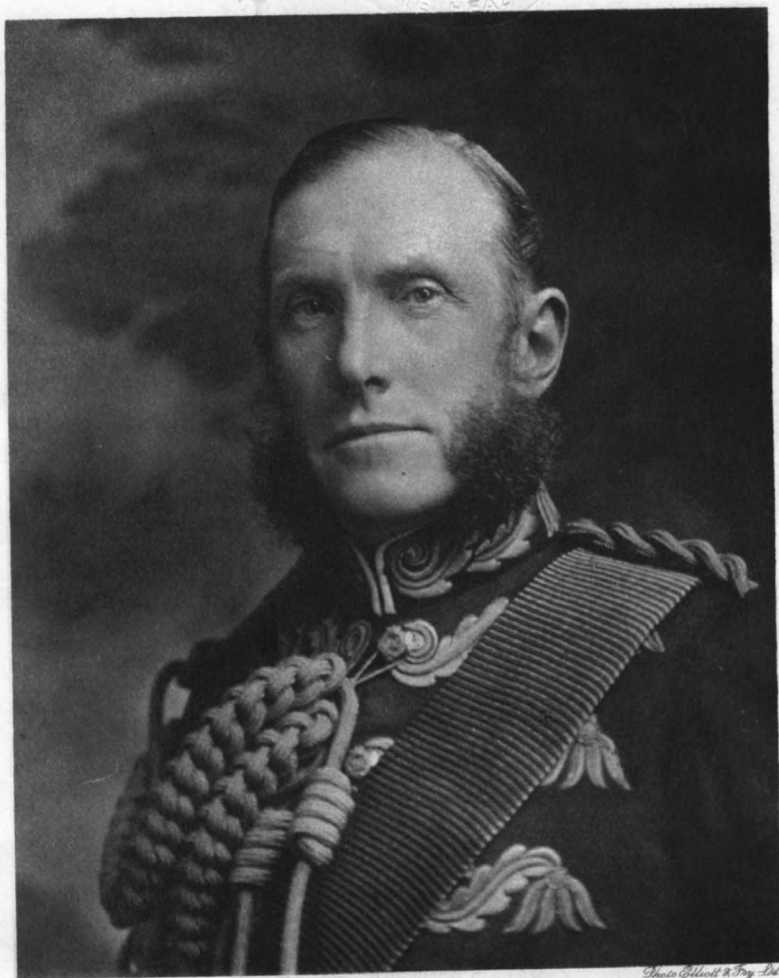


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HENRY GEORGE PERCY
SEVENTH DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, KG, F.S.A.
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

VIII.—OBITUARY NOTICES OF THE
SEVENTH DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND,

K.G., F.S.A, PATRON AND PRESIDENT.

[Read on the 31st July, 1918].

(1) By J. C. HODGSON.

When the seventh duke of Northumberland died at midnight on Tuesday, the 14th May, 1918, the county lost not only its titular but its real head. The obituary notices given in the daily press especially the discriminating memoir in the *Times* of 16th May, paid a well deserved tribute to the duke's manifold interests and to the resolution with which he applied himself to the discharge of the call of duty. As he was the president as well as the patron of this society from the year 1899 up to the time of his death, it is fitting that the earliest opportunity should be taken to place on record a brief notice of his services and of his archaeological and literary predilections. To such an end the following observations, set out in few and simple words, shall be limited.

As earl Percy he was elected a member of the society on the 30th November, 1892, having in the previous year put himself at the head of the committee of gentlemen who had set themselves to the task and duty of completing the Rev. John Hodgson's *History of Northumberland*. At the meetings of that committee he delighted to preside when it was possible for him to attend, and not one of the members read the proofs of the ten volumes since published with greater care or made more useful and acceptable emendations for the editor's consideration. He bore the cost of the plates required to illustrate the architectural

description of Warkworth castle and other historical places on his estates ; and continued his father's beneficence in furnishing from his muniment room the unique series of sixteenth and seventeenth century maps and plans which enrich the first, second, fifth and seventh volumes of the series.

On the 25th July, 1894, the duke read before our society a lengthy and well documented paper on 'The Ancient Farms of Northumberland,' dealing with a subject in which he was greatly interested, and which he once hoped to develop into a volume for the Surtees Society. Three years later, on the 29th October, 1897, he read a paper arising out of the same subject on 'Dargs and Dayworkes.' Both papers give evidence of careful and judicious spade work, and make a valuable addition to *Archaeologia Aeliana* in which they are printed.¹ He provided the illustrations for the exhaustive paper on the 'Barbican of Alnwick Castle,' written by Mr. W. H. Knowles²; and in 1916 he carried out the exploration of the pre-historic barrow at South Charlton.³

The duke was elected president of the Surtees Society in 1901, on the death of the bishop of Oxford, and though his engagements never permitted him to attend any of the statutory meetings, he took a consistent interest in the proceedings. He not only permitted the council to print the *Percy Chartulary*—a document of the fourteenth century—but gave liberal assistance in the cost of printing it. As has been mentioned above he, for a long time, cherished the wish to edit a volume for the society and had made progress in the task. It was intended to comprise a series of account rolls of the ancient earls of Northumberland.

When our society was considering the most appropriate method of celebrating the centenary of the society in 1913, the duke's suggestion was adopted that an extra and special volume should be prepared, in which should be set out the history and progress

¹ *Arch. Ael.*, 2 ser. xvii, p. 1; xix, 217. ² *Ibid.*, 3 ser., v., 286. ³ *Ibid.*, 3 ser., xiv, p. 125.

of the society. In this scheme he took a lively interest, and not only contributed liberally to the cost of printing and illustration, but what was more, he read the proofs and made many useful emendations to them.

In the following year he presented to the society electrotypes of the 208 gold coins found at *Corstopitum*, having had the casts specially made for the purpose, at his own expense.

He was a member of the very select and exclusive book-club known as the Roxburgh Club, to which he had promised to give a reproduction of the famous Sherborne missal, the chief literary treasure of the library of Alnwick castle. The actual work of reproduction has been already done at the Oxford university Press and only the pre-occupations of the war have delayed the completion of the introduction to the volume.

The duke was laid to rest at Lesbury, the mother church of Alnwick, of which he was lay-rector, the manor of Lesbury having been vested in the Percy family since the year 1309. The ceremony was performed with a dignified simplicity which he himself would have chosen. So far as is known no chief of the family has been buried in his county since Henry de Percy, third baron of Alnwick was laid in the conventual church of Alnwick abbey on the 15 kal. of June [18 May], 1368.⁴

It may be said with confidence that no one of his illustrious ancestors—many of whom played a prominent part in the history of the kingdom and in that of the county—had a better record than the late duke, who though disregarding popularity, on his merits won the entire confidence and respect of right minded men.

The duke was elected a trustee of the British Museum, 5th July, 1900, and was a member of the following learned societies :—

1883. The Royal Archaeological Institute; and some time president.

1883. The Society of Antiquaries of London.

⁴'Cronica Monasterij de Alnewyke.' *Arch. Ad.*, 1st ser., III, p. 41.

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1884. The Royal Institution ; president 1899.
1892. The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle ; president 1899.
1894. The Northumbrian Small Pipes Society.
1897. The Royal Historical Society.
1898. The Durham and Northumberland Parish Register Society.
1899. The Royal Society of Literature.
1899. The Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle ; vice-president 1903, and also a trustee.
[1899]. The Surtees Society ; president 1901.
[1899]. The Pipe Roll Society ; The Camden Society ; the Hakluyt Society ; and the Berwickshire Field Club.
1900. The Royal Society, and the Harleian Society.
1901. The Roxburgh Club.
1904. The Royal Numismatic Society.
1904. The Canterbury and York Society, and others.

The year [1899] within square brackets indicates that the duke in that year took up the membership of his father the sixth duke.

(2.) 'AN ANTIQUARY'S MEMORIES' : By HOWARD PEASE, F.S.A.

'So pre-eminently fair and just,' 'so impartial,' 'almost overweighted with his sense of duty,'—'*Justum et tenacem propositi virum*'—such were the comments of the compatriots of the duke of Northumberland when he died, proving that he was rightly esteemed by those who knew him. Yet the writer believes that a certain sensitive shyness was one of his strongest characteristics, and that it sometimes stood in the way of a proper appreciation by the general public, of a very fine character. A great courtesy and a delicate discrimination were his especial characteristics, and once when the present writer brought before him a project for removing certain very interesting old tombstones of an Umfreville, a Palmer or Pilgrim, a Hedley and a Mitford, which were fast being destroyed by damp in the north transept