



FRANCIS JOHN HAVERFIELD, LL.D., F.S.A., &c.,
Camden Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford, 1907-1919,
a Vice-President,

II.—FRANCIS JOHN HAVERFIELD,

Born at Shipton-on-Stour, Nov. 8th, 1860;

Died at Oxford, Oct. 1, 1919.

By PROF. R. C. BOSANQUET, F.S.A.

[Read on the 29th October, 1919.]

By the sudden death of Francis John Haverfield the cause of learning has suffered a grievous loss. Our society, to which he gave of his best, has its part in the general sorrow, and it is fitting that we put on record our recognition of his fine qualities as a man and a scholar, and of the progress which his labour and personal inspiration accomplished in the studies which have their natural headquarters here in Newcastle.

Haverfield was born in 1860. His predilection for Roman antiquities showed itself while he was still a boy at Winchester. Among his contemporaries were several who have won distinction as investigators of the past, Oman, Hogarth, Sir Cecil Smith and A. H. Smith. The independence of spirit and unflagging industry, which characterize many of his school-fellows, were especially marked in Haverfield. At Oxford he went his own way, caring little for routine courses, then less elastic than they have since become. He learned most, perhaps, from Nettleship. Later he came under the influence of Theodor Mommsen and acquired a broad outlook over the history of the Roman empire, and the conviction that great results might be attained by systematic exploration in our own island. He looked upon Mommsen as his master, and amply justified the prescience which led that great organizer of research to entrust to him the preparation of a supplementary collection of British inscriptions for the

Ephemeris Epigraphica, the first of three such *additamenta* edited by Haverfield. He became an assistant-master at Lancing, and spent his holidays in visiting British and continental museums; thus he established ties with local societies at Chester, Carlisle, Newcastle, Glasgow, and elsewhere, which were only to be severed by his death. For some of them he drew up detailed catalogues of their inscriptions which are models of accurate method; everywhere he brought to bear a trained eye and cautious judgment, indefatigable zeal in hunting out and piecing together forgotten scraps of evidence, and a bracingly high standard in regard to the efficient preservation and exhibition of antiquities. By papers read at their meetings or contributed to their proceedings, by correspondence with curators, collectors and excavators, he kindled a new interest in Romano-British remains which has been gathering strength ever since. From 1899 he contributed to the *Archaeological Journal* annual reports on new finds. His reputation was well established when in 1891 he was recalled to Oxford to become a tutor—he was afterwards censor and librarian—of Christ Church.

Seven years of school-work, travel and independent research had increased his detachment from the normal Oxford tradition; his strong weather-beaten face and uncompromising utterances contrasted curiously with those of his colleagues at the high table. But if he lacked their urbanity he was free from the intellectual timidity that is apt to sterilize thought in a community of scholars. His lectures ranged over a wide field, and were always fresh, up to date, and audibly delivered. He not only wrote but published, and became the master of a style both in English and in Latin as clear and vigorous as his handwriting. By his firm and on occasion humorous enforcement of discipline, by his hospitality and genuine sympathy with undergraduates, perhaps too because he rode regularly, he made good in a somewhat turbulent college. Punctual and methodical by nature, he took

a large share in college business, as he did later in university administration and finance. In 1907 he succeeded his friend and teacher, Henry Pelham, as Camden Professor of Ancient History. Pelham too had given his energies mainly to the problems of the Roman empire. It seemed desirable to divide the responsibility for Greek and Roman history, and this was done by the appointment of a Greek historian to the newly founded Wykeham Chair. Thus Haverfield found himself free to continue his special studies under the happiest conditions. His marriage with Miss Winifred Breakwell took place at this time, and henceforward his home was in a pleasant house which they built on Headington Hill. Here he did some of his best work, in a library stored with books and classified notes, the garnering of twenty strenuous years. Rich as was his output of special studies and articles—his bibliography when it is available, will be evidence of wonderful industry and grasp—his great achievement was the formation of an Oxford school of Roman historians familiar with inscriptions and the methods and results of excavation. The diggings at Corbridge, where he spent so many summers, furnished his pupils with material which they worked up under his eye during the winter. The formation and direction of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, an offshoot of the long established Hellenic Society, occupied much of his time; he was its first president and contributed much to its *Journal*. He was a good friend to the British School of Archæology in Rome, of which his pupil Dr. Thomas Ashby has been director since 1906. The outbreak of the war brought a tragic interruption to this life of unselfish activity. It cut him off from the close intercourse that he had maintained for years with German and Austrian friends engaged in cognate studies, and the sorrow and disappointment engendered by the war itself were deepened by the death of men whom he

had expected to carry on his work. In particular, the early loss of Cheesman, whose work shewed peculiar promise, filled him with profound and lasting sorrow. He worked on, but in 1916 a paralytic seizure was followed by a long illness from which he never wholly recovered.

The name, Winshields, which he gave to his house records his love for the wild scenery of the Northumbrian Wall, to which he returned year after year. His practical interest in its problems began at the time when Hodgkin and other members of our Society, impressed by the fruitful beginnings of excavation along the German *Limes* and on the Antonine barrier in Scotland, were pressing for systematic spade-work on our own frontier-line. Haverfield accompanied the German commissioner, General von Sarwey, on his tour in Northumberland and Cumberland, and discussed with him its strategic significances and the riddle of the Vallum. He got practical experience as an excavator in a series of investigations, modest in scale but continued with admirable persistence, which went far to clear up the character and course of the Vallum, particularly in Cumberland, and its relation to the Wall and forts. In the controversy which raged over the Turf-wall his intimate knowledge of foreign analogies was of the greatest service to local archaeologists; he was quick to take up a challenge and could hit hard, but he could also admit that he had been mistaken. He followed the excavations at *AESICA* and *BORCOVICUS*, and the later campaigns of J. P. Gibson and Gerald Simpson at Haltwhistle-burn and elsewhere, with encouraging sympathy and useful criticism. Finally his enthusiasm and organizing capacity contributed largely to the success of the work at Corbridge. He wrote numerous papers for *Archaeologia Aeliana* and for the *Proceedings*,¹ and attended our meetings whenever he could do so during his yearly visits to

¹ See the list of these papers, prepared by Mr. Blair, on pp. below.

the Wall. He was equally active, equally in touch with diggers and diggings, in Scotland, Cumberland, and Yorkshire. We all consulted him, and the answer never failed—a prompt and illuminating letter or a flying visit to solve a difficulty on the spot.

The comprehensive book on Roman Britain to which his friends looked forward, more confidently perhaps than he did himself, was not to be achieved; but he quarried, shaped and arranged an immense mass of material with which others may build hereafter. He dealt with the Roman remains of a series of southern shires in masterly chapters—most noteworthy perhaps being that which describes the monuments of Bath—contributed to the Victoria County History: and with those of Wales in an important monograph published by the Cymmrodorion Society. For the historical deductions based on them and many other detail-studies we must turn to his *Romanization of Roman Britain*, which appeared in an enlarged third edition in 1915, and to his chapter in the first volume of the Cambridge Mediaeval History. It is to be hoped that the Rhind Lectures which he delivered in Edinburgh in 1906 exist in manuscript and may yet be printed.² We in the north must particularly regret that he did not live to carry out two scheme of co-ordinative work for which he made extensive preparations—a new *corpus* of Romano-British inscriptions with English commentary,³ and a volume planned as part of the Victoria County History which was to describe the

² While revising the proof I learn that his later Ford Lectures, in which the Rhind Lectures were largely embodied, are to be published with a bibliography, and a memoir by Dr. George Macdonald. For this and other information I am indebted to Miss M. V. Taylor, the skilled researcher who was Dr. Haverfield's assistant for so many years.

³ Mr. J. G. C. Anderson of Christ Church tells me that the Oxford University Press are considering the production of such a volume. It would presumably have to be published by subscription. A Society like ours could give material aid to the scheme by making it known to its members and obtaining Subscribers' names.

Roman antiquities of the six northern counties. There could be no fitter monument to Haverfield than that some of his pupils should unite in realizing one or both of these projects.

This is but an imperfect sketch of a singularly fruitful and inspiring life. On the personal qualities of the man, typically English in his love of the open air, his frankness and his humour, on the rich variety of his interests, his warmth of heart and loyalty in friendship, much more might be said. We in this Society shall always remember him as the great scholar who for five-and-twenty years put his learning and energy and enthusiasm simply and unselfishly at our service.

The following is a list of the papers by Mr. Haverfield which have appeared in the transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle :—

ARCHAEOLOGIA AELIANA, 2nd series :—

- Vol. XIII.—On inscribed stone at Colechester (Corbridge), &c. and on the Roman inscription of Brough under Stainmore, &c., p. 358.
- „ XV.—On the *Deae Matres*, p. 314; on an altar to the *Matres Ollototae* discovered at Binchester, p. 225.
- „ XVI.—On a Roman Altar to Jupiter, p. 70; on a new Roman Inscription at South Shields, p. 157; on a Roman Altar at Lanchester, p. 321.
- „ XIX.—On a new Roman Inscription at Chesters, p. 119.
- „ XXIII.—Excavations at Chesters in Sept., 1900, pp. 91, 268.
- „ XXV.—On an Inscribed Slab from the Tyne, mentioning the 2nd, 6th and 20th legions, p. 142; Obituary Notice of Theodor Mommsen, hon. member, p. 185.

ARCHAEOLOGIA AELIANA, 3rd series :—

- Vol. V.—*Corstopitum* reports, contributions to, pp. 100, 143, 230.
- VI, p. 143; IX, p. 230; XII, on a fragment of inscribed tile, p. 272; on newly discovered Roman Altars: (1) from Chesterholm; (2) from Featherwood, pp. 201, 204.
- „ XIII.—On the *Modius Claytonensis*: the Roman bronze measure from Caervoran, p. 85.
- „ XV.—Early Northumbrian Christianity, p. 22.

PROCEEDINGS, 2nd series:—

- Vol. IV.—On Roman Inscriptions, pp. 34, 116, 165; on a Roman Inscribed vessel of bronze p. 273; on Hylton ford, p. 230; on plant at Chesters, p. 164.
- „ V.—On a Roman Altar to Jupiter, p. 164; on the Binchester Altar, pp. 29, 140; on the *Deae Matres*, p. 127; on Inscriptions to Mercury, p. 137; on a Centurial Stone near Sewingshields, p. 188.
- „ VI.—On a Roman Inscription at South Shields, p. 28; on the Lanchester Altar, p. 81; on Walks along the *Pfahlgraben*, p. 78; on a Roman Inscription at Wallsend, p. 223; on the German *Limes*, pp. 223, 246.
- „ VII.—On the *Historia Augusta*, p. 135; Excavations at Apple-tree, &c., p. 137; Milestone bearing name of Carausius, discovered near Carlisle, p. 174; Excavations on the *Vallum Romanum*, p. 283.
- „ VIII.—On inscriptions discovered at Housesteads, pp. 208, 253; on a newly discovered inscribed slab at Chesters, p. 37; on Roman inscription at Rutchester, p. 96; on a Roman Altar at South Shields, p. 110.
- „ IX.—Excavations at Chesters, p. 307.
- „ X.—On excavations in the Roman Camp at Rutchester, p. 81.

PROCEEDINGS, 3rd series:—

- Vol. I.—On a Roman inscribed slab from the Tyne, pp. 73, 93; on Prof. Theodor Mommsen, p. 103; on a Roman Inscription discovered at Brough, Derbyshire, p. 145.
- „ II.—On the Mural Problem, p. 306.
- „ III.—On excavations at *Corstopitum*, pp. 162, 315; on a stone from the Roman Wall, p. 270.
- „ IV.—On perforated bronze objects of Roman date, p. 225; on *Corstopitum*, p. 271.
- „ V.—On a new Roman Inscription found at Corbridge, p. 102; on Roman Inscriptions, &c., p. 149; on the Chesterholm Roman Inscription, p. 184; on a Roman Inscription from Mucklebank, p. 222; on Roman Altars, &c. at Minsteracres, p. 240.
- „ VI.—Roman Silver in Northumberland, p. 269.
- „ VIII.—On newly discovered Roman altars at Chesterholm, p. 28; on a Roman inscribed bronze measure from Caervoran, p. 98; on Christianity in Northumberland, p. 108.