



VII.—REVIEWS

A HISTORY OF OLD ENGLISH GLASS. BY FRANCIS BUCKLEY. With a Foreword by BERNARD RACKHAM. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 9". xxvii + 155 pp. and 60 plates. Benn, London. 3 gns. nett.

Our fellow-member, Mr. Francis Buckley, known to us as an authority on Microlithic Industries (*Arch. Ael.*, 4th Ser., Vol. I, p. 421), is also a well-known authority upon old English Glass. He has privately printed *Baluster Stemmed Glasses* in 1912, *Old London Drinking Glasses* in 1913, *The Taxation of English Glass* in 1914, and *Old London Glasshouses* in 1915, besides contributing numerous articles to the *Burlington Magazine* and *The Queen*. The Society of Glass Technology is at present publishing a series of articles on the old English Glasshouses of Leeds, Bristol, the Wear, the Tyne, etc., by Mr. Buckley.

Mr. Buckley, having spent much time in hunting through files of old newspapers, including those at the Black Gate, has gathered considerable fresh information regarding the origin, development and distribution of English table glass, and has ably presented the result of his research in *A History of Old English Glass*. The book contains many references to the glass trade of Newcastle upon Tyne, together with a list of local makers.

One of the outstanding conclusions resulting from Mr. Buckley's studies is that Newcastle, famous early in the seventeenth century for window glass and later for a high quality of flint glass, has erroneously been accredited with the manufacture, or at least the engraving, of much of the glass bearing Jacobite emblems. Mr.

Buckley believes there is not only lack of evidence that any of it was engraved in Newcastle, but also that the local glass makers, apart from their known Protestant and Hanoverian bias, had no reason to be grateful to the Young Pretender. The Rising of 1745 emptied the glasshouses of Newcastle and brought their business to a standstill for several months.

Mr. Bernard Rackham, Keeper of the Department of Ceramics, Victoria and Albert Museum, contributes a short but interesting introduction. Mr. G. F. Lawrence, Inspector of London excavations, has given valuable help with the study of early glass.

The illustrations have been carefully selected and reproduced with a view to their use in the comparison and identification of specimens. A copy of the work is now in the Society's library and its study is recommended to all interested in the subject.

P.B.

A HISTORY OF DURHAM CATHEDRAL LIBRARY. BY A. D. HUGHES, M.A. With Introduction and Additional Chapter by J. MEADE FALKNER, M.A. xlii + 134 pp.; 22 plates; plan. Durham County Advertiser Ltd., 1925. 5s.

This little volume was designed to serve as a guide to the casual sightseer, and also to indicate to students some accessible aids to further investigation; both these objects have been excellently fulfilled. The book is pleasantly produced in clear type, and its size admits of its being slipped into the pocket. The plates, which are mostly from photographs of old manuscripts taken by Mr. J. R. Edis, are clear and interesting; and the useful index occupies six closely printed pages. The book is full of matter, and affords a fascinating insight not only into the history of the library itself, but also of great men who have been associated with its establishment and preserva-

tion. Into the troubled times of Henry VIII and the dissolution of the monasteries there are naturally many glimpses, as also there are into the normal life of the monks and the education of the novices. The longest chapter in the book is devoted to the wonderful collection of manuscripts, of which, between the seventh and fifteenth centuries alone, there are no less than three hundred and sixty volumes. Among the printed books are many incunabula, and the full catalogue of them, by Mr. E. V. Stocks, is in the library. Another catalogue which should be mentioned as exhibiting the rare wealth of the library is the Rev. H. D. Hughes' own recent Catalogue of Manuscript Music (seventeenth century organ and voice part books, originally used in the Cathedral by the organist and choristers). Apart from manuscripts and books, the library contains, as is well known, important collections of Roman altars and inscribed stones, and of Anglo-Saxon stones; and to these careful attention is drawn both in Mr. J. Meade Falkner's Introduction to the volume, and in Chapters X and XI.

This History of Durham Cathedral Library reveals many antiquarian and historical matters connected with the great See, as well as picturesque incidents in the life of those connected with it. There is much that one would like to linger over: the Master of the Novices in his "pretty stall or seat of wainscott . . . over against the stall where the Novices did sitt and look on their bookes"; the maledictions on those who borrowed books from the library—and kept them! But lack of space prevents this. Canon Hughes and Mr. Falkner must be congratulated on the interesting record they have so ably prepared.

B. ANDERTON.

EDWARD IV'S FRENCH EXPEDITION OF 1475. The Leaders and their badges being Manuscript 2, M. 16, College of Arms. Edited with permission of the Chapter by FRANCIS PIERREPONT BARNARD, M.A., D.LITT., F.S.A. xv+162 pp., and nine plates in facsimile. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1925. 25s.

This book is a pleasure both to read and to handle. Not only are its contents of great interest and out of the ordinary run of heraldry books, but it has been produced in a style fitted to its subject.

The type, setting and general format are all that a book-lover can desire, whilst the collotype plates of the original manuscript are clear and well-executed reproductions. Alike to the historian, herald, biographer or genealogist, the book affords fascinating reading. The learned editor has breathed life into the dry bones of the manuscript, illustrating it with a wealth of biographical and genealogical detail involving much laborious research witnessed to by the comprehensive bibliography and copious footnotes. He has added much to our knowledge of all the leaders and has told for the first time of the life and actions of some, and these by no means the least, whose memory had till now been strangely neglected. He has also with much ingenuity and acumen explained the meaning and origin of most of the badges drawn in the manuscript; and if occasionally, as for instance the "White Bore" of Richard of Gloucester, which he suggests may be "an anagram of Ebor," or the voided lozenges of de Quincey from "a quinconce arrangement," one hesitates to follow the flight of his imagination, still the suggestions do but give an added zest to the reader's enjoyment.

This expedition, the last of the many medieval invasions of France from our shores, ended rather ignominiously, the desire for glory of Edward IV being satisfied by the

gold of Louis XI. Edward took with him a large, well-equipped force; there were five dukes, six earls, thirteen barons, twelve knights banneret and eighteen knights bachelor, each with his contingent of "spears" and "archers," besides squires and gentlemen of lesser rank. It is, however, the heraldic part of the book that the present writer finds most interesting. At this date, and indeed earlier, the emblazoned shields and splendid crests, the embroidered surcoats, the silken banners and all the pomp of heraldry had been discarded, or retained only for show. The knights no longer went forth to war "all gleaming in purple and gold," but in workmanlike armour of plate, without shield, crest or surcoat, whilst their followers, as here described, wore on breast or arm the badge of their leaders. There were few in the host that came from Northumberland, but of these few a little may perhaps be said by way of amplifying in some few details the work of the editor. First comes "Therll of Northumberland" (Henry the fourth Percy earl) who brought with him ten knights, forty lances and two hundred archers all wearing the famous Percy badge of the silver crescent. The earliest known appearance of this badge is on the seal of Henry the first earl, made probably immediately after his creation as earl in A.D. 1377. It is appended to a document of *circa* A.D. 1380 and upon it the earl is shown in body armour decorated with crescents.¹ On a later but similar seal used in A.D. 1400 the earl's pennon has a crescent upon it.² The badge was adopted first by this earl. There is no evidence whatever for Longstaffe's suggestion³ that it referred to the Anglian kingdom or to the old earldom or to the "shire" (Northumberland, though it has four shires within its boundaries, is not one itself). The sheriff's seal of 1444 obviously refers to the earl just as the castle refers to his office.

The Greys of Chillingham and Heton were represented

¹ *Arch. Ael.*, 3rd Ser., XXI, p. 52, No. 629.

² *Ibid.*, IX, p. 331, No. 1963.

³ *Arch. Ael.*, 2nd Series, IV, p. 181.

by Sir Thomas Grey, whom the editor identifies with that Thomas who was the second son of Sir Ralph Grey and his wife Elizabeth Fitz Hugh. He brought with him eight lances and eighty archers whose badge was a scaling ladder. This badge, as pointed out by the late Cadwallader Bates⁴ and again by the present editor, was in canting allusion to the name: O.F. grè=the rung of a ladder. It was, however, a badge only and not then nor for centuries after "the well-known crest of Grey." On the fine tomb of Sir Ralph and his wife at Chillingham an angel stands at the head bearing the knight's helmet in his hands with, upon it, his crest of a ram's head; whilst the upper edge of the tomb is strewn with the badges of ladders and Grey friars' cloaks.⁵ The ram's head crest is also shown on many of their seals from 1346⁶ onwards and is also given for the family at the Visitation of 1615. There is also possibly an allusion to the ladder badge in the title of Sir Thomas Grey's (d. 1369) book "*Scalachronica*." The scaling ladder crest is a very modern affair and was never borne by the Greys of Chillingham and Heton. Sir Robert Tailboys of Kyme, who sometimes styled himself "lord of Redesdale" and whose wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Heron, may also be claimed as a Northumbrian. His contingent was twelve lances and eighty archers whose badge, one of the very few the author finds inexplicable, was "the whyt Boull." The shield of arms on the pele at Elsdon does not, however, as Dr. Barnard considers possible, refer to him. It is the shield of Sir Robert Umfreville, K.G., Admiral of England, lord of Redesdale and Harbottle, who died in 1436.⁷ It is a reproduction of the achievement on his seal of 1432.⁸ The wolf supporters with their swords

⁴ *Ibid.*, XIV, p. 299.

⁵ *Northumbrian Monuments*, pp. 116 ff. (Newcastle upon Tyne Records Committee, Vol. IV).

⁶ *Arch. Ael.*, 3rd Ser., VIII, p. 79, No. 1113. Also *ibid.*, XXI, p. 90, Nos. 857-60.

⁷ *Northumbrian Monuments* as above, p. 124.

⁸ *Arch. Ael.*, 3rd Ser., XXI, p. 79, No. 794.

refer to the legend of the original grant, by the Conqueror, of Redesdale to Robert-with-the-Beard.

Sir Richard Tunstall, whose biography is here given for the first time, fought on the side of Lancaster in the sieges and battles of the Roses in Northumberland; he was with the defenders at Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh, and present at Hedgely Moor, where Sir Ralph Percy lost his life, and again at the battle of Hexham in 1464. His badge was a "Whyte Coke" still to be seen supporting bishop Tunstall's shield at Bishop Auckland⁹ and at Durham castle. Cuthbert Tunstall, bishop of Durham (1530-1559), was his nephew, being the youngest son of "Thomas Tunstall heyre male to his brother, Sir Richard."¹⁰ Dalton's Visitation pedigree of 1558 states definitely that "Thomas Tunstall wedyd Alyce doughtre to . . . Nevill and hadde issue Thomas, Bryan, John and Cuthberte now busshope of Durham 1558. . . ."¹¹ This contemporary and official record surely disposes once for all of the illegitimacy story of Leland. Bishop Tunstall used the entire arms of his family differenced by change of tincture. He altered the sable and silver of the main line to azure and silver, the colours of the arms of his See. Another doughty fighter whose eventful life is told very fully is Sir John Astley, at one time captain of Alnwick. The Stafford Knot of the Duke of Buckingham appears on the screen in Brancepeth¹² church, and Dr. Barnard does not forget to note that the boar of Richard of Gloucester, lord of Barnard Castle,¹³ is carved above a window in the great chamber of that castle.

C. H. H. B.

⁹ *Durham Monuments*, p. 95 (Records Series, Vol. V).

¹⁰ *Visitations of the North*, I, p. 121 (S.S. Publs., No. 122).

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 121.

¹² *Durham Monuments*, pp. 7-8.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 91.

EARLY DEEDS RELATING TO NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Edited by ARTHUR MAULE OLIVER, O.B.E. 8vo.

xxvii + 245 pp. Surtees Society, Vol. cxxxvii. 1924.

The great use of abstracts of early deeds to the historian, the genealogist and the topographer is attested in eloquent words by our late vice-president, Mr. Richard Welford, in an article by him in *Archæologia Aeliana*, 2nd Series, Vol. xxiii, page 247.

Many such abstracts have been published by our society, notably those headed "Local Muniments" in Vols. I and II of the second series, and those by Mr. Welford under the like heading in Vols. xxiii, xxiv and xxv of the second series, and Vols. v, xii and xiii of the third series, of our *Archæologia*. The Coleman deeds in the Newcastle Public Library calendared in Vol. ix of the third series of the society's Proceedings also include upwards of fifty deeds relating to Newcastle as well as many more relating to townships in Northumberland and Durham county.

But none of those lists is as important either as regards the number of Newcastle documents dealt with, or their antiquity in date, or the interest of their contents, as is the collection comprised in the volume now under review.

It calendars the contents of upwards of four hundred deeds ranging from the twelfth to the sixteenth century, taken principally from (1) the *Liber Cartarum* in the possession of the Newcastle corporation, (2) the Newcastle deeds in the possession of University College, Oxford, and (3) the Newcastle deeds in the Treasury of the Dean and Chapter of Durham.

Those from the *Liber Cartarum* consist in part of deeds relating to the Hospital of Saint Mary the Virgin in Westgate and to properties held by that hospital, and in other part of deeds relating to the Tyne Bridge and to properties held for its support.

An appendix to the volume contains a list of the Reeves, Mayors and Bailiffs of Newcastle down to the year 1400, revised by the editor, who is the Town Clerk of that city.

The manuscript called the *Liber Cartarum* is described by the editor. It was frequently but not very accurately cited by Bourne in his history of Newcastle published in 1736. Brand, when he published his large history of the town fifty years later, had never seen the manuscript, although by permission of the mayor he had had access "to all the records" of the corporation (Brand, Vol. I, p. vi, note (b) and p. 67, note (m)), and from Bourne's time it remained unheeded until it turned up, with other documents, in the course of a search made of their records for the purposes of the foreshore claim by the corporation in the last decades of the nineteenth century.

Mr. Oliver has supplied his volume with notes and references throwing much light on the persons and places mentioned in the abstracted deeds and gives also an excellent preface in which he comments under separate headings on the history of the deeds, on the barony lands in Newcastle, on the Castle-ward lands, the sergeantry and thegnage lands, the ancient customs of the town, and on its topography.

As to the barony lands he points out that there were in Newcastle burgage tenements held of the lords of some of the adjacent Northumbrian baronies and not of the king direct. Maitland, deriving his information from the Domesday Book (which does not extend so far northward as Newcastle), states that as a general rule the barons in each county held a few burgages apiece in ancient boroughs which were also county towns. In Warwick, for example, the king had in his demesne one hundred and thirteen houses and his barons one hundred and twelve, and of the barons' houses there it is written "These houses belong to the lands which the barons hold outside the borough and are valued there." Maitland goes on to say "But we must keep these ancient boroughs well apart from any royal manors which the

king has newly raised to burgage rights. In the latter he will be the immediate landlord of every burgess." (Maitland's *Domesday Book and Beyond*, pp. 179 and 182.) The fact, therefore, that in Newcastle there were burgages not held immediately of the king raises some presumption that its inhabitants possessed burghal rights before the Conquest, although there are at present no other known facts which support that view.

Many of Newcastle's ancient customs, such as "year and day," the execution of deeds in the Town Court and their acknowledgment before the four benches, find their counterparts in other towns, but its custom of descent was unusual and peculiar. The editor gives clear proof that, in the case of an heritable burgage, the property, in the event of an intestacy, descended, in default of a son by a first marriage, to a daughter by the first marriage in priority to a son by the second marriage in the same line of descent, and that, whether the line of descent came through the father or the mother, the result was the same.

That custom was opposed to the general feudal doctrine that males in the same line of descent should be preferred to females, and it is difficult to find a mention of it in the books of any of the great legal writers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, either as regards lands held by knight service or as regards lands held in socage or burgage, in connection with which latter tenures it would be most likely to be found. Strange to say, however, the author of *Fleta*, a law book written in the latter part of the thirteenth century, not only gives this custom of descent, but also treats it as being part of the then general law of the land. (*Fleta*, Book 6, Chap. I.)

"There is nothing new under the sun," and just as Professor Hamilton Thompson records in Vol. II of our Records Series, p. 61, how Newcastle had a Swing Bridge *pons turnarius* in 1220, so Mr. Oliver records in this volume, p. 206, how in 1286 Newcastle had a Lord Mayor *dominus maior*, a designation which in London, where the same term was used, developed in time into the title of lord mayor in the case of that city.

Mr. Oliver may be congratulated on his production of a book which is a worthy addition to the series of the Surtees Society, and a valuable contribution to the history of Newcastle.

F. W. DENDY.

NORTHUMBRIAN MONUMENTS. Newcastle upon Tyne Records Series, Vol. iv. With an Introduction by C. H. HUNTER BLAIR. $5\frac{1}{4}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$. xxiii + 171 pp. and 14 plates. Northumberland Press Ltd., Newcastle upon Tyne, 1924.

DURHAM MONUMENTS. Newcastle upon Tyne Records Series, Vol. v. With an Introduction by C. H. HUNTER BLAIR. $5\frac{1}{4}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$. xxxix + 246 pp. and 16 plates. Northumberland Press Ltd., Newcastle upon Tyne, 1925.

These two volumes, dealing with the heraldry, effigies and inscriptions in the churches and secular buildings of Northumberland and Durham, consist each of two parts, the first being a transcript with copious illustrations, explanations and (where necessary) emendations of Dugdale's notes made at his visitation in 1666, while the second part is a supplemental record of armory and monuments not seen by that famous herald, but still for the most part extant and now described by the Editor.

The introduction to the Northumbrian volume is a minute account of Dugdale's visitation journey, with some particulars of his life and that of his clerk, Gregory King. In his very valuable introduction to the Durham volume the Editor deals equally faithfully with the dates of Norroy's journey in that county and the places at which he sojourned; and he goes on to describe the four types of heraldic monument that the great herald noted.

Of the heraldic glass of the Middle Ages very little remains in Durham and Northumberland to-day. Three

shields of saintly armory in Durham deanery, three coats, Clifford, Greystock and Percy, at Staindrop, one in Lanchester church, and some fragments at Walworth castle are all that remain of that brilliant array of medieval glass shields that Dugdale noted. Northumberland has no more to show us than a shield of Newcastle, another of Percy and a few later coats in St. John's, Newcastle, a shield of Bértram and a badge of Ogle at Bothal, the Percy crescent in Warkworth church and two medieval shields at Ponteland.

But in carven heraldry as applied to architecture the two counties are very rich. Alnwick and Bothal, Lumley and Chillingham, Chipchase, Etal and Elsdon, Hilton, Warkworth and Bishop Auckland are castles showing a wealth of fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth century armory that cannot be matched anywhere else in England.

A useful list of the monumental effigies that survive in the two counties is given in the Durham volume. The earliest of these are thirteenth century carvings of freestone, as at Chester-le-Street, Pitlington and Whitworth, and the signed monument of an unknown knight at Norton; while the use of Frosterley marble later in the same century is exemplified at Hurworth and at Ryton, and in the effigy of the Fitz Marmaduke lady at Easington. In the next century alabaster monuments came into fashion. The tombs of Ralph and John, respectively second and third lords Neville, and of bishop Hatfield in Durham cathedral, and of Ralph, first earl of Westmorland, and his wives in Staindrop church are specially notable examples of alabaster work at this period. Northumberland can only show two such tombs. That of Sir Ralph Grey and his lady at Chillingham, with its wealth of badges and its saintly "weepers," and the late monument of Ralph, lord Ogle, at Bothal complete the list.

Of wooden effigies there are none in Northumberland. Seven still exist in Durham, the most important being those of Henry, fifth earl of Westmorland, and his two wives at Staindrop.

The fine Flemish brass of Roger Thornton and his

wife in All Saints, Newcastle, is the best example that the two counties have of this form of monument. The Editor mentions and stigmatizes (only too mildly) the theft within the last few years of a Neville shield from the grave slab at Staindrop which (when Dugdale noted it) was in the south aisle, but now lies in the north-west corner of that church.

These competent introductions to the two volumes under review prepare us for the feast of good things that they have to offer.

The identifications of Ralph, second earl of Westmorland, and of "the Peacock of the North" at Brancepeth, and of Isabel, the mother of all the Nevilles, at Staindrop are brilliant pieces of deduction. So, too, is the Editor's note on a curious coat at Brancepeth, which he identifies as that of the Franciscan friary at Richmond. The descriptions of castles and houses, of costume and armour, and the deductions therefrom as to date are evidences of his extreme care and conscientious observation. The notes on the origin of the arms of Lumley, Hansard, Surtees, Chancellor and Widdrington are useful and scholarly. Very good, too, are the careful accounts of the Conyers armory in the windows at Sockburn, of the roof bosses of Newcastle cathedral, and of the heraldry in the cloisters at Durham.

Yet another evidence of the Editor's care and learning appears in the way in which he deduces evidence of date from such things as the Beauchamp shield in the north window at Darlington, Hotspur's arms at Hilton castle, and the two shields of Scrope at Langley Hall.

Many interesting and curious points are noted in these valuable volumes. The very remarkable early shield of Richard Neville (later Earl of Salisbury) in the east window of Staindrop church; the unique example of the arms of Edward the Black Prince (as Duke of Cornwall) at Bothal; the two cocks that support the arms of Bishop Tunstall at Auckland castle; the sword-bearing wolves of Umfraville at Elsdon Tower; the case of Bulmer Lisle, citizen of Newcastle, who though a true Lisle of Felton yet

bore arms that were not those of his house; the curious territorial shield for the manor of Walltown in Haltwhistle church; the strange story of the Carnaby heraldry at Hexham; the saltire of interlaced bastons that the chancellor of Bishop Skirlaw assumed—all these and many others of the same quality are items for which the thanks of students of early armory are due.

Such curiosities, too, as the marshalling of coats on the shield that adorns the grave-slab of Margaret Lilburne at Houghton-le-Spring; the device beloved of Thomas Castell, prior of Durham; and the glass in the north window of the chancel at St. John's, Newcastle, do not escape the Editor's notice.

There are many mentions of badges in these pages; and the Editor is able to account satisfactorily for the Stafford knot on the screen at Brancepeth, the chained swan of the Bohuns at Raby, and the bascule of the Pembroke Herberts at Warkworth. His identification of the couched and chained beast on the east front of Hilton castle as the antelope of Henry IV or his son and successor is an excellent example of his acumen.

On Heffordlaw tower the Percy crescent with a fetterlock between its horns appears with two croziers crossed beneath it. The Editor does not explain this device. May it not be a memorial of William Percy, bishop of Carlisle from 1452 to 1462? There are more Percy badges at Hedgeley Moor, where lucas, lozenges, crescents and fetterlocks adorn the cross raised in memory of Sir Ralph Percy, who fell fighting there for the house of Lancaster in 1464. On the elaborate monument of Sir Ralph Grey at Chillingham are carved, with much other heraldry, the ladder and the grey-friar's cloak of Grey.

Bulmer's tower at Raby castle shows us two Gothic b's, a favourite device of John, third Lord Neville, referring to his Bulmer forebears. Formerly on the barbican but now on an arch at the farm near the castle is a spirited carving of the dun bull holding up a banner of Neville and with a mantle of the same arms streaming away from his neck. The Editor seems to have missed,

at any rate he does not refer to, the significance of this bull; but Mr. Oswald Barron long ago pointed out that this totem (as of course also the bull's head crest which is often shown in these volumes as a Neville badge) was a punning reference to the Bulmer ancestry of this great house.

While one is guessing a conjecture may be permitted that the silver shield charged with three black birds, seen by Dugdale among the heraldry in the eastern windows of the Nine Altars at Durham, is the shield of St. Thomas of Canterbury, placed there near to Bishop Thomas Langley's arms as a memorial of the bishop's own patron saint. Similarly we may perhaps put forward the suggestion that the shield charged with a cross (Vol. IV, Plate VI) on one of the pillars of the chancel arcade in Alnwick church is not for Vesci, as the Editor considers likely, but is for St. Michael, in whose honour the church is dedicated.

The glass shield (No. 106) in the Nine Altars at Durham, blazoned by the Editor as *sable a lion rampant silver* ought not to have puzzled him. Is it not practically certain that the field which appears black is really red discoloured by age and weather? If so, this shield is that of Mowbray.

In a work of this complexity and difficulty errors must necessarily creep in; but it is rather disconcerting to find that to Fitzhugh's well-known arms—*azure fretty and a chief gold*—this, which is the correct blazon, is not consistently given. The "three interlaced chevrons" which are here and there recorded are nothing but a modern description of a careless drawing by an incompetent and indolent draughtsman, which has become stereotyped because he would not be at the pains to draw the fret correctly. Fenwick's arms also should have been blazoned as *silver a chief gules with six martlets countercoloured* on each occasion that they are mentioned. And the red dragon supporter of the royal arms at Walworth castle should have been sufficient evidence that the shield is that of Henry VIII and not of Elizabeth to whom it is tenta-

tively assigned. For Elizabeth's dragon supporter was coloured gold.

But these are very trifling blemishes in a work that shows in every line learning, research and industry very far above the ordinary. Every herald and genealogist who studies these most interesting books owes the Editor a deep debt of gratitude. The volumes themselves are admirably printed and illustrated, and their value is enhanced by the indexes and copious notes and references that accompany the text.

E. E. DORLING.

THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS. Three plates in colour and thirty-six in monochrome from Cotton MS. Nero D. IV in the British Museum with two pages of related manuscripts. With Introduction by ERIC GEORGE MILLAR, F.S.A. Printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum. Fo. London, 1923.

All north-countrymen must have, at one time or another, come under the spell of the early history of Northumbria and their thoughts instinctively turn to that remote island, Lindisfarne, as the place where the distant skyline of History melts into the golden clouds of Legend.

Of the first foundation of Holy Isle nothing now remains; all was swept away by the Danish invaders of the ninth and tenth centuries. But one priceless treasure is preserved to us in almost perfect condition—the book written “in honour of God and Saint Cuthbert,” now known as the *Lindisfarne Gospels*.

The inimitable decorations of this great masterpiece, now in the British Museum, have now been reproduced in full for the first time, and printed by order of the Trustees of the Museum.

Three plates in colour and thirty-six in monochrome are reproduced, and for the better appreciation of the Gospels a résumé of the early history of Northumbria is

given, followed by an historical account of the manuscript, its execution by Eadfrith, bishop of Lindisfarne about the year 700, its binding by Aethelwald and the further adornment of the cover by Billfrith. Then follows its later story, how the body of St. Cuthbert was removed to the mainland in order to escape the fury of Danish invaders: how in the movable shrine were placed valued relics, including the Gospels: how for seven adventurous years, 875 to 883, the precious burden was moved from place to place and finally came to rest at Durham, where it remained until the twelfth century. It was for long lost sight of, and ultimately came into the hands of Sir Robert Cotton and so to the British Museum.

In examining the perfectly reproduced plates in this book particular note should be taken of the remarkable ingenuity displayed in spacing the text. It is confined within its proper vertical bounds by various ingenious methods, by contractions and by novel arrangements of the letters in the last words of the lines. The smaller initials are very beautiful though both in form and colour much simpler than those in the *Book of Kells*.

The decoration consists of five pages of elaborate cruciform design, all on the verso of the leaf, and six pages of highly ornate text on the recto, five of which face and form openings with the cruciform designs. Then follow sixteen pages of Eusebian Canons, each page decorated with architectural arcading, evidently from a Byzantine prototype. The style of all this work is Celtic, and can only be compared for perfection of design and execution to the famous *Book of Kells*.

But there are striking differences in the treatment of the two works. In the *Book of Kells* there are many human figures and heads of all sizes sprinkled unsymmetrically through the pages: in the Lindisfarne book the human figure is hardly used at all in the ornamental work. In the *Book of Kells* creatures in all stages of monstrosity appear: in *The Lindisfarne Gospels* only one kind of animal, apparently a dog, is used throughout, and birds also of one kind are used in very great numbers. These

birds are probably based on the cormorants which still breed on the Farnes: obviously they are conventionalized and not drawn from the life.

In curious and complete contrast to the Celtic work of the Gospels are the four miniatures of the Evangelists, quite in the Byzantine style, obviously related to the early Greek Gospel Books.

The colour scheme is throughout less wide than that of the *Book of Kells*. It consists of red, black, green, yellow, purple, mauve, pink, and white—which is got by leaving the vellum uncovered: just a little gold is used in certain places on the background.

These points of design and colouring all have a great effect on the character of the work.

The absence of human beings, restricted use of animal and bird forms, and the great reliance placed on symmetrical arrangement and repetition all tend to emphasize a certain dignity, simplicity and directness of thought which is the key-note of the book in spite of its extraordinarily intricate workmanship.

ROBERT BERTRAM.