

MR. F. AGAR exhibited a silver coin of Edward III. minted at London.

MR. HERBERT WATSON exhibited a small cannon ball (culverin?) weighing two pounds two ounces, recently found about two feet below the surface of the ground, at the foot of a tree on Mr. Watson's ground at Lutterworth. No explanation could be given as to the cause of its having been deposited there.

MR. WEATHERHEAD exhibited the original grant of Arms made to certain members of the Halford family, upon which he read the following remarks :—

I EXHIBIT a Grant of Arms (differencing thereof) relating to the Halford Family, dated January 1st, 1621 (*temp.* James I.), with the signature of the then *Clarencieux*, principal Herald and King of Arms of the south, east, and west parts of this realm of England, from the river Trent southward; with official seal attached enclosed in an ivory box. An official document, historically, locally, and in an antiquarian point of view of great interest and value. A document bearing the signature of one (then in his seventieth year) who lived in the several reigns of Edward VI., Mary, Elizabeth, and James I.; one of the most judicious and able writers any age or country can boast; and one of the most profound and erudite scholars of his time: a man who, notwithstanding his humble origin, lived to achieve the most marked distinction; who was an honour to his country, and his country conferred honour upon him, whose ashes repose in Westminster Abbey! Concerning this remarkable character, I append the following concise biographical sketch :—

WILLIAM CAMDEN, a celebrated antiquary and historian (called the Strabo of England), was born in the Old Bailey, London, May 2nd, 1551. His father, Sampson Camden, who was a native of Lichfield, settled in London, where he became a member of the Company of Painter-stainers. His mother, Elizabeth Camden, was of the ancient family of Curwen, and was daughter of Giles Curwen of Poulton Hall, co. Lancaster. Left an orphan and unprovided for he received his early education at Christ's Hospital, and St. Paul's School.

In 1566 he entered as a servitor of Magdalen College, Oxford; but being disappointed of a *demi*, he removed to Broadgate Hall, and somewhat more than two years afterwards to Christ Church, where he won the favour and, eventually, the patronage of his kind friend Dr. Thornton, the tutor of Sir Philip Sidney.

In 1571 Mr. Camden came to London, where he prosecuted his favourite study of antiquity, under the patronage of Dr. Goodman, Dean of Westminster, by whose interest he was made Second Master of Westminster School in 1575. From the time of his leaving the University to this period, being of studious habits and

of a retiring disposition he devoted his leisure hours and holidays to the study of antiquity; qualifying himself for deciphering ancient records and monumental inscriptions, by acquiring Gaelic, Welsh, and old Saxon; and travelling through the greater part of England, with a view to make observations and collect materials for his *Britannia*, on which he was then seriously engaged.

In 1581 he became intimately acquainted with the learned President Brisson, who was then in England.

In 1586 he published his first edition of the *Britannia*, or Survey of the British Isles (dedicated to Lord Burleigh) written in familiar and elegant Latin. This work was received with applause and esteemed an honour to its author, and the glory of his country. Thus brought into publicity, and looked upon as one of the most distinguished scholars of his age, the Bishop of Salisbury appointed him [though a layman] in 1588 prebend of Ilfracombe.

In 1593 he succeeded (by the Queen's request) to the head mastership of Westminster School, on the resignation of Dr. Grant.

In 1597 his *Greek Grammar* appeared, which was received in all the Colleges, and passed through forty editions. This same year (*temp.* Elizabeth) he was promoted by letters patent under the Great Seal of England, to be *Clarencieux, King-at-Arms*; but so modest and retiring was his disposition that a short time afterwards he declined the honour of knighthood.

In 1600 Camden made a tour to the North as far as Carlisle, accompanied by his friend and eminent English antiquary, Mr. [afterwards, Sir Robert Bruce] Cotton.

In 1606 he began his correspondence with the celebrated President de Thou, which continued to the death of that celebrated French historian.

In 1607 he published his last edition of the *Britannia* from which the several English editions have been made.

In 1608 he began to digest his materials for a history of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

In 1609, after recovering from a dangerous illness, he retired to Chiselhurst in Kent, where he continued to spend the Summer months during the remainder of his life.

In 1613 the University conferred on him the degree of *Artium Magister*.

In 1615 the first part of his *Annals of the Queen* appeared, but contemporary events induced him to postpone the publication of the sequel until after his death.

In 1617 the work was entirely finished; considered next in celebrity to his *Britannia*. Amongst his other productions may be mentioned—*Anglica Normannicu Cambrica, &c.*, *Reges, Reginae, Nobiles, &c.*, *Sylva Hibernia, &c.*

In 1622, being then upwards of seventy, he determined to lose no time in executing his design of founding a professorship of history at Oxford, for which he may be reckoned among the chief benefactors to that University. His deed of gift was accordingly transmitted by his friend Mr. Heather to Mr. Gregory Wheare, who was by himself appointed the first professor.

In 1623, November 9th, Camden died, in the 73rd year of his age, and was buried with great solemnity in Westminster Abbey (Nov. 19), in the south aisle, where a monument of white marble was erected to his memory. He was a man of singular modesty and integrity; profoundly learned in the history and antiquities of England; an adept scholar in the art, or science, pertaining to Heraldic lore; and a judicious and conscientious historian. His character is thus summed up by one of his biographers: "In his writings he was candid and modest; in his conversation easy and innocent; and in his whole life even and exemplary; when he was young, learned men were his patrons; when he grew up the learned were his intimates; and when he became old he was the patron of the learned; so that learning was his only study, and learned men his only society." Camden cherished with fond remembrance to the last his humble origin, and possessed those great qualifications of an antiquary, patience, assiduity, and enthusiasm.

The "Camden Society," founded in 1838 for historical research, was so named in honour and recognition of the public worth of this author.

His *Britannia* was first translated into English by Dr. Philemon Holland in 1611, who also published a later edition in 1636.

A new translation, made with the utmost fidelity from the last named edition, was published in 1695 by Edmund Gibson, of Queen's College, Oxford, afterwards Bishop of London.

Gibson's edition was reprinted in 1722, and several times subsequently.

The latest and best editions are those by Gough, 1789-90, and by Gough and Nichols (4 vols. fol.), 1806—Nichols being the celebrated author of the *History and Antiquities of the Town and County of Leicester*.

On the discovery of Gunpowder Plot, the King directed Camden to translate the account of the trial of the conspirators into Latin, which was published in 1607.

A copy of the Grant above referred to is here appended:—

TO ALL AND SINGULAR AS well Nobles and gentlemen, as others, to whom this presents shall come, William Camden Esq, alias Clarenceux principall Herauld and Kinge of Armes of the South East and West parts of this Realme of England from y^e river of Trent southward sendeth greetinge in o^r Lord God everlasting Knowe ye y^t for as much as it hath beene an auncient custome and

to this day is continued in all countreyes & common wealthes well governed y^t y^e hono^{ble} actes & virtuous indeavours of worthy men from tyme to tyme have beene remembred & recommended to posterity by certaine tokens and remembrances of Honor comonly called Armes, being the outward demontrac^ons of their inward virtues, inciting others by their good examples to y^e imitac^on of their like laudable workes & worthy achievements, dureing this transitory life. W^{ch} said tokens of Honor are diversly dist^ributed accordinge to y^e qualities of y^e parties so demeriteing y^e same to y^e end y^t such as have done com^{end}able service to ther Prince or Country, either in warre or peace may therefore both receive due honour in their lives, & also derive y^e same successively to their posteritie for evermore. In w^{ch} respect whereas William Holford of Welham in y^e county of Leicester Esq. high sheriffe of y^e same County A^o 1616, Richard Holford of Wistow Esq. at this present high sheriffe of y^e said Countie & Richard Holford of Edithweston in y^e countie of Rutland Esq. high sheriffe also of y^e said Countie of Rutland A^o 1610, being descended of a ffamylye auniently bearinge Armes, viz^t Azure upon a fesse Argent between three flouredeluces Or, a Greyhound currant Sables as appeareth by an ancient Visitac^on of y^e County of Cambridg, now remaininge in y^e office of Armes, have requested me y^e said Clarenceux, so to difference y^e said coate of Armes, as y^t they and their successours may beare y^e same wthout prejudice, to any of those of Cambridgshire, or to y^t more aunient Cheshire ffamilie of Holford of Holford, from whence originally they derive themselves, & took their surname. All w^{ch} y^ey likewise desired y^t I would not onely blazon, but also exemplifie, and testifie; whereunto I could not but condiscend to such a reasonable request, wherein haveing made search accordingly & weighed every mans right considerably, doe find y^t they may lawfully beare Argent a Greyhound sables, upon a cheife azure, three flouredeluces Gold & for their Creast upon an helme & wreath of their colours, A Greyhounds head sables, the collour territed, & studded Gold, mantled Gules, Doubled Argent, as more plainly appeareth depicted in y^e marg^t. The w^{ch} Armes & Creast, & every part & parcell thereof, I y^e said Clarenceux King of Armes by power & authoritie unto myne office annexed & granted by l^res patents under y^e great seale of England, have ratified confirmed & allowed, & by theis p^rsents given & granted unto & for y^e said William, Richard, & Richard Holford, & to their Heires & posteritie for ever, to use, beare & set fourth in shield, coatearmo^r or otherwise wth there due differences at their, or any of their liberties, & pleasures, accordinge to y^e ancient lawe of Armes, wthout impediment, let, or interrup^on of any pson or psons whatsoever. In wittnes whereof, I y^e said Clarenceux King of Armes, have signed theis presents wth my hand, & thereunto put y^e seale of myne office y^e first day of January A^o Do^m 1621 in y^e nineteenths yeare of y^e reigne of o^r Sovereaigne Lord James by y^e grace of God King of England France & Ireland Defendou^r of y^e faith &c, & of Scotland y^e five & ffivetieth.

Will^m Camden Clarenceux
King of Armes.

[The legend surrounding the official seal is:—

S · OFFICII · CLARENCEVIX ·
REGIS · ARMORIS · PARTIS ·
AVSTRALIS.]