

APPENDIX.

EXCURSION TO PRESTON.

On Tuesday the 24th of June, the members and their friends undertook an excursion to Preston; in compliance with the expressed wish of several gentlemen connected with that town. The party left Liverpool by an early train, and arrived at Preston shortly after nine o'clock. A local committee of which Mr. W. Dobson was secretary, had made arrangements for the day, and several of its members attended at the station to receive the visitors. Other members of the Society, from Manchester, Lancaster, Warrington, Burnley, &c., joined them shortly afterwards.

The committee had brought together, for the occasion, an interesting collection of local objects; forming a temporary Museum, illustrative of Preston and its neighbourhood.* These were laid out in the rooms of the Institution Avenham, the use of which had been granted for the purpose of the meeting. The inspection of the collection was the first part of the proceedings: and here the visitors were joined by a large number of ladies and gentlemen of Preston and the neighbourhood.

An adjournment then took place to Dr. Shepherd's† library in the same building, where a *dejeuner* was prepared by the hospitable arrangements of the local committee. Before retiring, the company resolved that they would confine their attention to Walton-le-dale and Penwortham; leaving their visit to Ribchester to take place on some other occasion.

Crossing the Ribble from Avenham Terrace, the party proceeded to Walton, distant about a mile. Here the precise positions were pointed out in which the Roman remains‡ had been discovered; and Mr. Hardwick drew attention to the terraces, the former bed of the river, &c. Engravings of the subject were handed round for inspection; and some of the objects themselves, which had not been procured for public purposes.

A pleasant walk along the bank of the river brought the company to Penwortham, about an equal distance on the other side of the town. Permission had been obtained, to examine the extraordinary mound known as the "Castle Hill," on which a Saxon castle is said to have stood. A large trench had been cut on the previous day, under the superintendence of Mr. Willacy, the agent for the property. Objects in wood iron and lead had been discovered, with numerous bones of animals. On this occasion, a wooden structure of oak and hazel was discovered; apparently the framework of a house inside the hill. The floor was paved with river boulders. [The excavations were continued on the following day, when several additional objects were brought to light, including a complete spur, apparently of about the 10th century.] An account of them, with illustrations, will be given in the next volume of the Society's transactions.

Returning to Preston at four o'clock, between fifty and sixty ladies and gentlemen sat down to dinner in the Assembly-room of the Bull Hotel. The chair was occupied by Richard Threlfall, Esq., Mayor of Preston. Several interesting sentiments were proposed and suitably responded to. The members from a distance retired in time to meet their respective trains; and the company separated finally about eight o'clock.

* The principal contributors were, the Mayor, the Town Clerk, Miss Farington of Worden, R. Townley Parker, Esq., M.P., the Ribble Company, the Council of the Institute, the Rev. W. Thornber, Mr. Dearden, Mr. Hardwick, Mr. Hoghton of Bold, Alderman Brown, &c.

† Dr. Shepherd was Mayor of Preston in 1756.

‡ Transactions, p. 127.