

- By R. H. Brackstone, Esq., of London. A collection of celts and bronze swords, found in various parts of Ireland.
- By Dr. Hume. Specimens of bones which are found in large quantities, at the caves of Cefn, near St. Asaph.
- By Thos. Dorning Hibbert, Esq. A large collection of letters and other MSS., relating to Lancashire and Cheshire persons and places; most of them of the time of James I., Charles I. and Charles II. They had come into his hands in a direct line from the original possessors. Several interesting passages were read.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Dr. Thom explained that the drawing and rubbing just presented by him, both referred to the engraving on a brass plate, inserted in the wall, at the south-east end of the Chancel of Tarvin Church. The plate was erected in memory of Henry Hardware, who died in 1584, apparently at or near the period of his decease. Mr. Hardware, who had held high civic offices in Chester, appears to have spent the latter portion of his life in the country. The arms, which are found on the plate along with his own, are those of the city of Chester; not dimidiated but entire. The pointed sword is interposed between the two upper garbs, and the hilt is inserted in the lowest or central one. The drawing was made by Mr George Charles, late of Tarporley.

2. Dr. Thom having heard of the discovery of burnt bones and pottery at Eddisbury Hill, in the spring of 1851, visited the spot in the autumn, accompanied by some friends. A labourer who had been present at the discovery conducted the party. In a field called the Sand-pit field, occupying the slope of a hill facing the south, was a collection of irregularly shaped stones of various sizes. This was the place where the articles had been discovered. The stones had formed a small arch or vault, under which was the urn, with its contents; and had been thrown together in preparing the field for the crop. The site is about half a mile to the south-east of the cairn of the trigonometrical surveyors; about the same distance from the large farm-house on Eddisbury Hill; and a few perches from the Roman road leading easterly from Chester. The precise spot was in a hollow, midway between two converging ridges. The stones which had covered the urn, were the common sandstone of the district, undressed. One had a very rude resemblance to the human bust; and another had rude carving like the capital W. written across three parallel lines. The urn had been broken when found; but portions of it and of the bones were strewed about. The former is of coarse baked clay, slightly indented; the latter seem to have been subjected to the action of fire. From a large fragment of the urn preserved by Mr. Dean of the adjoining farm house, it appears to have been nine or ten inches in diameter and four or five deep. Below

the rim, on the outer side, was an ornamental border of about two inches deep, consisting of alternate white and black squares.

3. In reference to the document exhibited by Mr. Woodhouse, a letter from which the following are extracts, was received a few days after the meeting. It is written by Mr. James Boardman of Aigburth. "I was on a visit to the late Mr. John Woodhouse at Marsala, during the vintage of 1814, and as you may suppose, wine was the theme of our conversation. I remember my kind host telling me of Nelson's purchases, and how the wine in question came to bear the name of Bronte. When Nelson was signing the order for the fleet, he said, 'Woodhouse, let the wine be good, for my brave fellows deserve a good glass; and let me have a few pipes for friends at home.' Mr. W. promised to do his best, but added, 'it wants a name, and nothing goes down in London without a fine name.' 'Well,' replied the hero in his own way, 'd—n it, call it *Bronte* after my new estate.' 'A good name too,' said Mr. W., 'but Bronte is a *nut* and not a *wine* district.' 'Don't mind that,' said Nelson, 'what do the folks in England know of Bronte? Let it be *Bronte*.' * * The wines of the Messrs. Woodhouse are the production of the Marsala and Mazzara districts, at the west end of Sicily."

4. Fountains Abbey, to which the seals exhibited refer, is still standing, in ruins. It is in Skeldale, in the county of York, about three miles south-west of Ripon. It was founded in 1132, by Thurstan Archbishop of York, for the support of thirteen monks, (originally sent from St. Mary's Abbey, York,) in a more austere mode of living. At first their means were so limited that they were obliged to lodge under the shadow of a large tree; but connecting themselves with the Cistercian order, the community at length rose to great wealth. At the dissolution, temp. Henry VIII., the yearly rent of their lands was £1073.

5. A communication having been read, from John F. Marsh, Esq., Town Clerk of Warrington, inviting—in his own name and that of some other gentlemen—the whole Society to meet at Warrington on the 7th of May, along with deputations from certain other societies, to examine the local antiquities;—

Resolved,—That the best thanks of the Society be given through Mr. Marsh, to the gentlemen at Warrington, and that the invitation be accepted.

PAPER.

TRACES OF THE BRITONS, SAXONS, AND DANES IN THE FORELAND OF THE FYLDE.

By the Rev. Wm. Thorner, A.B., Blackpool.

At the close of a fine day, some weeks ago, I found myself after a pleasant walk on the height of Beryl, the highest hill on that range of cliffs, which defend the Foreland of the Fylde towards the north of Blackpool.