

his valuable collection, illustrative of Archæology, Ethnology, and the Fine Arts, in the keeping of the Town Council, during pleasure; provided the Library and Museum Committee could find suitable accommodation for it.

The following Papers were then read:—

ON THE ROMAN REMAINS RECENTLY DISCOVERED AT WALTON-LE-DALE, NEAR PRESTON. *By Charles Hardwick, Esq.**

MONUMENTAL BRASSES FOUND AT PRESTON. *By William Dobson, Esq.*

A few months ago, as a brass-founder (Mr. W. Holland) in Preston was turning over a heap of old brass, with a view of transferring it to the melting pot, one piece having an antiquated look, and bearing upon it some marks, attracted his attention. He rescued it from its impending fate, and laid it aside. I obtained it from him, and after a little cleaning, easily deciphered the following inscription in plain Roman capitals, of which a rubbing is submitted:—

HERE · LYETH · INTERD · SEATH · BVSHELL · WOOLLEN · DRAPER
BAYLIFE · AND · A · BROTHER · OF · PRESTON · DYING · THE · XV · OF
SEPR · 1623 · AGED · 53 · GAVE · VNTO · HIS · KINESFOOLKES · AND · GOD
CHILDREN · IN · LEGACIES · VI · C · L+ · ALSO · XX · L† · TO · THE · POORE
OF · THIS · TOWNE · FOR · EVER · THE · VSE|| · TO · BE · GIVEN · THE · SAID
POORE · BY · THE · MAIOR · OR · HIS · DEPTIE · AT · CHRIST'S · & · EASTER
4 · L · TO · THE · POORE · OF · LEELAND · & · WALTON · AL · OVT · OF · HIS
CHARITABLE · MINDE

The "Seath Bushell" whose benevolence is thus recorded, was buried within the Parish Church of Preston, and his interment is recorded in the parish register, next to one dated the 16th of September, 1623, as follows:—Sep. [sepultus, buried] Mr. Seth Bushell, eo: die [the same day.] He was, as stated in the inscription, a "brother of Preston," i.e., a member of the corporation, his signature as "Seathe Bushell" being affixed to some proceedings of that body in the corporation records, in the year 1612. After possessing myself of this plate, which Mr. Holland kindly placed in my hands, with a view to its restoration to the church, I made some enquiries as to the site of Mr. Bushell's grave, and felt anxious to obtain some particulars of one who had shewn such a desire to benefit not only his "kinesfoolkes," but the poor of his town and neighbourhood. I learned that when the works in connection with the rebuilding of our Parish Church were in progress (in 1854 and 1855), the workmen were told that if they met with any plates (meaning, no doubt, ordinary coffin plates) they were to bury them. Yet even an ancient coffin plate might have possessed some local, personal, or historical interest. It would have been wiser to have ordered that all should have been submitted to some one in authority, who might have examined them. The workman who met with this plate, which was affixed to a gravestone about two feet below the then level of the church floor, knew that if a brass plate was of so little importance to a churchwarden, it would at least be worth something to a marine store dealer; so he got it removed and sold for old brass. In the progress of the work another workman met with a second brass upon the same gravestone, and this being disclosed in the presence of the parish sexton, some trouble was taken to obtain the former plate also, but of course without success. An inscription, "Spes altera vitæ" [sic], cut in rude old English characters, was above the plates on the gravestone. When I made enquiries (in December last) a few months after the discovery, not a vestige of the stone could be found. It had been destroyed in the course of the work, but fortunately Mr. John Addison, of this town, who saw it soon after its discovery, had taken a rubbing of it, from which this copy has been made.

The two brasses are of equal size, nineteen inches by nine; the one discovered last was placed lengthwise on the stone, with the other one crosswise below it. The former

* Transactions, p. 127.

+ £600. † £20. || Interest.

bears a rude representation of a person wearing a robe, probably a municipal robe of that era; for our councillors then wore gowns, and rules respecting their attire are in our corporation records. There is also the broad turned down collar seen in portraits of that date. Mr. Bushell, for I deem it to be intended for his effigies, has the close cut hair of the Roundhead of that age, as well as the moustache and "beard of formal cut" clearly defined.

Of his family connections I can give no authentic information. From the extent of his bequests to his "kinesfoolkes and god-children" I presume he was childless. A Seth Bushell, probably his nephew, was vicar of Preston. His signature as "Seth Bushell, D.D., and Vicar of Preston," appears several times in the minute book of the Select Vestry of the Parish, between 1671 and 1674. He was afterwards (1682-84) Vicar of Lancaster. It is not improbable that Dr. William Bushell, the benevolent founder of Goosnargh Hospital, near Preston, was of the same family. As respects the benefactions to the poor, recorded in the inscription, I can give no information. The Reports of the Charity Commissioners say nothing about any of them, and the records of our corporation are silent as to any legacy to this town, although they contain notices of other charities. Like many others they have, in the lapse of ages, been lost sight of, or diverted from their original destination.

Notwithstanding the rudeness of these brasses, as works of art, the scarcity of such monumental records in the northern and western counties, and the benevolent intentions of the Lancashire worthy whom they were intended to commemorate, entitle them, I think, to a notice in the Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society.

10th April, 1856. LITERARY SECTION.

THOMAS SANSOM, Esq., in the Chair.

The following Donations were laid upon the table.

From the Royal Irish Academy. Transactions of the Academy, vol. xxii, part 1, Science; part 2, Literature. Proceedings, vol. vi, part 2 (1854-55.)

From Edward Clibborn, Esq. An Essay on the Probability of Saul, Beniah, Abishai, Jehoshaphat, Jonathan, &c., having been the Hycsos Rulers, called Salatis, Beon, Apachnas, Apophis, &c., accompanied by a biographical and historical table.

From the Society. Transactions of the Philological Society; Nos. 12, 13, and 14, for 1854.

From the Cambrian Archæological Association. Archæologia Cambrensis, No. 6, (third series) April, 1856.

From G. Mansfield Browne, Esq. Twelve coins of the Greek and Roman periods.

From Dr. Macintyre. View of the top of Bold Street, now undergoing alterations, and of St. Luke's Church.

Miss Lamb, of Everton Road, forwarded for exhibition two small Indian figures carved out of soapstone. They had been forwarded by her late brother, Mr. Andrew Lamb. One represents the Hindoo Mars, seated on the back of a peacock; and the other his brother, a corpulent man, with four hands and an elephant's head. Miss Lamb also exhibited a silk purse, used as an envelope by persons of distinction in India. It is sewed inside, and the cord which fastens it at the mouth is enveloped in the seal.

The following paper was then read:—

ON THE CHARACTER OF HAMLET. *By the Rev. Arthur Ramsay, M.A.**

* Transactions, p. 115.