

MONDAY, 10th March 1913.

The Hon. LORD GUTHRIE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

On taking the Chair, Lord GUTHRIE said :—

Before proceeding with the business of this meeting it is my duty to make a formal announcement of what the Society has already learned from the newspapers—the resignation of Dr Joseph Anderson, the Keeper of the National Museum of Antiquities and the Assistant-Secretary of this Society. In any association or society, when a high official of long standing resigns, the event is notable ; but, in this case, Dr Anderson's work, during his forty-three years' tenure of office, has been so unique, and his position as a Scottish archæologist so pre-eminent, that it seems right, in making to-night the formal announcement of Dr Anderson's resignation, that some words should be said from this chair as to what Dr Anderson has done for us in this Society, in all its departments, and for Scottish archæology.

Dr Anderson had a somewhat unusual but not inappropriate training for his life-work. At the age of twenty he became a teacher in Arbroath, with its great Abbey and historic memories. Later, he taught for several years in Constantinople, where he was brought into contact with history on a more imperial scale and with monuments more ancient and more imposing. Then he edited the *John-o'-Groat Journal* in Wick, and had the opportunity of studying those prehistoric structures of Caithness in connection with which his subsequent writings may be said without exaggeration to have revolutionised the science of prehistoric archæology in Scotland.

We in this Society have known Dr Anderson in four capacities. First, as our Assistant-Secretary and Editor of our *Proceedings*, the permanent official on whose efficiency the efficiency of the Society

chiefly depends; second, as the Keeper of the National Museum of Antiquities, the property of the Crown, which we administer; third, as our Rhind Lecturer on Pagan Scotland and Early Christian Scotland and its Monuments; and fourth, as our guide, philosopher, and friend at the meetings of the Society, and whenever any lame dog among us required to be helped over an antiquarian stile. To the world at large he has been for many years the foremost figure in all matters relating to Scottish archæology. I remember, when visiting the James Miln Museum at Carnac in Brittany, how the face of M. Russic, the Breton curator, brightened when I mentioned his name. Any polemic who could claim Dr Anderson on his side deemed the battle already won; partly from the commanding position which Dr Anderson's own merits had secured, and partly because of his well-known reluctance to express any opinion, except from exhaustive premisses, and for compelling reasons.

As an official he conducted our correspondence, home and foreign, and interviewed all sorts and conditions of men; he arranged for and recorded the meetings of Council, and of the Society; he selected and edited papers to be read at the Society, and re-edited them for the *Proceedings*; he not only attended all the meetings of the Society, but he contributed many most valuable papers, chiefly on prehistoric and Early Christian subjects, and at our meetings we always welcomed his incisive and illuminating comment and criticism on papers read, whether it was corrective, or supplementary, or suggestive of further investigation; and he managed the Museum, which has quadrupled in size since his appointment as Keeper in 1869. For the adequate discharge of these multifarious and exacting duties he possessed a rare combination of qualities. He has a zeal *with* knowledge, one of the most level-headed enthusiasts who ever lived, because with his enthusiasm he has always shown himself a thorough man of business, punctual to engagements, prompt in correspondence, never satisfied with what would merely pass muster, but determined that everything

he was responsible for, whether his own, or the papers of other people it was his duty to edit, should be the best possible. He not only worked very hard himself, but he could, and did, make other people work. He was generous in suggestions, and lavish in taking trouble for others. No one who went, or wrote to consult him—and their name was legion—was ever sent empty away. If, like another great antiquary whom I knew, Dr David Laing, he did not always suffer fools gladly, it was not the simple inquirer after truth who ever felt aggrieved, but the slovenly antiquarian collector, who thinks it sufficient to record a find as discovered in a certain county, and the ram-stam explorer who does more harm than good by hasty and partial excavation. These all received a deserved down-setting from his trenchant tongue or pen.

Dr Anderson has written two books dealing with feudal times—*The Oliphants in Scotland*, and *Drummond's Ancient Scottish Weapons*; but in his Rhind Lectures on Pagan Scotland and Early Christian Scotland and its Monuments he devoted himself to themes which he had in an especial sense made his own. These lectures have been, and will be, supplemented and corrected in details, but they can never be superseded. In them he laid the foundations on which all subsequent investigators and writers have built. The first lecture of Dr Anderson's first course, entitled "Materials and Methods," is one of the most valuable contributions ever made to the study of archæology. It is a masterly statement of Dr Anderson's archæological Thirty-nine Articles of belief and practice, original, sane, and thorough in matter, and phrased in vigorous, nervous English. It contains a delightful passage on pages 11 and 12, in which Dr Anderson, contrasting the interest of some people in excavations in Mesopotamia with their indifference to research in Scotland, for once loses his habitual philosophic calm, and for once lets himself go.

Dr Anderson has brought to the study of obscure and difficult problems, not only a well-stored and highly trained mind, but a strong

intellect and a masterful personality. No one can come in contact with him without feeling, despite his retiring manner and deliberate utterance, that he has the qualities which would have won him distinction in any walk of life. Nothing daunted him. The paucity of authentic remains in any period only induced him to search for more, and meantime to suspend his judgment. Thus, referring to three Brochs in Perthshire, he says: "The present position of our knowledge is that there are three examples south of the Caledonian Valley; but if I were to conclude that these three are all that exist in that wide region, I should be drawing from my ignorance of the actual facts a conclusion which could only be drawn from complete knowledge obtained by exhaustive investigation." And he sums up the matter thus: "The unwritten story of Scotland's early systems of culture and civilisation is dispersed among the *disjecta membra* of her scattered remains, and is only to be disclosed by the systematic collection and study of all existing materials illustrative of her native industry and native art, with their associated indications of social organisation and potential culture."

Dr Anderson possesses a judicial rather than a forensic temperament. He sees both sides of a controversy, so that he is slow to come to any final conclusion. Again and again in his Rhind Lectures, after a most lucid narrative of details, followed by a masterly summing up, he concludes that we must wait for more facts before we can form a definite opinion. Sometimes we are provoked with his doubts; but in this case, as in the case of any other faults which Dr Anderson, being only human, may possess, the fault, if it is one, is due to an excess of a great quality. Dr Anderson himself is certainly not exposed to the reproach to which he refers in his *Early Christian Scotland*: "It was the absence of the faculty of exhaustive and accurate observation, as well as the presence of a fatal facility for drawing conclusions from irrelevant evidence, that made the antiquary of a bygone age the laughing-stock of the literary world, and

gave pungency and zest to the satire with which he was everywhere assailed."

But Scotch caution is not Dr Anderson's only link to Scotland. His love for his country has prevented him, save for purposes of illustration, from straying into other antiquarian fields. In his Rhind Lectures he delights to point out the two features of Scottish archæology which are unique: "the remains of a school of art exemplified in a series of monumental types which are so truly unique that no other nation possesses a single example, and the remains of a school of architecture which is as truly unique, and even more pronounced in its features of absolute individuality." In the last part of the sentence he is referring to the Brochs, those remarkable structures of which there are between three and four hundred in the five northern counties of Scotland.

Dr Anderson, although not by any means inaccessible to other points of view, has always placed the archæological first. "We are not to revel," he says, "in mere wonderment of observation, in admiration of the curious, the unique, the interesting, or the antique. These are but the accidents and incidents of the journey on which we have embarked, and not the objects for which it was undertaken." But he never neglects the human side of things. Thus he vigorously defends our remote ancestors from the charge of barbarism. "We find," he says, "their weapons and ornaments fashioned in forms that combine beauty of outline with symmetry and grace of proportion. We find the workmanship of the best examples faultless, the polish perfect, and the edge as regular and evenly drawn from the face of the instrument as it is possible to make it even with the aid of machinery and scientific appliances. It would be manifestly absurd to say that the application of intellect and handicraft to the perfection of an art is culture when it is directed to one material, and is not culture when it is directed to another—that culture may be manifested in bronze and iron, and silver and gold, but not in bone or ivory, or

jet or stone"; and he enlarges again and again on the lessons taught by the sepulchral remains of remote antiquity. Thus he eloquently says: "Not the least striking of all the characteristics of their culture is exemplified in the fact that we know them chiefly not from the circumstances in which they maintained themselves in life, but from circumstances which are the direct result of their attitude of mind towards their dead. If life with them was a struggle for existence, we look in vain for its memorials. But there is no wide district of country in which the memorials of their dead are not prominent, picturesque, and familiar features. In this, no less than in the varied phenomena of their burial customs—the preparation of the funeral pile, the fabrication of the finely ornamented urns, and the costly dedication of articles of use or adornment freely renounced by the survivors, and set apart from the inheritance of the living as grave-goods for the dead,—we realise the intensity of their devotion to filial memories and family ties, to hereditary honour and ancestral tradition."

Lastly, as our guide, philosopher, and friend in the Society and out of it, we all owe Dr Anderson innumerable acts of kindness, and we shall constantly miss him. The present generation of antiquaries, experts and amateurs alike, look to him as their master; he has taught them all their trade; and if they are able in any measure to carry on his work in the future, it will largely be due to the lofty standard of duty which he has always set before them.

Dr Anderson's consistent character has commanded our profound respect; we have often wondered at the extent and accuracy of his knowledge, and the facility with which he could make it instantly available; his power of lucid and interesting exposition, and his faculty for illuminating an obscure subject, have excited our admiration. It is only the literal truth to say that we are all proud of him. But no mere statement of respect for his character, and admiration for his learning and intellect, and pride in the place he occupies in the archæological world, can adequately express our feelings towards

Dr Anderson. We desire him to know that he has inspired in us all a very real affection, and that he retires from active service among us with the heartiest good wishes for himself and his wife and family, and the hope that he may be spared in an honoured retirement to continue his interest in the science which owes so much to his toil, his influence, and his inspiration.

At their meeting this afternoon the Council directed that the following should be engrossed in their Minute-book, and a copy thereof transmitted to Dr Anderson :—

“The long and eminent services which Dr Anderson has rendered to the Society at large by his learning, judgment, and scientific attainments, and the prestige which he has won for the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland through his European reputation as an archæologist, will be suitably referred to at the Meeting of the Society this evening, and subsequently placed on record in the *Proceedings*. The Council therefore merely desire to record in this place their appreciation of the admirable business qualities which Dr Anderson has brought to bear on the conduct of their Meetings and on the affairs of the Society in general. The combination of such scholarship and business capacity as Dr Anderson has displayed throughout his long connection with the Society is rarely to be met with in one individual, and has proved of inestimable value to the Society. The personal relations of the Council and each of its members with Dr Anderson have always been most harmonious and cordial ; and he carries into his retirement their respect, their esteem, and their gratitude.”

A Ballot having been taken, the following were duly elected Fellows of the Society :—

FREDERIC CORNISH FROST, F.S.A., 5 Regent Street, Teignmouth.

Major H. W. G. MEYER-GRIFFITH, F.R.G.S., Trinity College, Glensalmond, Perth.

THOMAS COKE SQUANCE, M.D., 11 Grange Crescent, Sunderland.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors :—

(1) By D. J. MACLEOD, Inspector of Schools, Stornoway, Lewis.

A collection from Uig, Lewis, comprising—Three Pins of bronze and one of bone, from a shell-mound at Knup ; Arrowhead of white quartz with barbs and stem, and Arrowhead of grey flint with barbs and stem, both from Corrishader ; portion of the cutting end of a polished Axe, and the cutting end of a polished stone Axe-hammer broken through the haft-hole, both also from Corrishader.

(2) By Rev. W. A. STARK, F.S.A. Scot.

Original Document on parchment of the Presentation of Rev. David Lamont to the Church and Parish of Kirkpatrick Durham, by George III., 1774. Seal wanting.

(3) By Mrs HOWIE, 23 Richmond Terrace, Aberdeen.

Pirlie Pig with brownish-red glaze, from Aberdeen.

(4) By WILLIAM FORSYTH, F.S.A. Scot.

Burmese Sword-blade, sabre-shaped, found in the Tura forest, Assam ; Rubbing of a Slab with Shield of Arms, a pump spouting water into a bucket, and date 1586, over a door in the village of Blankenburg in Canton Berne, Switzerland.

(5) By H. M. CADELL, of Grange, D.L., D.Sc., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

The Story of the Forth. Imp. 8vo. 1913.

(6) By HENRY NEWTON VEITCH, the Author.

Sheffield Plate : Its History, Manufacture, and Art. 4to. 1908.

(7) By A. D. CUMMING, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Old Times in Scotland. With an Introduction by Professor Cooper,
D.D. 8vo. 1910.

(8) By the TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Catalogue of Vases, Greek and Etruscan. Vol. I., part 2, Cypriote,
Italian, and Etruscan. 4to. 1912.

(9) By the KEEPER OF THE RECORDS OF SCOTLAND.

Register of the Privy Council of Scotland. Vol. V. Third Series,
1676-1678.

(10) By N. D. MACDONALD, 15 Abercromby Place.

Kelvinside. Illustrated by a series of Drawings and Photographs.
Folio. 1894.

Bond Street, Old and New, 1686-1911. By H. B. Wheatley. 4to.
1912.

There were exhibited :—

By ARCHIBALD HEWAT, F.S.A. Scot.

An old Balance for weighing halfpennies, and a Squirt for powdering
wigs.

The following communications were read :—