

**LECTURES DELIVERED TO THE LITERARY  
AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,  
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, ON  
NORTHUMBRIAN HISTORY, LITERATURE,  
AND ART; LENT TERM, 1898**

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**VARIOUS**

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# LECTURES

DELIVERED TO THE

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,  
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,

ON

NORTHUMBRIAN HISTORY, LITERATURE,  
AND ART,

BY

THOMAS HODGKIN, D.C.L., F.S.A.  
ROBERT SPENCE WATSON, LL.D.  
R. OLIVER HESLOP.  
RICHARD WELFORD, M.A.

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LENT TERM. 1898.

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## PREFACE.

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A few words of explanation respecting the following Lectures would seem appropriate.

For some time it had been felt that a change from the ordinary University Extension Course of Lectures would be beneficial. It was, therefore, decided to introduce a Course on matters especially connected with the County of Northumberland.

Dr. Robert Spence Watson, one of our Vice-Presidents, undertook to deliver the Six Lectures printed in this book; and Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, another Vice-President, Mr. R. Oliver Heslop, Mr. Richard Welford, and Mr. F. W. Dendy most willingly agreed to prepare others. Unfortunately, owing to the illness of Mr. Dendy, his proposed explanation of the Newcastle Guilds was not given.

These Lectures were delivered in the Lent Term of 1898, and were well attended, exciting considerable interest.

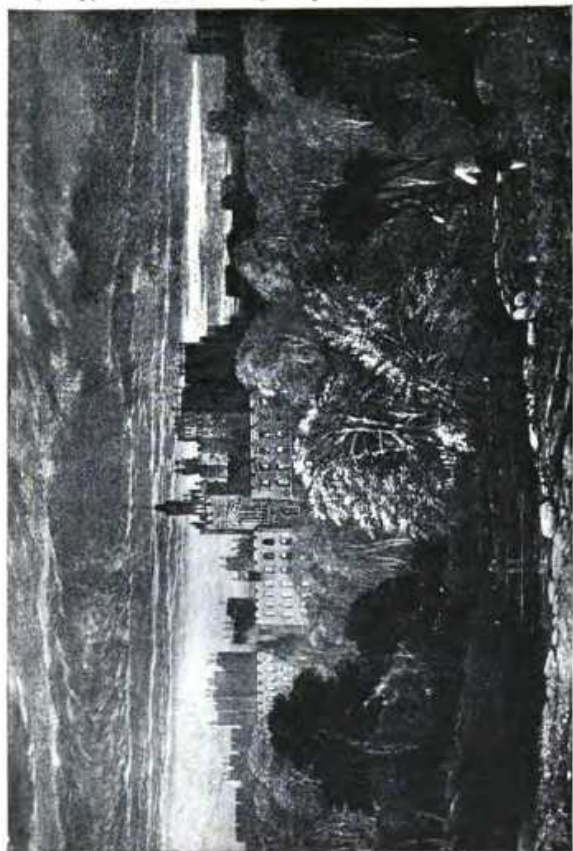
The thanks of the Society are due to the gentlemen who have given this further proof, that it retains within its membership, those who are able and willing to strengthen the position it has held from the first, of being one of the leading agencies in the higher education of the district.

ALFRED HOLMES,  
FREDERICK EMLEY,

HONORARY SECRETARIES.

*October, 1898.*





ALNWICK CASTLE.

## ROMAN OCCUPATION OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

By THOMAS HODGKIN, D.C.L., F.S.A.

The Roman occupation of this part of Britain lasted with some intermission for three centuries,\* that of the southern portions of our island for a century longer.†

Even the shorter of these two periods is a long space of time when measured on the scale of human life. It means ten generations of men. How few Englishmen, unless they happen to belong to one of the great historic families, have the least idea what manner of man any one of their ancestors ten generations back was like, or even where he abode! And if we measure this space of time on the life not of the individual but of the nation, we shall find that three centuries may be a long road for a nation to travel. In the year 1598 England and Scotland were still two separate, often hostile, countries. Spain was our most formidable foe, and we had but just recovered from the terror of the Great Armada; the authorised version of the Bible was not in existence; and Hamlet, Macbeth, and Othello had never been seen upon the stage.

In the very field of our present enquiry we have evidence enough how "the slow foot of Time" was working here during those three hundred years. The not infrequent inscriptions which record that some building reared by Roman hands was now *vetustate conlapsum* (tumbled down through age) and required to be restored by a later generation of Romans, bring before us the fact that the Roman occupation of Northumberland was not, as we perhaps used sometimes to think of it, a point, but a line, and a pretty long line in the Past that lies behind us.

\* From A.D. 80, when Agricola probably crossed the Tees, to A.D. 383, the date of the death of Gratian the last emperor whose coins are found in any considerable number.

† From A.D. 43, the year of Claudius' invasion of Britain, to A.D. 441, the year at which "Tiro Prosper," so-called, places the Saxon conquest of the island.

And, yet, it is disappointing and somewhat humiliating to find that though we, or, at least, our predecessors in this county, were in contact with the great world-conquering nation for so many centuries, we and our land spoke but little to the Roman heart, and produced scarce any effect on Roman literature. When we have alluded to the account of two British expeditions given by Caesar in his Commentaries, when we have read the few chapters in the Annals of Tacitus which relate to the rebellion under Queen Boudicca,\* and the other more valuable monograph which we owe to the happy accident that the historian married the daughter of Agricola, when we have listened to Horace's brave words about visiting under the protection of the Muses, "even the Britons who are so fierce toward their guests,"† and when we have gathered from other poets allusions to British oysters and British wolf-hounds we have almost exhausted all that the Roman conquerors of Britain have said to posterity concerning our island. Not a word as to our beautiful mountains and lakes, not a hint, as far as I remember, of our treasures of coal, not even a grumble over our changeable climate, has reached the ears of posterity. When we think of the minute information which we are bequeathing to future ages as to many a little native principality in India, and many a Kaffir kraal in South Africa, how Chitral and Maiwand and Bulwayo will be reproduced a thousand years hence from the letters of English ladies and the journals of mighty hunters of the lion, it is difficult not to feel that we have been somewhat unfairly treated in this matter, and that those masters of many legions who came from afar to conquer us might at least have taken the trouble to describe us, and to say what they thought of our country.

But I am sliding into heretical language in talking thus of "us" and "our conquerors" the Romans. I fancy that I hear the gruff but kindly voice of my old friend Freeman rebuking me for thus identifying myself with the men whom Agricola subdued, and see the thin, eager face of J. H. Green looking reproach at my forgetfulness that Holstein, not Britain, was *our* home in the first century after Christ. I accept the rebuke and proceed to repeat the offence. No doubt the majority of the persons present in this room, if they could trace back their lineage for eighteen centuries, would find the majority of their ancestors living in those forest-covered lands between

\* The now approved form of Boadicea's name.

† *Viam Britannos hospitibus feros.*