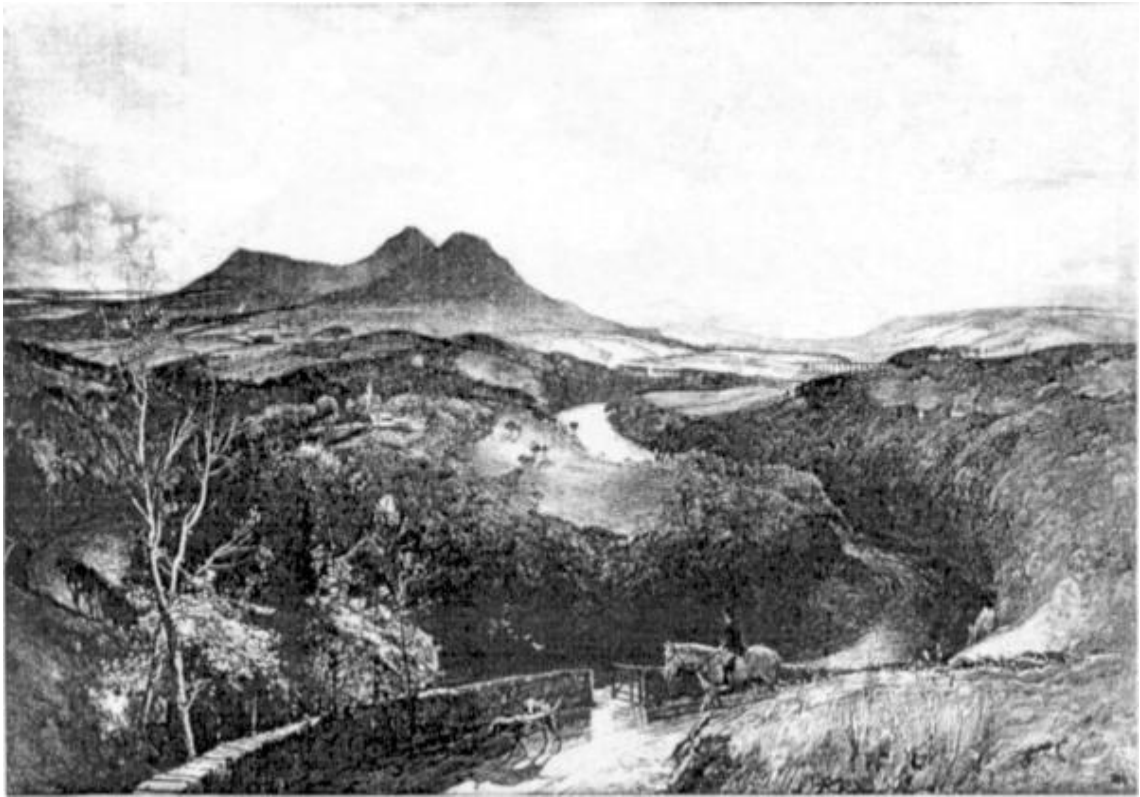


PLATE I. THE VALLEY OF THE TWEED LOOKING WESTWARD
FROM BEMERSYDE HILL FROM A WATER-COLOUR DRAWING
BY TOM SCOTT, R.S.A.

The view is taken from the height above the precipitous rocky face known as the Gate Heugh, on the north bank of the Tweed. In the foreground lies the promontory of Old Melrose, the site of the early monastery of Saint Cuthbert. Behind it rise the three peaks of the Eildon Hills. The site of the Roman fort of Newstead lying in the middle distance on the south bank is indicated by the Railway Viaduct crossing the river in its immediate vicinity.



A ROMAN FRONTIER POST AND ITS PEOPLE

THE FORT OF NEWSTEAD IN THE
PARISH OF MELROSE

BY

JAMES CURLE, F.S.A. SCOT., F.S.A.

GLASGOW
MDCCCXI

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ON behalf of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, I desire to express cordial recognition of the liberality with which the appeal of the Council for pecuniary assistance in the undertaking has been met from time to time by many persons, both Fellows of the Society and those not directly connected therewith. Without such assistance it would not have been possible to carry the excavation to completion, so greatly has its scope and the labour involved exceeded anticipation. It is satisfactory to know that the results attained are in even greater excess of our most sanguine expectation.

Further, neither the will nor the means to make a thorough exploration of the site would have availed anything without the generous assent and co-operation of the owners thereof, Mr. Thomas J. S. Roberts of Drygrange, proprietor of the main part of the land included in the fortification, and Mr. William Younger, proprietor of part of that included in the Southern Annexe. Besides giving material assistance in the work, these gentlemen have handed over to the National Museum of Antiquities the very large collection of weapons, armour, implements and other objects discovered. The land dealt with being under tillage, no progress could have been made unless the tenants thereof had given facilities. This they did most freely, and the thanks of the Society are due to Messrs. J. A. Porteous, Robert Bathgate, James Ford, G. Douglas Paton, David S. Hutcheson, and William Mallen, all of whom allowed excavations to be undertaken upon their farms.

The labours of Mr. James Curle speak for themselves in this volume, but Fellows of the Society should never forget that the exploration could not have been carried to a successful conclusion without his unremitting attention and ungrudging expenditure both of time and money. Nor could that time and money have been applied to full advantage without

the scholarly erudition which Mr. Curle has brought to the task. His thorough grasp of archaeological method, and his exceptional acquaintance with Roman remains, both in Great Britain and on the Continent, have enabled him to treat the subject in that comparative spirit which is the special characteristic of modern science in all its branches.

The extent of the operations and the quantity and importance of the results attained far exceed what could be adequately dealt with in a volume of the Transactions of our Society: hence the necessity for recording them in a separate publication.

HERBERT MAXWELL,
Pres. Soc. Ant. Scot.

November, 1910.

PREFACE

WHEN, in the Spring of 1905, I undertook at the request of the Hon. John Abercromby, then one of the Secretaries of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, to superintend on behalf of the Society the excavations about to be undertaken at Newstead, and to embody the results obtained in a report, I little dreamt how large an undertaking lay before me, and into how many byways of archaeology it was to lead. The work, for which I expected a few months to suffice, has occupied a period of five years.

The excavations were begun on 13th February, 1905, and continued without interruption until 19th May, 1909. After an interval of some months, work was resumed on the 22nd December of that year, and finally brought to a close in the middle of September, 1910. During these periods of work my residence within a mile of the site enabled me to make frequent, and often daily, visits to follow the progress of the digging, and to carry home the smaller objects found, thus giving opportunities for study that would not have been possible had they been at once despatched to the National Museum. Throughout the whole period of our working, Mr. Alexander Mackie acted as Clerk of Works. Mr. Mackie had gained experience under the Society in their excavations at Birrenswark, Inchtuthil and Lyne, and also at one or two of the forts on the Antonine Vallum, and was thus able to render valuable service in working out the problems of the site. He stuck to his post undeterred by weather, and by his shrewd observation contributed in no small measure to the success of the undertaking. The photographs of the foundations were all taken by Mr. Mackie.

In the preparation of the plans, Mr. Thomas Ross, LL.D., gave us

with ungrudging liberality the benefit of his experience, making many journeys to the Fort, and spending much time on the necessary survey.

In the autumn of 1907 the Council of the Society requested me to give the results of the excavations in the Rhind Lectures for that year. In dealing with the subject in the form of lectures delivered to a general audience, it seemed desirable to treat it on broad lines, and to bring to its illustration the results of similar investigations, both at home and abroad, which have been published during recent years. The form and treatment thus adopted have been adhered to, but in preparing the lectures for publication, the insertion of many details has expanded the volume beyond the limits usually adopted for such reports, until it has become in some measure a comparative study of a Roman fort and its people.

The results of observations made, both at home and on the Continent, in the many Museums and private collections which I have visited since the beginning of the excavations, are embodied in this volume, and I have to acknowledge the uniform kindness I have met with at the hands of curators and collectors. In approaching the end of a long task, I must acknowledge how much it has been lightened by the helpful suggestions I have received on these visits. Among the many friends and correspondents to whom I am indebted, I must mention my brother, Mr. Alexander O. Curle, Secretary to the Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments of Scotland; Mr. Joseph Anderson, LL.D., Keeper of the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh; Mr. George Neilson, LL.D., Glasgow, who has kindly revised my extracts from charters containing allusions to Dere Street; Captain H. G. Lyons, F.R.S.; Mr. Reginald Smith of the British and Mediaeval Department of the British Museum~; Mr. Arthur G. Wright of the Municipal Museum, Colchester; Herr Heinrich Jacobi of the Saalburg Museum, Homburg vor der Höhe; Dr. Emil Krüger of the Provincial Museum of Trier; and Professor Schumacher of Mainz, who was good enough to revise the lists of helmets and visor-masks appended to Chapter IX.

Among those who have helped me, I must especially mention Professor Haverfield of Oxford and Mr. George Macdonald, LL.D., of Edinburgh. Professor Haverfield and Mr. Macdonald have both read the proofs of this

volume, and to their sympathy and encouragement throughout the whole undertaking, no less than to their scholarship, I cannot too fully express my indebtedness.

To those who have contributed the Appendices to this volume, Mr. Harry F. Tagg, Professor Ewart, Mr. Linton, Professor Bryce and Mr. George Macdonald, and who have done so much to invest with interest the remains submitted to them, I would tender my grateful thanks.

In conclusion, I would especially thank Mr. James MacLehose for having undertaken on behalf of the Society of Antiquaries to publish this volume, and for all the labour he has bestowed to make it a worthy record of the unique collection with which it deals.

PRIORWOOD,
MELROSE, *November*, 1910.

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