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NB

This publication was originally issued in the 10 by 8 inch format then used by the society. It has now been digitised and reformatted at A5. This has changed the original pagination of articles, which is given in square brackets.

A Lost Cavern near Darlington, Co. Durham

ANCIENT PROPHECY

‘A most wonderful and true Prophecy, which was found in an Iron Box in a subterraneous Cavern, in a field near Darlington, and was written 400 Years ago; containing many Discoveries of what is to take place in various parts of the world betwixt the years 1826 and 1829.

Discovered on the 3rd November, 1827.

THIS cavern was situated in the lands of a very rich Gentleman of the name of Atkinson, in the neighbourhood of Darlington, who took a notion to embellish the interior of the cavern, and for that purpose employed some masons to raise a pillar for the support of a hanging rock that projected out of the roof; and while at this work, one of the masons took notice of a large square stone that seemed to be transfixed between two rocks; this curiosity led him to try to get the stone out, which he soon accomplished, but was much surprised to find underneath it a small iron box, about eighteen inches long. The man thinking that the box contained treasure, was very much agitated, but on breaking it open, found that it contained nothing but a large roll of parchment, all in writing; but as none of the men were able to read the writing, it was conveyed to Mr. Atkinson, who is an excellent scholar, and with the assistance of two or three clergymen to whom he exhibited. the roll, and who were conversant in the ancient languages, it was found to be a prophecy wrote 400 years ago.

It explains every thing just as they came to pass in the sister kingdom, for the last two hundred years, it gives a true definition of the rise and fall of Buonaparte, from his first entering the French Convention, till his total overthrow at Waterloo, and from that to his exile; but that his son would a few years after his death, wear the imperial crown. It says, that when two crowned heads from the east, and one from the north shall join, there shall be a total overthrow of the Turkish Empire. It also speaks of the Queen of England’s trial and acquittal, and what is wonderful it tells the exact number of days it would last, 45 days, which was the exact number it did last. It also says, that between the year 1826 and 1829 there will be great blood and slaughter in the sister kingdom; but when Ireland shall see three eagles coming together in a line from the south, they may expect their troubles to be at an end, and the reign of peace and prosperity shall again revisit that long divided kingdom. It also speaks of the National Debt of Britain, which it says will increase to such a degree from the people not being able to pay the taxes, owing to the depressed state of trade, and the agricultural interest being completely ruined, that it will scarcely be able to fulfil its engagements, and a national bankruptcy it is afraid will take place in a short time. In the year 1827, a worthy person will raise himself, by his own merit, to the highest office in the state; he will adopt such measures as will greatly benefit England, but his days are numbered; his successors will finish the work he has so nobly begun,

ANCIENT PROPHECY

and after a period a new system of finance will be introduced, Britain will recover from her embarrassments, and shine forth among the nations of Europe with increased lustre.

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When Fortune smiles upon a country, she is generally profuse in her favours, and it is stated towards the bottom of this scroll of parchment, in tolerably legible characters, that the lands in England and Scotland will yield abundantly - that the wheat, barley, and oats, and all manner of grain will be produced to excess, so much so that the barns will scarcely be able to contain it; that fruit and grass will be equally plentiful, and that the cattle will be fat and healthy. Throughout the land there will be no cry for bread - no want of employment; the harvest will be plentiful and the labourers few.

There is a good deal of the writing defaced, but it is supposed by its being in the Latin language, that it was wrote by some great prophet, about the time of Saint Cuthbert.'

Newcastle, Printed by W. Fordyce S. Side.

The above rare broadsheet has recently come into the possession of the Editor, who believes that it is so curious that it merits publication and it is here reproduced exactly as it was printed at Newcastle-upon-Tyne in about the year 1830.

Two problems are now posed, firstly, where exactly was the embellished cavern which was situated, 'in the neighbourhood of Darlington' and secondly, where now is the 'large scroll of parchment, all in writing', both referred to in the first paragraph of the broadsheet.

Members' observations on both of the above interesting queries will be published in the next issue of the society Transactions.

Editor.