

coins and excavated altars; and traced roads and stations at Lanchester and Ebchester. Dr. Hunter had now seriously conceived the idea of compiling a history of the Diocese of Durham; and in 1743 he published proposals for printing by subscription, in two Vols. 4to. "Antiquitates Parochiales Dioces. Dunelm. hucusque ineditæ;" collected from the archives of the church of Durham, the Chancery Rolls there, and the Records in the Consistory Court. With a view probably to the completion of this work, Dr. Hunter was entrusted by Thomas Bowes, of Streatlam, Esq. with the *Bowes Papers* (which are yet unpublished), containing the correspondence of Sir Robert Bowes, Elizabeth's Ambassador in Scotland, and his brother Sir George Bowes, Knight Marshall. Dr. Hunter's intended work however never saw the light. His actual publications were confined to a republication of "Davies's Rites and Monuments of the Church of Durham, 1733;" and "An Illustration of Mr. Daniel Neale's History of the Puritans in the article of Peter Smart, A. M. from Original Papers, with Remarks, 1736." His MS collections for his intended Topographical Work were extremely numerous. Two volumes of transcripts from the Chartularies of the Church of Durham, written in an extremely neat hand, and several loose papers, are in the Cathedral Library. Another volume is in the possession of John Hunter, Esq. of the Hermitage; but it is feared that many more are irretrievably lost.

In the spring of 1757 Dr. Hunter retired from Durham to his wife's estate at Unthank, in the Parish of Shotley, where he died in the night between the 12th and 13th of July following, and was buried in Shotley Church.

Here lye the remains of

CHRISTOPHER HUNTER, M. D.

a learned and judicious Antiquary and Physician.

He was the only child of Thomas Hunter, of Medomsley, Gent. by Margaret his second wife.

He married Elizabeth, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of John Elrington, of Aspersields, esq. by whom he had two sons and a daughter.

He died 13th of July, An. Dom. 1757, in the 83d year of his age.

Dr. Hunter's wife, to whom he had been married fifty-four years, survived him, as did his eldest son Thomas. John his younger son, and Anne, an only daughter, died long before him.

In his person Dr. Hunter was slender and well formed, somewhat above the middle size; extremely neat and plain in his dress, and of mild and conciliating manners. His life was a pattern of simple and inflexible integrity; and his remarkable moderation in respect of his professional fees, and his extreme disinterestedness in all matters of worldly economy, kept and left him poor. In his diet Dr. Hunter observed the strictest temperance. After his first settling in the country he had occasionally indulged in conviviality; a severe fall from his horse after an excess of this sort produced an entire reform: he determined on his recovery never to taste any thing stronger than water, and to the end of his life he persevered most religiously in this resolution. Therefore "his age was as a lusty winter—frosty but kindly." To supply the want of fermented liquors he had recourse to the somewhat immoderate use of coffee, drinking frequently twenty-four cups in a day. To this practice were probably owing the slight epileptic fits to which he was subject, which left him in a few minutes as well as before. With this exception Dr. Hunter preserved his health and faculties unimpaired to extreme age, and seems to have completed the full stadium which nature had appointed for him.

Dr. Hunter's library was purchased by Richardson, bookseller in Durham, for about 360*l.* and dispersed by sale. His collection of Roman Antiquities and Coins<sup>d</sup>, and part of his MSS. were bought by the Dean and Chapter of Durham for 40*l.* and are now in the Cathedral Library.

<sup>y</sup> To the success of his researches on Roman ground the altars preserved in the Cathedral Library of Durham bear ample testimony, and his valuable local knowledge was of the highest use to Horsley in compiling his "Britannia Romana;" and to Gordon in his "Iter Septentrionale." See *Horsley*, p. 250-291, and *Iter Sept. Addenda*, p. 13.

<sup>z</sup> This is anonymous. I have Dr. Hunter's own copy, with several additions, and most of the epitaphs in the Cathedral and Cathedral-yard transcribed on the blank leaves.

<sup>a</sup> A turbulent Prebendary, "prosecuted for preaching a vile sermon in the Cathedral, July 27, 1628;" and who afterwards in his turn prosecuted Dr. Cosin for Popish Innovations. See *vol. I. p. cvii.*

<sup>b</sup> Both these were printed at Durham by Isaac Ross.

<sup>c</sup> Within a few years of his death he experienced no extraordinary fatigue from a walk of eight or ten miles.

<sup>d</sup> The latter are of no other value than as being found at Lanchester and Ebchester.

\* \* \* For most of the materials from which this memoir is collected the Author is indebted to papers communicated by John Hunter, of the Hermitage, Esq. (who now represents the elder branch of Dr. Hunter's family), and to a short printed account in *Nichols's Literary Anecdotes*, vol. VIII. p. 282-5.