

century, began their meetings, in 1708, in the Young Devil Tavern, Fleet Street, London; and established a society for the study of antiquities, which has since rendered valuable service to letters and national history. It was not, however, till 1718, that they were thoroughly organised, with a staff of office-bearers, and a regular record of their proceedings. But from this we learn that their first President was Peter Le Neve, Esq., Norroy King-at-Arms, and their first Secretary Dr. William Stukeley, a fitting type of the antiquarian enthusiast of that eighteenth century. He was still a layman, a Fellow of the College of Physicians, devoted to the study of the natural sciences, a zealous botanist, an ingenious experimenter in chemistry, and an active cooperator in many curious anatomical dissections, with Stephen Hales, a fellow member of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Dr. Stukeley settled in his native county of Lincolnshire as a medical practitioner, and acquired considerable professional reputation. But soon after he reached his fortieth year, his own health began to fail; and, on the persuasion, it is said, of Archbishop Wake, he abandoned the medical profession and took orders. Soon after, in 1729, he was presented, by the Lord Chancellor King, to the living of All Saints, in Stamford; and thenceforth he devoted his leisure to the gratification of his favourite taste for antiquarian research. Much of his spare time had been given to such studies even in earlier years, when his professional training, and the bent of his friend Hales' tastes, tempted him in other directions. So early as 1720, he published "An Account of a Roman Temple, and other Antiquities near Graham's Dike, in Scotland:" said "Roman Temple" being the famous Arthur's Oon, a singular bee-hive structure of squared masonry, twenty-eight feet in diameter, and with all its characteristics pointing to a very different age than that in which Roman temples were reared. A hint of the Scottish historian George Buchanan, sufficed for the theory that it was the *Templum Termini*, a sacellum reared on the limits of Roman rule. Dr. Stukeley giving his imagination full play, conceived of it as the work of Agricola, and dedicated to Romulus, the parent deity of Rome; and in his enthusiasm pronounced it to be a fac simile of "the famous Pantheon at Rome, before the noble portico was added to it by Marcus Agrippa." Other works followed in the same vein, dealing with Stonehenge, Abury, the Druids, and British antiquities in general. He could use his pencil, as well as his pen, with facility; and grudged no outlay in the issue of copiously illustrated folios and quartos, according