

it may, there was a Society of Antiquaries so early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Its foundation may be fixt to the 14th year of her reign (1582) and the honour of it is entirely due to that munificent patron of letters and learned men, Archbishop Parker. Webster's Dictionary thus defines the word Antiquary: "one who studies into the history of ancient things, as statues, coins, medals, paintings, inscriptions, books and manuscripts, or searches for them, and explains their origin and purport." Here we have in brief a sketch of the Antiquary's vast domain through which he plods with untiring steps, collecting, descyphering and arranging for the benefit of his fellow men, historical facts, which were it not for his unceasing application, perseverance and energy, would in all probability be lost, facts that in many instances supply the missing links in the long chain of a nation's history. Such men as Layard, Wilkinson and Champolion, are of the class to which I refer, and merit the rank of public benefactors.

The description of Jonathan Oldbuck's "Sanctum Sanctorum," in "The Antiquary" comes up to the idea of the abode of one devoted to the science of Archæology, but Sir Walter Scott's own collection of curiosities at Abbotsford, consisting of ancient armour, sculpture, statuary, painting, architectural relics, ornaments and decorations, trophies of war and peace, quaint Antiques, &c., prove conclusively that he was an indefatigable collector of the reliques of ancient times, and an enthusiastic Antiquarian, diving deep into the mysteries of the science he so ably burlesqued.

The satisfaction evinced by an Antiquary at obtaining an old coin or other object of ancient art is a matter of surprise to one who does not take an interest in the science, and Mr. Oldbuck paid Mr. Lovel a very great compliment when he said he had rather Mr. Lovel had taken his copper Otho, than that he had stolen himself away without giving Mr. Oldbuck the pleasure of seeing him again; a copper coin of the Roman Emperor Otho, being very valuable.

*(To be Continued.)*