

THE ANTIQUARY.

BY NUMA.



MOST unaccountably the Alchemist, the Astrologer, and the Antiquary have been classed together and have each had his favorite study ridiculed by those who in many instances really knew little or nothing about what they derided. But while Alchemy has been pronounced a failure, and Astrology has at present very few students, Archæology is daily gaining ground, the science is becoming popular, Antiquarian Societies are being formed in various parts of the Globe, and people have discovered that Archæology has a higher aim than to determine to what ages certain antiquities may be assigned—that it is in reality a system of monumental history. Dr. Mackenzie in his life of Charles Dickens in speaking of the adventures of the Picwickians, characterises the finding of the stone with the inscription and the subsequent proceedings as “abundantly absurd.” He continues “It was nothing new to burlesque the proceedings of an Antiquarian Society, and the idea of converting Bill Stumps his mark, into something which was taken or mistaken for an antique inscription, was evidently suggested by the A.D. L.L. which Jonathan Oldbuck in the Antiquary fancied must signify Agricola Dicavit Libens Lubens, while Edie Ochiltree proved that it only indicated Archie Drum’s Lang Ladle. It is no secret that Scott got his idea from an amusing incident recorded in the apochryphal Autobiography of Madame de Barry. That an Antiquarian Society was formed in England three hundred years ago will be proved beyond cavil by the following quotation from “Archæologia,” “Perhaps the very name of Antiquary was used first in England, if it be true that Henry the VIII. conferred it in an especial manner on Leland, who eminently deserved it. Be this as

†
B I L S T
U M
P S H I
S M
A R K