

The Roman Wall.

On Jan 13 I left Keshmully about 11 & motored up the Bilsdale
 to meet O'helly at 12.58 at Stockton. I have had been a
 good deal of sand but it was hard & I was without chains. After
 Clogh Bank there was no sand. I had some sand in the car
 deep Stockton I had about 3/4 hour to wait for O'helly's train.
 We then packed the baggage in & drove to Dubeau & then
 turned off at Wilton Gilbar & walked across to Riding
 Hill. There had been a good deal of snow as soon as we
 got to the high ground there. We went to the Hydro at
 Hexham & had tea & unpacked. I went down to
 meet Mrs. at 6.40. as he had come from Oxford.
 It was very (Sunday) it was raining, so we went to Hexham
 Abbey & spent about two hours there seeing as it, & was
 interesting it is. We then drove to Colliery & saw the church
 but decided that we would not go to *Cooper's Crypt*
 as it was so wet. We drove up to Hexham & saw bits of
 the wall & on top of the wall on the way to Chorlton.
 We had lunch there & then drove to Cullin (Cleevis) &
 saw on the excavation there & went into the museum
 & then drove back to Hexham & got in about 5.
 Wed Jan 15 was a fine day, we drove to Chorlton & took
 their car. Low & O'helly went in it & I followed in mine
 & left mine at the school house just after where the
 "Wade" Road leaves the wall. We all three got into the
 Chorlton car & drove on to the "Jesse Brewer", the
 driver took us up the Fiddle Road way to the gap. We then went
 down bank & began to walk along the wall back (E.) to the car
 The gap at Peel Bay is wider than usual & we could see the line of
 defenses. The lower clay of the wall there is about 54 ft high & then to
 Peel stairs & up the steep ascent & down to the hill. There is
 one of the "miles" castles. The wall is 7 ft thick & 60 ft circumference
 still remain. The castle is 50 ft by E & W & 62 ft N & S

Some of the foundations of the wall are found at Cullin. There are another
 hill & Sleet Rigg. The wall has been built all the way except
 that in the gap at Broad South & South of the gap at Cullin.
 The scenery is very wonderful - steep, bare cliffs & the wall - a
 long shallow lake - very high - & excellent views. We descended to
 the gap when there is a station with cattle. Then past Hot-Bank
 farm. I have seen a farm the way that the wall is in.
 There are Hotbank Crag. The Robin Hood Gap & are Cuddery Crag
 There the Huns called Nils Castle, the name is on a map.
 In every case the original gaps had been walled up when the
 farm was enclosed & they were all shown signs of capture
 & destruction. There was a wood & the *Doronicum* Camp.
 This was evidently been built before the wall as the walls on the N.W.
 & N.E. corners are rounded into the wall. There are the barracks
 & a watch tower with. On the south of the fort was evidently
 a settlement of Roman followers. One of the stone towers found
 was fairly perfect. In the gap way the first tower & cleared
 ruins were visible. We walked down to King's Run which flows
 thro' the wall, then Bay Gap - the widest opening in the
 high part. I then decided of going on to the Perry shield
 we walked down across the fields to the car & drove home.
 The road along Wade Road was very good & we had to
 be careful.

In the Hydro we met a most interesting man Jimmy Low
 who had begun a collection of stones being a huge figure & a number
 of fossils & was apparently mining *Cinereus* & *Volturnella*
 in the wall. He was reading "The Glory that was Greece"
 & had read a lot of papers in English. He says he felt
 that O'helly who helped him a bit, & arranged some of
 his collection.

On the Sunday we moved to Greenhead in Halkhill & left the car there
 we were fortunate in being able to "jump" a van which took us to
 the "Jesse Brewer". We walked up to Peel Crag Gap & then turned
 left & went on to the station when the fort was built 1250 AD the sea