

tions relating to the university of Oxford, made by the Rev. William Smith, rector of Melsonby.

About 1768 he set up a private press at the Grange, and from that time worked at it indefatigably, producing many valuable antiquarian and historical books and pamphlets, now very rare and valuable, of which it is scarcely possible to make a complete list. We know of the following, some without date:—1. 'Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth . . . Free Grammar School at Darlington,' 1567. 2. 'Inspeximus of the Surrender . . . Monastery of St. Cuthbert at Durham,' 1540. 3. 'Foundation Charter of the Cathedral Church at Durham,' 1541. 4. 'Collections relating to St. Edmund's Hospital at Gateshead, from 1247,' 1769. 5. 'Collections relating to the Hospital of Gretham from 1272,' 1770. 6. 'Collections relating to Sherburn Hospital, from 1181,' 1771. 7. 'Recommendatory Letter of Oliver Cromwell to William Lenthall, Esq., Speaker . . . College and University of Durham.' 8. 'Letter from William Frankeleyn, Rector of Houghton-le-Spring, to Cardinal Wolsey, . . . Coal Mines at Whickham and the Cardinal's Mint.' 9. 'Address and Queries . . . compiling a complete Civil and Ecclesiastical History of the County Palatine of Durham,' 1774. 10. 'Antiquarian Tracts, selected from the Archaeologia.' 11. 'A Sketch of the Life and Character of Bishop Trevor,' 1776. 12. 'The Legend of St. Cuthbert, by Robert Hegg, 1626,' 1777. 13. 'Origin and Succession of the Bishops of Durham,' 1779. 14. 'Hall's MS. Catalogue of Bishops, from the Dean and Chapter's Library.'

He also issued, as early as 1763, a prospectus for an elaborate copper-plate peerage in forty-two numbers, but finding the expense would reach some thousands of pounds he relinquished the scheme after publishing the first number. He also engraved several charters in facsimile and seals of bishops for his own and other works. He was so industrious in literary matters that for the mere love of typographical art he printed gratis some of the works, pamphlets, and poetical pieces of his friends. There are now existing seven works of Mr. Pennant's, done by him, some with the imprint, 'Printed by the friendship of George Allan, Esq., at his private press at Darlington.' He was so fond of transcribing that, shortly before his death, he copied a manuscript visitation by Dugdale, 2 vols. fol., and emblazoned the arms neatly. In short, 'every day of his life he is said to have written almost a quire.' His copy of Le Neve's 'Fasti' contained

many thousands of corrections and additions when he offered it to Gutch for his edition of that work.

Allan was of a kindly nature, and the only shadow resting on the story of his life is a long-standing quarrel with his father, which continued until the death of the latter in 1789; but the literary correspondence of the time seems to imply that the fault was not with the son. He retired from the law in 1790, and died suddenly of a second paralytic stroke, 18 May 1800.

His great library and museum was sold under the will, and purchased by his son, George Allan, who with like liberality opened the collections to literary men. Amongst others indebted to them were Robert Surtees, in his 'History and Antiquities of Durham,' Sir Cuthbert Sharp, in his 'History of Hartlepool,' and John Nichols, for the materials which furnished the lives of Bishop Talbot and Mr. Hutchinson.

Excellent steel portraits of the subject of this memoir and his literary colleague, Hutchinson, seated in council in the Grange library, are given in vol. ix. of Nichols's 'Literary Anecdotes.'

[Brit. Top. i. 332; Hutchinson's Durham; Nichols's Literary Anecdotes and Illustrations; Gent. Mag. lxx. 802, lxxxvi. pt. 2, 137; Surtees's History of Durham, iii. 371.] J. W.-G.

ALLAN, PETER (1798-1849), remarkable for the excavations he made in the solid rock on the sea-coast near Sunderland, was born of Scottish peasants in 1798, either at Selkirk or at Tranent in Haddingtonshire. In early life he was in domestic service as a valet. Afterwards he became gamekeeper to the Marquis of Londonderry, and was reputed to be an unerring shot, and to possess unparalleled physical strength. At a later date he opened a tavern at Whitburn, a village on the coast of Durham. The acquisition of some small property near his inn drew his attention to the quarries in the neighbourhood; and he exhibited so much practical skill in works of excavation that several quarries were placed under his superintendence. About 1827 he formed an eccentric plan for colonising the wild rocks round the bay of Marsden, five miles to the south of Sunderland. After many months spent in carrying out his project, he removed thither in July 1828, with his wife, children, and parents, and resided there for the remainder of his life.

The Marsden rocks had already been known as a rendezvous of smugglers, and a passage had been perforated through them from the high land to the beach, but to all

appearance the place was uninhabitable. The cliff, of hard magnesian limestone, rose perpendicularly from the shore to a height of 100 feet, and the surface it presented to the sea was only broken by two caverns at its base, which the sea filled at high tide. Nevertheless, Allan's superhuman energy and industry transformed the rock into a large dwelling-house. Having hollowed a wide ledge on the face of the rock, and connected it with the land above, he built upon it a large timber hut, part of which formed a tavern entitled 'The Grotto,' and part a farmhouse. Within the adjoining rock, on the same level, Allan dug out fifteen large rooms in succession, most of which were lighted by windows hewn in the cliff overlooking the sea. The total length of the excavated chambers, each of which received a name, such as the 'gaol room,' the 'devil's chamber,' the 'circular room,' and so forth, was 120 feet, their greatest height 20 feet, and their greatest breadth 30 feet. On the waste ground above the excavations Allan planted rabbits for shooting, and the farmhouse and ledge he stocked with domestic animals.

During the twenty-one years that Allan lived with his family in the rock he paid rare visits to the neighbouring towns, and was on one occasion snowed up for six weeks together. He rescued several vessels in distress off the coast, and in 1844 he saved from drowning some lads who had wandered into the caves below his dwelling; an act which was commemorated by the vicar of Newcastle in a poem entitled 'The Mercy at Marsden Rock.' Allan was nevertheless regarded by his neighbours with many misgivings, and the excise officers, suspecting him to be a smuggler, frequently molested him. In 1848 the lord of the manor claimed rent from him as the owner of the surface ground, and on his denial of his liability served him with a process of ejectment. Allan refused to quit, and brought a suit against the landlord, by which his right of habitation was upheld, but each side was condemned to pay its own costs. Amid these anxieties Allan's health gave way, and he died 31 Aug. 1849, in his fifty-first year. He was buried in the presence of his parents, who had lived with him and who survived him, in Whitburn churchyard, and his tombstone bore the inscription, 'The Lord is my rock and my salvation.'

His family continued to dwell for some years at Marsden after Allan's death. One of his sons inherited his passion for excavation, and his daughter, from the readiness with which she aided distressed ships, was compared to Grace Darling. The singular

edifice was for many years 'one of the principal curiosities of the north of England,' and many descriptions of it have been published by local writers. It endured till February 1865, when it was destroyed by a fall of the cliff (*MURRAY'S Guide to Northumberland and Durham*, p. 136).

[Notes and Queries (1st series), viii. 539, 630, 647; *Gent. Mag.* (new series), xxxii. 440; *Lattimer's Local Records of Northumberland and Durham*, p. 265; *Marsden Rock, or the Story of Peter Allan and the Marsden Marine Grotto*, reprinted from the 'Sunderland and Durham County Herald' (1848); Shirley Hibberd, in the *People's Illustrated Journal*. S. L. L.]

ALLAN, PETER JOHN (1825-1848), poet, was born at York on 6 June 1825. His father was Dr. Colin Allan, at one time chief medical officer of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Allan's short life was mainly spent in that town and at Fredericton, New Brunswick, whither his family removed on Dr. Allan's retirement from professional life in 1836. For a time Allan studied law, but the success attending the publication of some youthful poems in a weekly journal induced him to devote himself exclusively to literature, and he rapidly prepared a volume of poems, which was sent in manuscript to England for publication. But before the book was printed, Allan was seized with fever, and died, after a brief illness, at the age of 23.

More than four years after Allan's death there was published in London the 'Poetical Remains of Peter John Allan, Esq., with a short biographical notice, edited by the Rev. Henry Christmas, M.A., F.R.S.,' 1853. The memoir, which is unaffectedly pathetic, is by the poet's brother, J. McGrigor Allan. The poems show much metrical skill, and the lyrics interspersed in a fragment of a drama, entitled 'Pygmalion,' are very melodious. But Allan evidently wrote largely under Byron's influence, and there is throughout the volume an absence of any striking originality. The majority of the poems are evidently very youthful compositions, and fail to justify the extravagant expectations expressed by Allan's friendly critics of his future achievements.

[Poetical Remains of P. J. Allan, edited by the Rev. Henry Christmas, 1853.] S. L. L.]

ALLAN, ROBERT (1774-1841), Scotch poet, was born on 4 Nov. 1774, at Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, where his father was a flax-dresser, and where he himself became a muslin-weaver. Early in life he began to write songs, chiefly in the Scottish dialect, often composing them at the loom, and he re-