

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1908.
THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

THE Sixtieth Annual Meeting and Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, was held at Taunton, from Tuesday till Friday, August 18th to 21st.

The first day (Tuesday) was devoted to Taunton itself. At 10 a.m. several members met on the Parade, and under the guidance of Mr. Chas. Tite, one of the Hon. Secretaries, visited the Municipal Buildings, the Portman House in Fore Street, Gray's and Pope's Almshouses, and St. Margaret's Hospital at the far end of East Reach. These buildings have been described in the vols. of *Proceedings*.

At 11.30 a.m. the Annual General Meeting was held in the Municipal Hall.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE, the outgoing President, took the chair at the opening of the proceedings, being supported by the Mayor of Taunton (Alderman A. J. Spiller), the Deputy-Mayor (Alderman Sibley), the Marquess of Bath (Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset and President-elect of the Society), Mr. T. H. M. Bailward, v.p., Mr. H. J. Badcock (Hon. Trea-

surer), the three Hon. Secretaries (the Revs. F. W. Weaver and E. H. Bates, and Mr. C. Tite), and the Assistant-Secretary and Curator (Mr. H. St. George Gray).

Civic Welcome.

The MAYOR (on the invitation of Mr. Somerville), opened the proceedings by extending on behalf of himself, the Corporation and Borough of Taunton, a cordial welcome to the Society. He said the inhabitants of Taunton were proud of the Society, and they were also proud of the Museum, which they as Tauntonians felt was one of the finest provincial museums in the country. They were also proud to hear that the Society was increasing in numbers, the membership now standing at 770. During the four days that the Society would be in Taunton and its immediate neighbourhood he hoped that the members would experience a very happy time, and that when they left they would carry away very pleasant memories.

Alderman Sibley said that he was pleased to associate himself with the Mayor in his remarks as to the cordial welcome he had given to the Society. Tauntonians were undoubtedly justly proud of the museum, and the people owed a great debt to the Society for making that museum what it was. It had been said that "the present is the fruit of the past and so becomes the seed of the future," and undoubtedly that was true.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE, on behalf of the Society, thanked the Mayor and members of the Corporation for their attendance there that day, and for the kinds words of welcome extended to the Society. He quite agreed with all that had been said concerning the Museum. They knew it was one of the best belonging to any Archæological Society in England, and they believed it had an educational value of the highest importance, not only to Taunton, but to the county generally. He thanked the Mayor not only for his attendance, but also for the use of that room. He moved a vote of thanks to the

Mayor and Corporation, which without being formally seconded, was carried by acclamation.

The New President.

The retiring President said it was now his pleasure to introduce to them their President for the ensuing year—the MARQUESS OF BATH. The last occasion on which the Society met there was a memorable one, as the Society was then celebrating its Jubilee, and on that occasion they had as their President a gentleman, who from his personality and position in the county, was worthy of the position. He referred to the late Mr. E. J. Stanley. That day, however, was of still more importance. Another decade had passed, they had gained more wisdom, and had a larger number of members, therefore they were most desirous that their new President should be one already holding a very high position in the county. It was a most suitable position for the Lord-Lieutenant of the County and the Custos Rotulorum, and in Lord Bath they had a member of one of the oldest and most distinguished families in the county, who was the owner of an historic place which the family had held for perhaps a longer period than any place in this county, with the exception, perhaps, of his predecessor in the office of President, Mr. Luttrell, of Dunster Castle. There were a great many things one might say in Lord Bath's favour if he were not present. They knew the interest Lord Bath took in military matters, and although Wilts claimed him as the Colonel of their Yeomanry, yet Somerset claimed him as the President of the Territorial Council, and under his presidency the Council had been able to do better work, and reach, he was told, the highest state of efficiency of almost any county in England. Lord Bath, he was sure would fully appreciate the honour done him by the Society, because he (the retiring President) felt that to hold such a position was a distinct honour.

THE MARQUESS OF BATH then took the chair, and said he desired to at once acknowledge the honour they had done him in placing him in that important and honourable position, and he also desired to thank Mr. Somerville for the very cordial terms in which he had introduced his successor to the chair; the work he had carried out during his period of office had been of great value to the Society. He (Lord Bath) felt he had a responsible task cast upon him, and he would not poach further on his own preserves, but would proceed with the business.

THE REV. F. W. WEAVER announced the receipt of letters of regret for inability to attend from the Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse, Sir Alexander Acland Hood, Bart, M.P., the Hon. E. W. B. Portman, and others.

The Annual Report.

The Annual Report was then read by the Rev. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A., as follows:—

“Your Committee present their sixtieth annual report. Since their last report 108 new names have been added to the list of members, by far the largest number ever added to the roll of your Society in a single year. The loss by deaths and resignations has been 34. Altogether the net gain has been 74. The total membership of your Society at date is 767, against 693 at the time of the Annual Meeting last year.

“The balance of your Society’s general account at the end of 1906 (your accounts being made up in each year to Dec. 31st) was £52 4s. against the Society. At the close of 1907, there was a deficit of £155 4s. In neither case was the liability for the cost of the volume for the year then expired, or on the other hand any unpaid subscriptions, taken into account. The total cost of Vol. LIII (for 1907), including printing, illustrations, and delivery, has been £132 8s. 5d. In addition, the sum of about £20 was contributed towards the illustration fund, the result being that no less than forty-one plates and

drawings were included in this volume. The thanks of your Society are due to the Rev. F. W. Weaver, Mr. F. Bligh Bond, Dr. F. J. Allen, Mr. Emanuel Green, Mr. C. Tite, Mr. C. E. Burnell, the Shepton Mallet Natural History Society, and the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society for their help in defraying the cost of some of the illustrations; and to Mr. G. H. Hemmel, Mr. F. Bligh Bond and the Cambridge Antiquarian Society for the loan of blocks. Various photographs and drawings were provided for the volume by Mr. A. Bulleid, Mr. Bligh Bond, Mr. H. St. Geo. Gray, the Rev. R. L. Jones, and Dr. Allen.

“This is the last occasion on which your Committee will present a ‘General Account,’ and a ‘Castle Restoration Account,’ the two items, from January 1st last, having been brought under one heading, with the approval of the Hon. Treasurer. There was a balance in hand on the ‘Castle Account’ of £13 14s. at the close of 1907; so that the funds of your Society showed a total deficit of £141 10s. at the beginning of the current year.

“As stated in last year’s Report, your Committee in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of your Society, proposed a scheme for annexing the apartments in the Castle then occupied by the Curator for the purpose of the extension of the Museum and Library, this necessity having been deferred for several years owing to lack of funds. The further growth of your collections during last summer called for immediate action, and Castle House having become vacant in November last, it was during the winter months improved and repaired internally, and decorated; it was found necessary to do more than was at first anticipated, as the sanitary arrangements were found to be defective. Your Committee wish to record that this work was carried out with consideration both to efficiency and economy, the total cost being about £200.

“The Curator having taken up his residence in Castle House in April, your Committee proceeded at once to con-

sider a scheme for the utilisation of the increased space for the Museum and Library. In the first place partitions and walls of no structural importance were removed ; and a Sub-Committee, with the assistance of the Architect, Mr. J. H. Spencer, have now formed a definite opinion as to what is required before the southern part of the Castle is rendered fit for the purposes proposed. After careful consideration it is proposed to utilise the large upper room on the south front for the main part of the library, which will serve also as a reading room for members, away from the busier parts of the Castle. The room below it would become the home of your collections of coins, tokens, medals, illuminated and other manuscripts, etc. What is now known as the 'Walter Collection' room would become the gallery of Somerset Antiquities, and the Norman Keep, no longer sufficiently large for local antiquities, would be used for the exhibition of the arts of mankind other than Somerset, the Great Hall being retained for Natural History as far as possible.

"To effect these important changes, certain structural alterations and additions are deemed necessary, including the building of a stone staircase (the wooden upper flight being retained), the installation of a low-pressure heating apparatus for the southern part of the Castle, and re-arrangement of the existing high-pressure apparatus, the strengthening of the floor of the New Library by means of girders and columns of steel in the room below, the formation of two new windows in the Coin Room, the erection of a carved stone chimney-shaft, and sundry minor alterations and decorating. In addition about £150 would be required to begin the furnishing of these apartments. For all these purposes at least £650 will be necessary.

"Your Committee appeal to Members and others interested in the work of the Society carried on in Taunton Castle for donations to enable them to begin this very necessary and desirable work before the close of the Diamond Jubilee Year. A circular for this purpose will be issued shortly, before which

time your Secretaries will be glad to receive donations and promises which may form a preliminary list of subscribers.

“Your Museum has greatly benefited by acquisitions during the past year. Last autumn Mrs. Hartley Maud, when leaving Norton Manor, presented the famous collection of British Albino Birds formed by the late Mr. John Marshall, and the Wilfred Marshall Collection of North American Indian weapons, costume and objects illustrating their industrial arts ; together with three plate-glass cases for exhibiting the same. The late Mr. Jerdone Braikenridge bequeathed to the Museum an inscribed watch, traditionally stated to have been the property of Richard Whiting, the last Abbot of Glastonbury. The prehistoric boat found at Shapwick (still undergoing a treatment for preservation) was presented by Capt. B. A. Warry. Sir Alexander Acland Hood has placed on deposit in your Museum the well-known hoard of implements of the Bronze Age, found in 1870 at Wick Park, Stogursey. Your Committee has accepted as a deposit on loan, for a minimum period of fifteen years, a collection belonging to Miss L. Woodhouse, consisting of valuable Greek and Roman vases and other antiquities, a good series of Urbino and other majolica dishes, etc.: these have not yet been catalogued. Mr. J. E. Pritchard, F.S.A., has presented a hoard of ‘third-brass’ Roman coins, found in the parish of Clapton-in-Gordano, near Cadbury Camp. Mr. Hensleigh Walter, M.B., has added considerably to your already large collections of Late-Celtic and Roman objects found on Ham Hill, near Stoke-under-Ham. Mr. A. V. Cornish, on going abroad, has given over to your care, probably for a long period, a collection of relics found by himself at Ham Hill. Mr. T. Charbonnier has presented four interesting Gothic keys ; he has also added some more pieces of pewter to his loan collection. The Court Leet of the Borough of Taunton has deposited on loan its staves of office of the two constables and two bailiffs. The late Mr. Corbet Cresswell bequeathed two portraits of local parish

clerks. Among other donors to your Museum are: Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, the Rev. W. F. Rose, Mrs. Whistler, Miss E. Webber, and Messrs. D. B. Redler and W. J. Cullen.

“In the Annual Report for 1906 it was stated that Miss Laura Metford Badcock had kindly offered to form a collection of needlework and lace for your Museum. This offer was accepted, and Miss Badcock has recently presented a well-chosen and carefully catalogued series of examples from various parts of the world. This collection is now temporarily arranged, and will be first opened for inspection on August 20th.

“The most important addition to the Library is the collection of Somersetshire Books and Deeds bequeathed by the late Mr. W. Jerdone Braikenridge, a generous supporter of your Society and a member since 1860, who died last December, aged ninety years. This collection contains many rare Somerset items, including an extra-illustrated Collinson’s *History of Somerset*, in twelve thick folio volumes, and a valuable series of Civil War Tracts. Largely owing to the generosity of the Rev. Dr. Price, the Library now contains the whole of *Notes and Queries* except the index to the third series, and all *Archæologia* except Vols. III to VIII inclusive. Among other donors to the Library were: the Rev. F. W. Weaver, the Rev. D. P. Alford, Mrs. E. C. Hamilton, Mr. Alfred Pope, and Miss J. L. Woodward. Your Committee has decided to subscribe for the *Victoria History of Somerset* and the neighbouring counties of Devon, Cornwall, Wilts, Dorset and Gloucester. Five volumes have already been received. Several volumes of the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* have been purchased this year, and your Committee is now anxious to obtain from Vol. I to Vol. VI, pt. i, inclusive, to complete the set.

“An illustrated Guide Book to the ‘Charbonnier Collection of Pewter’ was published by your Society this year, price sixpence, and it is hoped that members will procure copies.

“At the last Annual Meeting it was reported that your

Society had purchased for £105, eight large albums containing 416 measured drawings of the Ancient Baptismal Fonts of Somerset, by Mr. Harvey Pridham. At that time a large proportion of the drawings had not been finished. Since then, however, Mr. Pridham has completed, re-arranged and indexed the eight volumes, and added considerably to his MS. notes on Somerset Fonts. This additional work was done gratuitously, for which Mr. Pridham has received the best thanks of your Committee.

“Very little has been spent this year in repairs of the Castle or in the purchase of Museum cases. But it should be reported that the buildings generally are in a good state of repair. ‘Castle Lodge,’ belonging to your Society, has been let for a period of five, seven, or ten years.

“Considerable interest has centred in Glastonbury Abbey since your last meeting, not only in respect to the purchase of the Abbey, but also on account of a scheme which is now being developed for the preservation of the ruins, and the careful excavations which have been in progress during the summer under the direction of Mr. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A. His discoveries so far have been most encouraging, and your Committee are glad to have priority in the publishing of the results. A short time ago three representatives of your Society, viz., the Rev. E. H. Bates, Mr. Bligh Bond, and Chancellor T. Scott Holmes, met four representatives of the Society of Antiquaries of London to discuss Mr. W. D. Caröe’s report on the preservation of the ruins. This matter is still under consideration, but urgent work is to be carried on without delay.

“Barrington Court having passed into the hands of the National Trust, is now being conservatively restored.

“The excavations were completed at Wick Barrow, near Stogursey, in September last, under the supervision of Mr. H. St. George Gray, who was ably assisted by the Rev. C. W. Whistler and Mr. A. F. Major. The results were of

great interest, especially to students of the Bronze Age. Mr. Gray's report, copiously illustrated, has been issued to subscribers, and it is regarded as a most complete record of barrow digging. The 'Wick Fund' has now presented all the finds to your Museum, and Mr. Whistler has constructed and presented an excellent model of the mound.

"Other excavations have taken place in the county since the last Annual Meeting, including a continuation of the work at Lansdown, Bath, a trial excavation at Norton Fitzwarren Camp, some digging at Downend, near Bridgwater, and last but not least, the trial cuttings made by Mr. A. Bulleid, F.S.A., at the Meare Lake Village. The Meare site is about three times as large as the better known village, near Glastonbury, and the question of the permanent home of the chief antiquities found at Meare is one of great importance to your Society.

"An effort in the neighbourhood of Bristol is being made to save Stokeleigh Camp, in the northern extremity of our county, from being demolished by a building syndicate, but the movement is only in a preliminary state at present.

"Your Society was represented at the Congress of Archaeological Societies by the Editorial Secretary and the Assistant Secretary.

"The increased membership of your Society and the rapid growth of your Museum and Library has made it absolutely necessary to employ an assistant as well as an attendant for your headquarters at Taunton Castle.

"Your Museum was visited by 7724 persons during 1907, including 1460 visits from members, an increase of twelve per cent. as compared with the previous year, and sixty-one per cent. more than at the beginning of the century.

"Your Society records with great regret the loss by death of the following members (in each case the date in brackets is the date of the member's election):

"Lieut.-Colonel James Roger Bramble, F.S.A. (1867), died

February 3, 1908, aged sixty-six; formerly senior Honorary Secretary, later one of the Vice-Presidents and Trustees of your Society, and President of the Weston-super-Mare meeting in 1905; a warm friend and benefactor for forty years, who did much to further the aims of your Society. (An obituary notice of him will be found in Part II of this vol.).

“Frederic Thomas Elworthy, F.S.A. (1873), formerly one of the Honorary General Secretaries (see obituary notice in Vol. LIII); William Jerdone Braikenridge (1860), who, as before mentioned, bequeathed the Somerset portions of his valuable collections to your Society; Sir Richard Horner Paget, Bart., P.C. (1865), Vice-President, and President of the Shepton Mallet Meeting in 1865; Edward James Stanley (1874), Vice-President and Trustee, President of the Bridgewater and Taunton meetings in 1897 and 1898 (see obituary notice in Vol. LIII); Joshua Brooking-Rowe, F.S.A. (1886), who often attended the annual meetings, and was a constant writer for the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, and the author of a work on the Cistercian Houses in that county; Charles Henry Fox (1871), Local Secretary for Wellington, a frequent attendant at meetings of your Committee; William Speke (1853), the representative of one of the oldest families in the county; Sir John Evans, K.C.B., F.R.S. (1876), a man of world-famed renown, but not specially connected with this county; W. Proctor Baker (1888), a liberal donor to your Society; also Charles Trask (1866), (see obituary notice in Vol. LIII); Major W. Burridge (1892); John Bush (1875); the Rev. P. E. George (1862); Robert Hatcher (1898); the Rev. T. C. Tanner (1892); and Mrs. Lovibond (1887).”

Mr. T. H. M. BAILWARD moved the adoption of the Report. He said neither this Society or any other could lose without extreme regret the long list of distinguished members which had just been read out, men like Sir Richard Paget, Mr. E. J. Stanley, Col. Bramble, Mr. Braikenridge, Mr. Elworthy, and many others, who would have been ornaments

to any society, and their loss would be keenly felt. The members of the Society had increased more than in any preceding year, but the funds were not so satisfactory as might be wished. He hoped that by an effort in this the Diamond Jubilee year the requisite funds required would be forthcoming. The excavations made in the county during the year had been of the utmost interest, and very important additions had been made to their collection. Through the loving care and assiduity of their Curator, Mr. St. George Gray, their Museum was in a position it had never occupied before. He congratulated the Committee on their choice of so illustrious a President.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS, F.R.S., said it was a great pleasure to him to be there that day and to second the adoption of the report. Unfortunately for himself he was in a position to compare that report with reports forty years ago, for from 1860 till about 1890 there was scarcely a meeting of the Society he had not the pleasure of attending, and those who were still older in that room would well remember Professor E. A. Freeman who used to describe their churches, and Mr. Wm. Ayshford Sanford, who was an apostle in Somerset of cavern exploring, in which he (the speaker) had assisted on many occasions. When he remembered the great leaders of the Society, he thought that even in its early days the Somerset Society did its work better than any other society in any other county. Turning from that retrospection to the Report, he said times of course had altered, and the Society had grown, and the work of the Society had grown, and would apparently continue to develop. He thought that during the past year the Society had been doing very noble work in the county, and he felt that the recent archæological excavations in Somerset were second in importance to no work that has been undertaken in other parts of Britain in pre-historic matters that he could remember. He trusted that the organization for conducting the Meare Lake Village Excavations

would remain in the hands of that Society, and that the fruits of the work would remain in the county. They had a very noble work before them. He thought this was not the occasion for a set speech, so he would conclude by wishing the Society "God speed" in their noble work.

The adoption of the Report was then put to the meeting and carried.

Finances.

Mr. H. J. BADCOCK, Hon. Treasurer, presented the Annual Statement of Accounts, which was as follows:—

Treasurer's Account.

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1907.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
1907.			To Balance of former Account	52	4 0
By Members' Subscriptions, 1907			" Secretarial, Printing, & other Expenses, Shepton Mallet Meeting	10	15 3
(661)	347	0 6	" Grants for Excavations and Research	2	12 6
" Members' Entrance Fees, 1907 (54)	28	7 0	" Repairs in Museum, etc.	12	11 4
" Members' Subscriptions in arrear (2)	1	1 0	" New Cases ("Brereton Fund")	70	10 8
" Members' Subscriptions in advance (11)	5	15 6	" Stationery, Printing, etc.	10	10 8
" Life Compositions (2)	21	0 0	" Fuel and Gas	30	14 7
" Donation from Mr. H. H. P. Bouverie	2	9 6	" Purchase of Books	17	15 0
" Donations, "Museum Fund"	2	1 0	" Purchase and Removal of Museum Specimens	5	8 1
" Donations, "Font Drawings Fund"	1	11 6	" 8 vols. of Drawings of Somerset Church Fonts	105	0 0
" Collotypes, Somerset Church Towers ("Brereton Fund")	21	0 2	" Collection of "Somerset Club-Brasses"	46	3 0
" Donations, "Somerset Club-Brasses Fund"	50	0 0	" Bookbinding	9	14 7
" Sale of Papworth's "Armorialex" (dupl.)	7	10 0	" Printing, Binding, & Postage of Vol. 52, and some of the Illustrations	101	2 6
" Balance of Assist.-Secretary's Account (Shepton Mallet Meeting)	0	8 1	" Vol. 53 (labels)	0	7 6
" Profit on Glastonbury Lake Village Lecture	3	7 1	" Binding, Proceedings, Vol. 1, etc.	1	6 0
" Museum Admission Fees	42	0 5	" Short Guide to Taunton Castle	10	16 4
" Library Fees	0	10 8	" Curator's Salary	130	0 0
" Sale of Publications	20	18 10	" Boy	18	1 0
" Sale of Photographs	0	10 10	" Temporary Assistance	5	11 5
" Balance	155	4 0	" Night Watchman	5	2 0
			" Petty Cash	7	4 8
			" Curator's Postal Expenses	11	10 9
			" Hon. Secretary's Do.	0	10 0
			" Subscriptions to Societies	8	1 6
			" Insurance, including Fire	8	18 10
			" Outdoor Work	0	11 9
			" Rates and Taxes	26	11 2
			" Interest on Overdrawn Account	1	1 0
	<u>£710</u>	<u>16 1</u>		<u>£710</u>	<u>16 1</u>
			" Balance brought down	£155	4 0

H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurer.

Jan. 13th, 1908. Examined and compared with the Vouchers and Pass Book, and found correct.

ALEX. HAMMETT, }
 HOWARD MAYNARD, } Hon. Auditors.

Taunton Castle Restoration Fund.

Balance Sheet of Income and Expenditure for the year 1907.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
1907.		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
By Rent of Premises	57 2 8	To Balance of former Account...		56 1 9
„ Easement of Lights (Harrison's Hotels)	0 1 6	„ Repairs to Castle & Property		12 1 0
„ the Donations to "Taunton Castle Restoration and Deficit Fund," 1907	13 10 6	„ Rates and Taxes	11 15 6
Balance	13 14 0	„ Fire Insurance	3 6 0
			„ Wayleave for Fire-main	0 1 0
			„ Cheque Book	0 2 0
			„ Interest on Overdrawn Account	1 1 5
		£84 8 8			£84 8 8
			„ Balance brought down		£13 14 0

H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurer.

Jan. 13th, 1908. Audited and found correct.

ALEX. HAMMETT,
HOWARD MAYNARD, } Hon. Auditors.

Mr. C. TITE proposed the adoption of the accounts. He said they were all delighted to see Prof. Boyd Dawkins with them once more. The professor had referred to some of the great names of the past, and he would be interested to know that there were some there that day who could go one better. They had two (the only two) of their original members present that day. He referred to Mr. Wyndham Slade, of Montys Court, and Mr. Alfred A. Clarke, of Wells. They were very proud and delighted to have them there, because they were a link with the early work of the Society.

The Rev. Preb. F. HANCOCK, F.S.A., who seconded, said that much money had been spent in very useful work, while the outlay on the Museum was a wise step, seeing that that Museum claimed to be so important and instructive an institution. The Society could not recognise too much the great advantage of having such a well-known financier as Mr. Badcock as their Treasurer.

The accounts were adopted.

Election of Officers and Members.

The ASSISTANT-SECRETARY read a list of one hundred and eight new members.

The Rev. C. S. TAYLOR, F.S.A., ex-President of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society, proposed their election, remarking that the addition of such a number was extremely gratifying to the Society. His experience of most societies of that kind was that working members were far too few, and it was to be earnestly hoped that a great proportion of those who had become members of the Society that day would do their very best to acquire an archæological knowledge of their own neighbourhood.

The Rev. W. T. REEDER seconded, and said that the only way in which the Society could do its work satisfactorily was by having a very large membership, and then the burden did not fall upon the few. There was an idea, he thought, that in order to become a member of the Society one must be an "old fossil." Archæologists, like other people, must get old, but in heart and spirit they were, as a rule, youthful, full of zeal and energy.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. T. N. SULLY proposed the re-election of the officers of the Society, with the addition of Mr. A. F. Somerville as a Vice-President, the Rev. W. T. Reeder as a member of the committee, and Mr. F. Bligh Bond as Local Secretary for Bristol. He referred to the deep sense of indebtedness they all felt as members of the Society to their officers throughout the county, as the greater part of its success depended and would in the future depend on their energies.

Colonel H. KIRKWOOD seconded, and mentioned that their Branch Society at Bath had become so successful that they had been obliged to refuse new members, their number being limited to 150, which total had already been maintained.

The resolution was cordially agreed to.

Mr. SOMERVILLE thanked the Society for the honour they had done him by electing him a Vice-President, and the Committee and Officers for the kind help they were always ready to give him during his term of office as President.

Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. E. H. BATES, Honorary Secretary, expressed regret that after a lapse of seven years the work of the Society had fallen into arrear. The volume for 1907, containing the Quarter Sessions papers for the greater part of the reign of James I, 1607-1625, was nearly through the press, and would be issued in the early autumn. It broke completely new ground, and would be found of the greatest interest to all students of Local Government. The volume for 1908 would continue the work through the reign of Charles I; and Mr. Monday had already completed the transcription. The volume for 1909 would contain the cartularies of the Nunnery of Mynchin Buckland, and of the families of Beauchamp and Hill.

immediately before me by one who was also your Patron and twice your President—I refer to my friend the late Lord Cork. And yet I trust you will pardon me if I suggest that, while I have no claims to the title of an Archæologist or a Natural Historian, I am not altogether out of place on other grounds in the roll of your Presidents. On the archæological side, I have a keen interest in those wonderful caves at Cheddar, with which I have a proprietary connection. They have been visited by your Society on more than one occasion, and have formed the subject of several of the learned papers of antiquarian research read before you in the past, and they are certain to provide material for curious investigation and fresh criticism at the hands of many generations yet to come.

On the historical side I have a very active sympathy with your Society, as the possessor of certain ancient records connected with our county, which have been the subject of investigation by members of this Society on two occasions, when my father had the pleasure of welcoming them at Longleat, and I find in the volumes of your *Proceedings* a very interesting paper dealing with the contents of the Longleat Libraries, read before your Society on the occasion of one of those visits by my old and valued friend, the late Canon Jackson, whose reputation as an antiquary is the cherished memory of at least two counties.

These reflections have led me to adopt as the topic of my Presidential Address a brief and necessarily cursory retrospect of the period of remarkable and valuable work commemorated by your Society.

Before I do so, allow me to pay a tribute to the memories of three of your members, whose loss the Society has to deplore since your last Annual Meeting. Mr. Edward Stanley was one of your Trustees and twice your President—on the last occasion in this very place ten years ago, when you celebrated your Fiftieth Anniversary. Sir Richard Paget had been a Vice-President of your Society for over forty years.

I had the honour and privilege of being associated with both these gentlemen, both in the House of Commons and at the old Quarter Sessions of Somerset, and afterwards on the County Council, and I know how highly and how deservedly their characters and their work in public and private life were esteemed in the county they served so well. Mr. Elworthy also has passed away. He was at one time one of the General Secretaries of the Society, and your records testify to the value of his work. I desire to bear my personal testimony to the great assistance I have derived from that excellent index to twenty volumes of the Society's *Proceedings*, which he compiled with equal zeal and efficiency.

Taunton has been favoured more than any other spot in Somerset by your visits. Here is your birthplace. Here was your Jubilee gathering. Here is your Diamond Jubilee Meeting. In all, this is your sixth visit to Taunton.

In looking over your records, I have been greatly impressed by the continuity of interest and the loyalty of support which are evinced by the recurrence of the same names—alas, the flight of time does not allow that the bearers of the names should be the same—amongst your office-holders. It would take too long to mention all the well known names which are to be found recurring during the sixty years under review, but it is interesting in this respect to connect 1849 with 1908. In 1849 Lord Portman was your Patron: to-day the bearer of that title honours you by holding that office. The Bishop of Bath and Wells and the Dean of Wells are to be found amongst your Vice-Presidents in both years. The names of Acland and Hobhouse—The Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse in 1849, The Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse in 1908—both long honoured in Somerset, are also amongst the Vice-Presidents in both years. And as a pledge of permanent credit and financial security, the familiar and respected name of Badcock appears in both years as your Treasurer. Long may this hereditary interest in and attachment to your Society survive.

I confess that the perusal of the learned, eloquent, and witty address of the famous Dean of Westminster, Dr. Buckland, to this Society at its first General Meeting, has caused me to blush at my own hardihood in venturing to address you from this chair. However, I lay most of the blame at your door. You knew whom you were electing as your President. In accepting an honour, which it would have been ungracious to refuse, I had no idea that I should place myself in a position which would enable the giants of the past to shine with added lustre by contrast with the humble individual of to-day. It is extremely interesting to observe that an aspiration of Dr. Buckland's in connection with your Society, has been fulfilled at the expiration of sixty years. On that occasion he said: "The history of the County of Somerset might be considered a type of the physical history of England. Its description might be made to form a small monograph—its subterranean antiquities forming one side and its present natural history the other." He added that "he trusted that this Society would give a stimulus to some properly qualified person to undertake such a monograph." Last year the first volume of the *Victoria County History of Somerset* was issued from the press, and a masterly review of this and other volumes connected with the geology, natural history, and local annals of our county, is to be found in the current *Quarterly Review* from the able pen of Mr. Greswell, an esteemed contributor to your Society's *Proceedings*, and a valued member of your General Committee.

There are two references in Dr. Buckland's illuminating address which seem to me worthy of a passing notice, as showing how little, even the most learned of us, know beyond the days in which we live. Of course in 1849 the steam engine, whether on the railroad, in ships, or in factories, was in its infancy. Dr. Buckland, speaking of his own day, observed: "We might not live to see the time, but our posterity would live to see it; it was a time rapidly accelerated by the in-

creased demand for fuel for steam engines for our manufactures, by the increasing application of fuel to the warming of houses, and by a thousand other applications of coal to uses which were not anticipated some years ago. The coalfield of Radstock was a small one, and would soon be used up; the Forest of Dean was larger, but a large application would soon exhaust it, and our last hope was the stock in Monmouthshire and South Wales. The South Wales coalfield would endure to the time when every particle of coal in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, and the coalfields of Staffordshire, Yorkshire, and Newcastle would be exhausted. "Then our posterity would see the manufacturers of Birmingham transported to the coalfields of Monmouthshire." There have been discoveries of coal in other parts of England and Scotland since then. Radstock miners are still to be found in Radstock mines, and they have not yet become an extinct species whose remains are to be found in Paleozoic caves. Birmingham has grown, and survives, and has even added to its manufactures as the birthplace of a new Economic Industry. Another very interesting observation of Dr. Buckland's is to be found in his enthusiastic praises of red soil. "The moment they came to Dunster Castle and Nettlecombe," he remarked, "where the soil was red and the climate mild, they found the finest oaks in England, oaks which were sent for from Liverpool to make the stern posts of the largest vessels, and purchased at immense prices, for they *must* have them. It was a geological cause which made these oaks worth a hundred guineas each." I only make two comments on this dictum—neither original. *Tempora mutantur* is one, and the other is, Never prophesy unless you know. There is, however, one forecast of the eminent Dean's which during sixty years has been abundantly realized. He stated that among the many advantages of a Society such as yours, "the first was that it afforded the only occasion he knew for cultivating those feelings of brotherly love and friendship which he rejoiced to see existing among

all classes, however differing one from another in politics or religion; it afforded *neutral* ground, on which persons of all parties in religion and politics might meet." This I believe to be a correct summary of the relations of the members of your Society during the period that has elapsed since Dr. Buckland delivered his inaugural address.

I ventured at the outset to refer to my personal interest in your *Proceedings*, and I trust you will forgive me if I recall the fact that in 1864 Canon Jackson contributed to the *Proceedings* of the Society a copy of a deed which he found at Longleat, bearing the seal of Savaric, bishop of Bath and Glastonbury, by which the bishop gave to the sacristy of Glastonbury Abbey, "the Church of St. John Baptist of North Binne with the Chapel of Pennard." At the date of the canon's communication your present President had just passed from the stage of long clothes to short clothes, and I can conscientiously avow that he then had no anticipation of the honour in store for him to-day, or of the duties it would involve.

Glastonbury has thrice been the scene of your annual gatherings, and the abbey has on many occasions furnished the topic of some of the most interesting contributions to your *Proceedings*. In fact, I doubt if any other object of interest in the county occupies a larger space in your records or has attracted wider attention. It is not to be wondered at that the cradle of the christian faith in this island, with all the legendary lore that is gathered round its glorious abbey, should have excited such interest, or that it should continue to excite such interest in succeeding generations. I will not attempt the task that others so competent have often undertaken of dilating on the abbey and its history. But to-day it is fitting that I should congratulate the Bishop of Bath and Wells that in the sixtieth year of the life of this Society, with which he and his predecessors have been so closely connected, he has achieved the object so dear to his heart, and that by his exer-

tions he has acquired for sacred uses for all time, the possession of that abbey which has its rivals but knows no superior.

The mention of Glastonbury Abbey recalls the name of one of the most illustrious of this Society's members. I refer to Professor Freeman, twice your President,—on the second occasion at Glastonbury. His address on that occasion, which dealt with the history of the abbey, was described by the Bishop of Bath and Wells as “truly eloquent and learned,” and it is indeed a mine of valuable information. No one has contributed more fully or more richly to your records both as a local historian and as an architectural critic, especially of our churches, but while with grateful pride we regard him as the annalist of our county, we do not forget his wider fame as the historian of our country.

From your records I find another piece of information of personal interest. It appears it was in Somerset that William Smith commenced those remarkable discoveries of the order of succession in the strata which ultimately gained for him the title of “the Father of English Geology,” and it was the steward of the estate of an ancestor of mine who pointed out to him the light his discoveries shed on the improvement of agriculture, and urged him to continue his researches by laying down the dictum that “that is the only way to know the true value of land.”

I referred at the commencement of my address to my personal connection with the caves at Cheddar, and I would like to remind you of the description given by that very learned archæologist, Professor Boyd Dawkins, at the Society's Meeting twenty years ago, of the ancient inhabitants of Cheddar. He said in the course of a most instructive address at Cheddar: “They had proof that Cheddar was inhabited by a long headed race, who used the stone axe, introduced the art of farming and husbandry, and the knowledge of domestic animals, and the arts of pottery and mining, if not the art of cheese and butter making.” As a Somerset man and a Cheddar landlord

I hope the present and future generations will maintain this creditable reputation.

I have designedly dealt to-day with the records of what famous men have done towards placing on record the fame of Somerset and her sons. I recognise that it is the peculiar province of your Society to find "tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones," but I also insist on the doctrine: "La vray science et le vray étude de l'homme c'est l'homme," or, as Pope has it, "The proper study of mankind is man."

If I need any defence for the course I have adopted, I find it in a passage in Professor Freeman's first Presidential Address in 1871. He pronounced the object of your Society to be "the study of the history of the district from the beginning, the history of the land itself and of all the living things which have dwelled on its surface, from the earliest fact that geology can reveal to the latest piece of local history which is removed enough from our own ken to be clothed with any share of the charm of antiquity." At that meeting Freeman asked the question: "Is the local limitation to Somerset of the operations of your Society a narrow or an illiberal one?" He answered: "I think not," and he proceeded to give his reasons. I also answer: "I think not." I take leave to say that the records of your *Proceedings* for sixty years, and the Papers contributed during that period by men of the highest learning dealing with subjects as varied as they are interesting, prove that your aims and your achievements have been neither narrow nor illiberal. I would add that the range of your researches, investigations and studies can never become narrow, can never become exhausted through being confined to the locality of our county, to its history, its productions, its changes, its people, and its varying relations with other localities. In the realms of knowledge and research there is no finality, and the labours of each generation will always furnish fresh material for investigation, research, and criticism for

those who are to carry on the work when they have passed away.

And now I come to the end of my self-imposed task of the survey of sixty years of the records of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. No one of my indulgent audience is more conscious than myself of the imperfections in the execution of that task. The limitations of time must needs have made it perfunctory; the limitations of technical experience and special knowledge have necessarily rendered it incomplete. I can only plead that I have brought to the discharge of this honourable duty the same qualities which I endeavour to employ in the performance of every public and private duty that devolves upon me—the honest exertion of whatever humble capacities I possess and the earnest desire, as far as in me lies, to meet the wishes and to fulfil the expectations of those to whom I owe my services and my gratitude.

I venture, in conclusion, to indulge in the modest hope that when another six decades of this Society's creditable and valuable work shall have been completed, and when my successor in this chair shall on that occasion have entered on the discharge of his functions

Forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD, F.G.S., proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Bath for his address, which he said was exceedingly useful as a record of the sixty years' work of the Society. At the Taunton Meeting of 1872, Mr. Ayshford Sanford, a leading landowner, geologist and antiquary was President. He need hardly say the present President's name would stand at least as high as the name of any of those who had preceded him.

The Rev. C. W. WHISTLER, M.R.C.S., seconded, and the resolution was carried with acclamation.

The PRESIDENT in acknowledgment thanked the members

very warmly for their kindness. He had nothing to add to what he said at the conclusion of his address except to emphasize those remarks and to express to them his deep gratitude for the manner in which they had listened to him.

This concluded the morning meeting; and the members then adjourned to the "London Hotel," where a large company sat down to luncheon, the President presiding.