

*Proceedings*  
*of the*  
*Somersetshire Archæological and*  
*Natural History Society,*  
*During the Year 1890.*

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THE Forty-second Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Castle Cary on Wednesday, August 27th, and following days.

Although Castle Cary itself has not heretofore been the centre of the Society's annual gathering, it has been visited on two former occasions—when the Society met at Bruton, in 1857, under the presidency of Lord Talbot de Malahide, and in 1878, when Bruton was again the place of meeting, the Rev. Canon Meade, at that time Vicar of Castle Cary, being the president for the year. It was however felt that notwithstanding these visits, many new Members had never been there, and in consideration of the fresh sources of information at the disposal of the Society, and of the intrinsic interest of the neighbourhood, a special visit to Castle Cary as a centre would prove desirable.

Additional interest was shown on this occasion by the *ex-*  
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cavations which had been undertaken by the Local Committee to discover the site of the ancient Castle of Cary.

The arrangements for the meeting were made by an active Local Committee, and although it was feared that the accommodation for visitors would be somewhat limited, yet by the kindness and hospitality of the inhabitants, aided by the exertions of the Local Committee, ample room was found for all.

The proceedings commenced at eleven o'clock, in the Town Hall, when the Rev. J. A. BENNETT, *Hon. Sec.* (whose loss we have now so deeply to lament), announced that he had received a letter from Mr. Luttrell, regretting his inability to attend the meeting. He therefore asked Mr. Chisholm-Batten to take the Chair.

Mr. CHISHOLM-BATTEN was sure they would all regret the absence of Mr. Luttrell, who was to have introduced their new President. He himself now proposed that Mr. Hobhouse be the President for the ensuing year.

Mr. HOBHOUSE, M.P., then took the Chair. He said, as they had a great deal of business before them, he would content himself with thanking them for electing so young and unlearned a Member of their Society to fill such an honourable position. He then called upon

The Rev. J. A. BENNETT, *Hon. Secretary*, to read

### The Report of the Council.

“Your Council are happy to present a favourable Report of the progress of the Society during the past year.

“The number of Members is steadily maintained.

The financial condition of the Society is also sound. The balance in hand on the General Fund account at the end of the year was £83 10s. 7d. The debt on the Castle Purchase Fund was reduced during the year, from £329 19s. 3d. to £254 4s. 4d.

“The Manuscript Collections of the late Rev. Frederick Brown, referred to in the Report of last year, have been

safely deposited in the Museum, where a special case has been provided for their reception. The collection consists of 34 volumes of Manuscript Abstracts of Wills, Registers, Pedigrees, and other genealogical memoranda connected with the county of Somerset, together with 113 volumes of printed books relating to the county, many of which contain manuscript notes by Mr. Brown. This, by request of his executors, will be known as the 'Brown Collection,' and will be open to genealogical students.

"Your Council have the pleasure to report that the Museum has been greatly enriched by several valuable gifts during the past year. The Right Hon. Viscount Portman has presented to the Society a large collection of Geological specimens, numbering some 6,000, contained in glass cases and cabinets. The collection was formed by the late Rev. E. Bower of Closworth, and purchased from his widow by the late Lord Portman. It consists largely of fossils from the Liassic and Oolitic formations of the neighbourhood of Yeovil, Bradford Abbas, and Sherborne, together with Cretaceous and Tertiary fossils from Wilts, Hants, and the Isle of Wight.

"A valuable and most interesting collection of Coins, contained in two cabinets, has been presented to the Museum by Hugh Norris, Esq., of South Petherton. They were collected through many years of careful research by his grandfather, father, and himself. The collection embraces a good series of Roman Consular and Imperial silver Denarii, small, middle, and large brass; English silver from Saxon times to the present; copper coinage of Great Britain and the colonies; Tokens of the 17th and 18th centuries, etc. Every facility will be given for numismatic study compatible with the safety of the collection.

"Your Library is steadily growing. Presents of Books have been received from Mr. Chisholm Batten, Miss Atherstone, Mr. Newton, The Corporation of the City of London, The British Museum, and many others; also the following

authors have kindly presented their respective works:— Genl. Pitt-Rivers, *Excavations at Cranbourne Chase*; Mr. Nightingale, *The Church Plate of Dorset*; Mr. Crisp, *Somerset Wills*; Mr. Rogers, *Records of Yarlington*; Rev. S. H. A. Hervey, *Wedmore Parish Registers*; Mr. Page *Exploration of Exmoor*; Rev. A. W. Grafton, *Historical Notes on Castle Cary*; Mr. Peach, *Bath, Old and New*, and *Annals of the Parish of Swainswick*. It may be noticed that Dr. Prior, of Halse, has just had erected at his own cost near the upper Hall containing the Surtees Library, a large Book Case, capable of holding some six hundred volumes. Dr. Prior has intimated his intention to present a number of Books to the Society to be placed in the Book Case.

“In addition to such works above mentioned as bear upon the History and Topography of the County, notice should be taken of the publication of a *History of Wellington*, by Mr. Humphreys; *The Registers of Wilton, near Taunton*, by Mr. Spencer; and a fourth, fifth, and sixth series of *Somerset Wills*, printed from the Rev. F. Brown’s Collections. A volume is shortly expected on *Early Somerset Wills*, by the Rev. F. Weaver, and it is probable that a *Bibliography of Somerset*, by Mr. E. Green, will be announced for publication before long.

“The subject of the formation of Local Branch Societies, affiliated to this Society, which was brought forward at the last Annual General Meeting by Col. Bramble, and referred to the Committee, with power to act, has been dealt with by them, and Rules have been adopted and circulated amongst the Local Secretaries for their guidance. One Branch, called the ‘Northern Branch,’ has been established within the district comprised in the Long Ashton Petty Sessional Division of the county.

“Under the scheme propounded by the Charity Commissioners, for the Government of the Property of the Dissolved Corporation of Axbridge, it is provided that one Representa-

tive Trustee shall be nominated by the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society. A similar scheme has also been passed relating to the Dissolved Corporation of Ilchester. Your Council have accordingly appointed Col. Wm. Long as the Society's Representative Trustee on the Axbridge Town Trust, and A. J. Goodford, Esq., on the Ilchester Town Trust. Both these appointments have been approved by the Charity Commissioners, and require confirmation by this Meeting.

“In the Report of the Conference of Archæological Societies, held under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries, on the 15th of July last, it is stated that the question of the desirability of constructing, on a uniform scale, Models of Ancient Monuments, was discussed, and it was resolved that the Archæological Societies of Great Britain memorialize the Government to increase the allowance at present made under the ‘Ancient Monuments Act,’ in order that such models might be constructed. Your Council recommend that the Memorial be signed by the President on behalf of this Society.

“In furtherance of the scheme promoted by the Society of Antiquaries for an Archæological Survey of England, your Council recommend that a set of maps of 6 in. Ordnance Survey of Somerset be procured and kept at the head quarters of the Society, whereon it is proposed to mark all objects of Archæological interest in the county on the plan followed in the ‘Archæological Survey of the County of Kent,’ published by the Society of Antiquaries. A scheme will be drawn up and circulated among the Members, with the object of carrying out this proposition.

“Your Committee wish to have the instructions of the General Meeting on the subject of any Manuscripts being taken from the Library by way of loan. Should the Society think fit to allow such loan, your Council recommend that the rule relating to the loan of manuscripts be modified as follows: ‘No manuscript, nor any drawing, nor any part of the



Society's collection of prints or rubbings, shall be lent out of the Library without a special order of the Committee, and a bond given for its safe return at such time as the Committee shall appoint.'

"Your Council regret to have to record the death of the Rev. H. M. Scarth and Mr. F. H. Dickinson, two of the earliest and most prominent Members of your Society, from whom very much valuable assistance has been received, both in contributions to the volumes of *Proceedings* and on the annual excursions. Mr. Scarth was for many years one of your Local Secretaries, and an eminent authority on Roman antiquities. Mr. Dickinson was President of the Society at meetings held at Frome, 1850; Glastonbury, 1859; Wells, 1863; Burnham, 1864; and was at all times most ready in giving the advantage of his wide knowledge and experience in the general management of the Society."

The Rev. A. ST. JOHN MILD MAY moved the adoption of the Report, which he considered was a most interesting one, and showed the intense application the Secretary gave to the work. He congratulated the Society upon its position, and especially upon its financial position. There was one dark side, however, to the report, in the loss they had sustained in the death of Mr. Dickinson, a supporter of, and valuable contributor to, the Society for many years. They really owed a great deal to him; his excessive patience recommended archæology to those who perhaps took no interest in it. He proposed also that their thanks be given to their Hon. Secretary (Mr. Bennett), for his courtesy, patience, and kindness.

The Rev. Preb. BULLER said that among the many valuable institutions which were doing good in this country, there was scarcely one which he valued more than he did that Society. He seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The PRESIDENT next called upon

Mr. HUGH NORRIS, in the absence of the Treasurer, to read the

### Treasurer's Account.

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1889.

DR.		CR.	
	£ s d		£ s d
1888, Dec. 31st.		1889.	
By Balance of former Account	91 12 2	To Expenses attending Annual Meeting ...	16 5 6
„ Members' Entrance Fees...	9 19 6	„ Stationery, Printing, etc. ...	16 12 9
„ Members' Subscriptions in Arrear ...	6 16 6	„ Purchase of Books, etc. ...	5 12 9
„ Members' Subscriptions for the Year 1889 ...	259 6 0	„ Coal and Gas ...	19 2 9
„ Members' Subscriptions in Advance ...	4 14 0	„ New Cases, Fittings, Repairs, etc. ...	52 14 10
„ Excursion Tickets ...	15 17 6	„ Printing and Binding vol. xxxiv ...	65 19 7
„ Sale of Publications ...	4 13 9	„ Illustrations ...	29 11 0
„ Museum Admission Fees ...	23 6 10	„ Postage and Carriage of vol. xxxiv ...	9 16 2
„ Donation from the Rev. J. Coleman towards Illustrations of Cheddar ...	1 5 0	„ Curator's Salary, 1 year to Christmas, 1889 ...	85 0 0
		„ Subscription to Harleian Society, 1889 ...	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Harleian Society, Registers, 1889 ...	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Palæontographical Society, 1889 ...	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Ray Society, 1889 ...	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Early English Text Society, 1889 ...	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Pipe Roll Society, 1888 ...	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Somerset Record Society, 1889 ...	1 1 0
		„ Insurance ...	4 17 0
		„ Rates and Taxes ...	12 13 3
		„ Postage, Carriage, etc. ...	6 17 2
		„ Sundries ...	1 10 11
		„ Balance ...	83 10 7
	<u>£417 11 3</u>		<u>£417 11 3</u>

1889, Dec. 31st.  
Balance ... .. £83 10 7

H. J. BADCOCK,  
Treasurer.

1890, June 11th. Examined and compared with } ALFRED MAYNARD.  
vouchers, and found correct, } EDWIN SLOPER.

### Taunton Castle Purchase Fund.

Treasurer's Account, from 1st January to 31st December, 1889.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£ s d		£ s d
1889.		1888, Dec. 31st.	
By Donation from Mr. Goodland ...	10 6	To Balance ...	329 19 3
„ Donation from Mr. G. Farewell Jones ...	2 2 0	„ Repairs to Buildings, etc. ...	22 14 5
„ Rents of Premises ...	59 4 9	„ Rates and Taxes ...	7 2 6
„ Rents of Castle Hall ...	52 8 6	„ Castle Hall Expenses and Sundries ...	4 5 3
„ Proceeds of Fancy Ball, held at Taunton, 19th Dec., 1889 ...	20 10 0	„ Gas ...	4 18 6
„ Balance ...	254 4 4	„ Insurance ...	3 10 0
	<u>£389 0 1</u>	„ Interest on Loan ...	16 10 2
			<u>£389 0 1</u>

1889, Dec. 31st.  
Balance ... .. £254 4 4

H. J. BADCOCK,  
Treasurer.

1890, June 11th. Examined and compared with the } ALFRED MAYNARD.  
vouchers, and found correct, } EDWIN SLOPER.

Mr. HENRY H. BENNETT moved, and the Rev. GILBERT E. SMITH seconded, the adoption of the Report, which was carried.

Bishop HOBHOUSE said he had been called upon to express regret at the loss of two very distinguished Members, who had spent their whole lives in promoting the studies which the Society took in had—Mr. F. H. Dickinson, and the Rev. Prebendary Scarth, both of whom had attained to a full span of years. No one could come away from Mr. Dickinson without having got some information from him. He spoke *de pleno*, and the Society had suffered greatly by his death. Prebendary Scarth was great in one particular line. He was one of the first authorities on the large subject of the Roman, and Romano-British occupation of England. He begged to propose a vote of respect to their memories, and condolence with their families.

Mr. CHISHOLM-BATTEN seconded the resolution. He said it is impossible for me adequately to allude to the loss we have sustained. For forty years Mr. Dickinson watched over the Society's earliest and growing progress, and down to the very last months of his life he did much towards bringing out the peculiar character of the objects of the Society. Many of you must recollect how, at our annual gatherings, he was always ready to temper with his kindness, and with his wise knowledge of human nature, the somewhat acute differences which arose from time to time. He has done good service to archæology in this great county, by the way in which he restored good feeling—if there had been any break—in the harmony of the meeting. I will not say anything more about our lamented friend, because, in this neighbourhood, you all knew him so well. With regard to Prebendary Scarth, you remember how much he devoted himself to the study of Roman remains in the county, and how prominent he was in the early history of the Society. I know I only express the feelings of you all, in asking you to accord the vote of sym-



pathy and condolence which the Bishop has so kindly and feelingly brought before you.

The PRESIDENT then put it to the Meeting:—"That our Honorary Secretary be requested to convey from this Society our most heartfelt condolence with the families of Mr. Dickinson, and the Rev. Prebendary Scarth, in their recent loss, accompanied by a sincere tribute of respect and gratitude from all the Members of this Society."

Mr. A. C. GOODFORD proposed the re-election of the Vice-Presidents, with the addition of Mr. G. F. Luttrell; the Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretaries, Local Secretaries, and the following as Committee:—Rev. Prebendary Buller, Rev. H. S. Hume, Rev. F. S. P. Seale, Messrs. A. Maynard, T. Meyler, H. E. Murray-Anderdon, E. Sloper, and J. E. W. Wakefield; also the Curator, Mr. W. Bidgood.

The Rev. G. D. W. Ommanney seconded, and it was carried.

The PRESIDENT remarked, that the next thing on his list was to propose a vote of thanks to those generous donors who, during the past year, had added to their collection. First, their thanks were due to Lord Portman for his very valuable geological collection. Then to Mr. Hugh Norris for his handsome gift of a collection of coins. Their thanks were also due to Dr. Prior for the present of a book case.

The motion was seconded by Mr. CHISHOLM-BATTEN, and carried unanimously.

The HON. SECRETARY said this Meeting had to confirm the appointments, which had been made by the Committee, of Col. Long, and Mr. A. J. Goodford, as Trustees under the Charity Commissioners' Scheme for the Axbridge and Ilchester Town Trusts respectively.

The appointments were confirmed.

The PRESIDENT then signed, on behalf of the Society, the memorial to the Treasury referred to in the Report, praying for some increase in the allowance made under the "Ancient

Monuments Acts," in order that models of ancient monuments might be constructed under the direction of General Pitt-Rivers, and preserved in some central place in London.

The question as to the modification of the following rule was next brought forward :—" No manuscript, nor any drawing, nor any part of the Society's collection of prints or rubbings shall be lent out of the Library."

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER said he was the original cause of having that put on the list of business that day. He had asked for the loan of MS. at the Museum at Taunton, and found the rule dead against him. He merely asked the Society to kindly relax the rule in favour of people who, like himself, lived a long way from Taunton. If the Society would relax this rule, it would be a great help to him and others. He proposed that the following words be added to the rule relating to the loan of manuscripts :—" Without a special order of the Committee, and a bond given for its safe return at such time as the Committee shall appoint."

The Rev. G. E. SMITH seconded, and said they should not lend their manuscripts without stringent regulations.

Mr. T. E. ROGERS thought they should have a bond with a security.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that nothing could be lent without a special order from the Committee, and the Committee would satisfy themselves as to the bond. It was the same rule as was observed in the Bodleian Library.

The motion was put to the Meeting and carried.

The HON. SECRETARY then read the Report of the Somerset Record Society, as follows :—

### *Report of the Somerset Record Society.*

"The losses and gains since the presentation of my last Report leave our Society one less in numbers than it was at that time. The finances are in a satisfactory state. The expense of printing the third volume has been unusually heavy

owing to the nature of the subject, but it is expected that our printing expenses will now return to their former level. There must, however, as I forewarned the Society last year, be an additional charge upon our funds in the coming year for transcriptions, as we shall not be able to obtain the volunteer assistance which has been so freely afforded us hitherto, and has saved the Society considerable expenditure.

“Our fifth volume is now in hand. It will contain two unpublished Customals of Glastonbury Abbey of the 13th century, with some other documents bearing upon the same subject. I am glad to be able to report that the important work of dealing with this interesting subject has been kindly undertaken by Mr. C. I. Elton, Q.C., M.P., F.S.A.”

Mr. T. E. ROGERS moved the adoption of the Report, calling attention to its being undated. He also feelingly alluded to the death of Mr. Dickinson, and the Rev. Preb. Scarth.

Mr. C. TITE, of Wellington, seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The PRESIDENT said it was a great pity that more Members of the Archæological Society were not Members of the Record Society. There were only 134 subscribers, and the Society was, as they knew, doing a great deal towards preparing materials for a county history. There were over 500 Members of the Archæological Society, and he hoped between then and the next meeting that those who had not already subscribed to the Record Society would have seen the error of their ways.

The Rev. J. A. BENNETT, *Hon. Secretary*, said the next business was to move a resolution as to the place of meeting, and the President for the next year. He suggested that, as usual, the matter be left to the Council of the Society. At the same time he would be glad to receive suggestions.

After some discussion the matter was, upon the proposition of Bishop HOBHOUSE, left so the Council of the Society to determine.

Several new Members were elected.

The Rev. J. A. BENNETT briefly alluded to the Report of the Conference of Archæological Societies in reference to Parish Registers.

Upon the proposition of the PRESIDENT, the Rev. J. A. Bennett, *Hon. Sec.*, and the Rev. W. Hunt, were appointed the representatives of the Society to attend next year's Conference of the Society of Antiquaries.

The PRESIDENT then delivered his address.