

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1896.

THE forty-eighth annual meeting of the Society was held at Sherborne on Tuesday, August 4th, in the "Big Schoolroom" of Sherborne School. Mr. H. DUNCAN SKRINE, before quitting the Presidential chair, which he had occupied during the past year, said he wished to say how deeply he felt the kindness and courtesy he experienced, when the Society met at Bath last year. In introducing Mr. J. K. D. WINGFIELD DIGBY, M.P., the President-Elect, Mr. SKRINE said no words of commendation from him were needed, as Mr. Digby inherited a name which no one would deny was *clarum et venerabile nomen*, not only in that neighbourhood, but in English history.

Mr. DIGBY then took the chair and thanked the members of the Society for the honour they had done him.

The annual report was then read by Lieut.-Col. BRAMBLE, F.S.A., Hon. Gen. Sec. :—

Report.

"Your Committee beg to present their forty-eighth annual report.

"As the result of a special effort, forty-eight new names have, since the last meeting, been added to the list of members, which now stands at 577, but inasmuch as the natural loss

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Vol. XXXIX.	1894.	Printing and Binding ...	81	11	0			
<i>Frome</i>		Illustrations . . .	50	19	4			
1893.		Postage of Volumes ..	11	19	2			
						144	9	6
Vol. XL.	1895.	Printing and Binding ...	132	14	6			
<i>Langport</i>		Illustrations ...	47	10	9			
1894.		Postage and Delivery ...	11	19	2			
						192	4	5
Vol. XLI.	1896.	Printing and Binding ...	94	18	3			
<i>Bath</i>		Illus. (Gifts this year)	3	15	0			
1895.		Postage and Delivery ...	9	19	3			
						108	12	6

“It will be absolutely necessary that there should be some reduction in the bulk of future volumes, but it is confidently expected that this may be carried out without any diminution of their literary value, which, on the other hand, may be improved by concentration.

“A loss of income has also been sustained from the ‘Castle House’ remaining void. It is a difficult place to let, and, from its size and age, very expensive to keep in repair.

“In addition to the debt on General Account, there was at the end of last year (1895) a debt on the Castle Restoration Fund of £69 11s. 9d., caused by the absolute necessity of a new roof and incidental repairs to the ‘Exchequer’ or Entrance Tower referred to in our last year’s Report. Some portion of this expense might have been saved by covering the roof with slate or tile, instead of with lead as heretofore, but we venture to think that such an economy would not have received the approval of the members generally.

“The debt on this Fund now stands at £56 4s. 10d., which will, it is hoped, be cleared off this year.

“During the year ending 31st December, 1895, the number of visitors to the Museum was 4964.

“The Index to Collinson’s History of the County has made considerable progress during the past year, and the first portion is in type and the proofs under revision. The Heraldic portion of the Index will comprise an Ordinary, as well as an Alphabet, of Arms, and owing to the large number of Coats described, but not identified by Collinson, this is a work of

time, but it is now in a very forward state and no delay will occur on that account.

“The Committee have not lost sight of the advisability of promoting the preparation of a New County History, but they venture to think that by such work as the Index referred to, and the promotion, so far as is in their power, of the work of the Somerset Record Society, they are doing better by rendering existing materials available, and by the preparation of additional ones. Moreover, an editor for such a work is yet to be found!

“We have to report with regret the resignation, in June last, of Mr. F. T. Elworthy, who for six years has held the position of one of your Hon. General Secretaries and has taken special charge of the Editorial department. Mr. Elworthy has a large amount of other literary work on his hands, including the sub-editorship of a portion of the well-known New English Dictionary, and he felt that he could no longer give the time and attention required for the work of this Society. The Committee have been so fortunate as to have obtained the consent of the Rev. F. W. Weaver, M.A. (Magd. Coll., Oxon.), of Milton Clevedon (whose name is so well known as the Editor of the “Visitations of Somerset and Hereford,” “Somerset Incumbents,” “Wells Wills,” etc., and as the Somerset Editor of “Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries”), to accept a position requiring such special knowledge; and they with confidence ask the members to confirm their selection.

“Anxious consideration has been given during the past year to the maintenance and arrangement of the Library, so as to render it more extensively useful and generally available for the study of those, whether members or not, interested in the History of our Ancient County. In this respect, as in many others, your Society is—not alone amongst kindred Societies—seriously hampered from want of funds. We can only say we are doing our best, and hope, but at some future indefinite date, to issue Catalogues of the additions to the

Library, notably the Surtees Library, the Serel MSS., and the Brown Collection.

“By Rule VIII the property of the Society shall be held in Trust for the members by twelve Trustees, who shall be chosen from the members at any General Meeting. Owing to deaths the number of your Trustees is now reduced to one half the full number. Your Committee recommend that the vacancies be now filled up.

“Your Committee have to record with regret the death of several old members who have done good service to the Society. Mr. William Bond Paul acted for many years as Local Secretary for Langport, and although his great age prevented his doing so on the occasion of our visit there two years ago, he acted as Chairman of the Local Committee, and threw an amount of energy into the work which could not have been exceeded by much younger men. Mr. E. Bath was well known for his interest in the Local Antiquities at Glastonbury, and will long be remembered for his generous gift to the Antiquarian Society of that town (and in case of their dissolution to your Society), of the very valuable site of the British Village in Godney Moor, a gift of the value of several hundreds of pounds. Judge Hooper was also an old and esteemed member of your Society, and had on several occasions contributed papers and otherwise shewn his interest in its welfare.

“So much for the past—now for the future. Your Society are possessed, in the Castle of Taunton, of a property not only of considerable pecuniary value but of great Historical importance. It is absolutely necessary, if only for the sake of the good name of the Society, that a considerable—a very large—sum should be expended in the preservation of the building put into your custody by the subscriptions of those interested in the County generally : but it is also desirable that provision should be made for clearing away the incongruous out-buildings which have attached themselves in quite modern times to the ancient fabric.

“In two years time, in 1898, the Society will have entered upon the 50th year of its existence, and the Committee suggest that the Annual Meeting in that year should take place at Taunton, the head-quarters and birthplace of the Society, and that a strong and well organized effort should be made on that occasion to provide a fund for the purpose indicated. It is usual to have a meeting every year extending over three days. On the occasion of the Jubilee of the Society it may well be extended over an entire week, and include a *Conversazione*, Concert, Ball—*of course* a dinner, that does not need special mention—as well as Excursions. And during a portion of the time, if we can enlist the sympathy and aid of the Ladies, there should be a Bazaar on a large scale in the Castle Hall. This is not a mere local Society ; it belongs to the *County*. Its officers and members generally are drawn from the whole of that County, and if they will only give the matter their kind consideration their property might soon be put in a condition to do them and the County credit.

The DEAN OF WELLS moved the adoption of the report, and, after referring to the visit of the Society to Sherborne as a sort of Jameson raid into a friendly state, said he regretted the adverse balance, and the absence of their old friend, Mr. Elworthy. Adverting to the discovery of the Roman village at Godney, near Glastonbury, the Dean said that the most magnificent mound of the whole village had been lately found, and it was now beautifully laid bare. Mr. Bulleid had asked him to say that the whole of the outer circle of the village had been investigated, and sixty-five mounds had been opened.

The Rev. Preb. BULLER seconded the resolution, and expressed his thanks to the Head-master for so courteously allowing them to attend the School Concert the previous evening. The report was adopted.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER presented the statement of accounts, and thanked the Society for the honour it had done him in electing him one of the Hon. Gen. Secs.

Treasurer's Account.

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1895.

[illegible]

CR.			
1894, Dec. 31st		£	s. d.
To	Balance of former Account	...	0 17 2
"	Expenses attending Annual Meeting, at Bath	...	16 18 5
"	Stationery, Printing, etc.	...	13 17 3
"	Purchase of Books, Specimens, etc.	...	4 7 4
"	Cases, Fittings, Repairs, etc.	...	6 19 7
"	Coal and Gas	...	22 2 2
"	Printing and Binding Vol. xl	...	132 14 6
"	Illustrations for Vol. xli	...	1 15 0
"	Postage on account of Vol. xli	...	8 0 0
"	Curator's Salary, 1 year to Christmas, 1895	...	105 0 0
"	Errand Boy...	...	9 7 0
"	Subscriptions to Publications of Societies	...	8 13 0
"	Insurance	...	6 5 6
"	Rates and Taxes	...	12 7 3
"	Postage, Carriage, etc.	...	9 1 4
"	Sundries	...	3 6 6
			<hr/>
		£361	12 0
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1895, Dec. 31st.			
Balance	20 0 8

H. J. BADCOCK.

Treasurer.

July 24th, 1896. Examined and compared with the Vouchers } W. M. KELLY,
and Bank Book and found correct. } J. E. W. WAKEFIELD.

Taunton Castle Restoration Fund.

Treasurer's Account from 1st January to 31st December, 1895.

RECEIPTS.				£	s.	d.
1895.				36	10	5
By Rents of Premises	...	...		20	4	0
„ Rents of Castle Hall	...	...		
„ Donation from “An Old Member of the Society”...	...	...		25	0	0
„ Donation from Mr. Alford	...			5	0	0
Balance	...	...	...	69	11	9
				<u>£156</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
1894, Dec. 31st,				
To Balance owing to the Castle Purchase Account on that Account being closed	... ..	4	2	9
„ Repairs and Improvements to Property	... ..	38	16	11
„ New lead roof to Exchange Tower	... 98 10 0			
„ Sale of old Lead	... 14 16 0			
		88	14	0
„ Mr. Buckle for Plans and Report on the Castle Buildings	... ..	10	10	0
„ Rates and Taxes	... ..	10	19	4
„ Gas	... ..	3	13	2
„ Castle Hall expenses and sundries	... ..	2	3	3
„ Insurance	... ..	0	16	6
„ Interest on Overdrawn Account	... ..	1	8	3
„ Cheque Book	... ..	0	2	0
		£156	6	2
1895, Dec. 31st				
Balance	... ..	69	11	9

H. J. BADCOCK,

Treasurer.

July 24th, 1896. Examined and compared with the Vouchers } W. M. KELLY,
and Bank Book and found correct. } J. E. W. WAKEFIELD.

On the proposition of the Rev. F. HANCOCK, seconded by Mr. CHARLES TITE, the accounts were adopted.

The Rev. G. E. SMITH proposed the re-election of the officers, with the following additions :—Mr. H. D. Skrine and Sir Edmund Elton as Vice-Presidents ; The Rev. F. W. Weaver as one of the Hon. Gen. Secs. ; The Rev. E. H. Bates and Mr. E. Sloper as Local Secretaries.

This was seconded by Mr. J. O. CASH, and carried.

It was proposed by the Rev. Preb. T. S. HOLMES, seconded by the Rev. J. WORTHINGTON, and unanimously resolved, that the following gentlemen, being members of the Society, be elected as Trustees (pursuant to Rule viii) to supply vacancies :—Henry Hobhouse, Esq., M.P., A. J. Goodford, Esq., Sir A. A. Hood, Bart., M.P., Charles I. Elton, Esq., Q.C., Major J. F. Chisholm Batten, Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Bramble, F.S.A.

The Rev. Canon CHURCH proposed that the Council be empowered to select the place of meeting and the President for 1897.

This was seconded by the Rev. Dr. PENNY, and carried.

Forty-eight new members were elected to the Society.

Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. Preb. T. S. HOLMES made a statement with regard to the work of the Somerset Record Society. He said that the Bruton and Montacute Cartularies had been issued, and that the Register of Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury was in a forward state (it has since been issued). After appealing for more support for the Society, he stated that the volume for next year would be a volume of early and very important Assize Rolls, assorted and edited by Mr. C. E. H. Chadwick-Healey, Q.C.

The President's Address.

THE PRESIDENT then delivered an address, and, in the name of Sherborne and neighbourhood, gave the Society a cordial welcome to the district. He wished to thank Mr. Wildman, the Hon. Local Sec., for the trouble he had taken in the arrangements for the meeting, and then gave an interesting *resumé* of the history of Sherborne Castle. He traced the connection of Sir Walter Raleigh with Sherborne, and showed how his own ancestors became possessed of the manor, and concluded by expressing a hope that the Society's visit to Sherborne would be an enjoyable one.

On the motion of Mr. H. HOBHOUSE, M.P., seconded by Mr. C. H. FOX, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the President for his address.

After the meeting the members assembled at the Digby Hotel for luncheon.

Luncheon

was partaken of at the "Digby Hotel," and afterwards the members were conducted over the School buildings and the Abbey Church by Mr. W. B. WILDMAN, one of the assistant masters of Sherborne School, who has written a most valuable book on the history of the town.¹ It was originally intended to have seen the church first, but a wedding was going on there, so Mr. Wildman conducted the party to the school buildings, which are to a large extent constructed with but little alteration out of the domestic buildings of the Benedictine Abbey of Sherborne. Attention was called to three very beautiful chapels at the east end of the church, which in 1560 were converted into a dwelling house for the headmaster. The central chapel is the Lady Chapel of the

(1) *A Short History of Sherborne*, from 705 A.D., by W. B. Wildman, M.A., Assistant Master in Sherborne School, 114 pp., with Plans of Monastery, Castle and School. Bennett, Sherborne, 1896.

thirteenth century ; it was originally of three bays, but only one is left. The chapel on the south side of this was of at least two if not three bays, and was dedicated to Our Lady of Bow, *i.e.* of the Arch, because it stood near the arched entrance to the abbey precincts : it is of the fifteenth century, and only one bay of it is left : it still keeps its fan-vault. The chapel on the north side is practically gone.

After viewing the Guesten Hall, now forming the beautiful library of the school, with its interesting literary treasures, and the Abbot's Hall, which now serves as the school chapel, Mr. WILDMAN conducted the visitors to

The Abbey Church,

of which an excellent description is given in his book already mentioned, (ch. iii—v). The only trace of Aldhelm's Saxon cathedral consists of a few stones in the west wall of the church : the rest was all pulled down by bishop Roger of Caen, who in 1107 became bishop of Sarum and abbot of Sherborne. This Norman church in its turn gave way to the present building, which was commenced by John Bruning, abbot from 1415—36, and continued by William Bradford, abbot from 1436—59.

After the interior of the church had been duly inspected and admired, Mr. Wildman led his party to the west entrance of the church, and pointed out the site of the church of All Hallows, which towards the end of the fourteenth century was built on to the west end of the Abbey Church, and was used by the Sherborne people as their parish church. He gave a graphic account of the quarrel which arose between the monks and the townsfolk about the narrowing of a doorway on the part of the former, and the placing of a font in the church of All Hallows on the part of the latter. The monks sent a stout butcher to deface the fontstone, the parishioners,

headed by their priest, retaliated by throwing "a shaft with fier" on to the the top of the Abbey Church, which, owing to the restoration, was at that time thatched, and a serious conflagration took place, of which the Abbey Church bears signs to this very day.

After spending a most enjoyable afternoon, the head master, the Rev. F. B. Westcott, most kindly received the Society to tea on a lawn, which is itself historical, having been the site of the Abbey Fishponds : the Abbey Litten, or Burial Ground, is closely contiguous, and is now the lawn in front of the head master's house.

There was dinner at 6.30 p.m. at the Digby Hotel, and at 8 p.m. a meeting was held in the "Big Schoolroom," the President in the chair, when the following papers were read :

"Two Barrows on the Brendon Hills," by the Rev. F. HANCOCK (see Part II).

"The Family of De Urtiaco," by the Rev. E. H. BATES (see Part II).

"Notes on Yeovilton," by the Rev. J. B. HYSON.