



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
DURING THE YEAR 1854.

PART I.

THE Sixth Annual Meeting of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Taunton, on Tuesday, September 12th, 1854,—The Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., in the Chair.

The meeting for business commenced at eleven o'clock, when the President, the Vice-Presidents, and general and local Secretaries were severally re-appointed. The Hon. and Right Rev. Lord Auckland, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Sir John W. Ramsden, Bart., M.P., were elected Vice-Presidents; the Rev. Augustus O. Fitzgerald, local Secretary for Somerton; Professor H. Milne Edwards, of Paris, and the Rev. Thomas Hugo, were elected Honorary Corresponding Members; J. Batten, junr., Esq., G. Cave, Esq., W. F. Elliot, Esq., W. E. Gillett, Esq., W. M. Kelly, Esq., M.D., W. Metford, Esq., M.D., F. W. Newton, Esq., Rev. W. T. Redfern, Rev. W. Routledge, D.D., and Rev. T. A. Voules, were re-elected; and Captain Doveton, and J. Woodland, Esq., were elected Members of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN having addressed the meeting in a highly appropriate speech, the following Report of the Committee was read by the Rev. W. R. Crotch, one of the Secretaries of the Society:—

“Your Committee, in presenting their Sixth Annual Report, have great pleasure in announcing the accession of twenty-seven new members during the last year. As the efficiency of the Society not only depends on the zeal and ability of those who labour in the different fields of investigation, but also on the amount of its funds, every increase in the number of subscribing members is a subject of congratulation; whilst the same consideration compels the committee to express their regret that the arrears into which some subscriptions are allowed to fall, and the refusal in some instances to pay what must by all the laws of good faith be considered due to the society, necessarily checks and hampers its proceedings, from the uncertainty thus attending its apparent income.

“The exchange and sale of duplicate specimens from the Williams’ Geological Collection has been carried still further during the past year. In this way the society has been enabled to supply the Museum of Practical Geology, the British Museum, and other institutions, with some hundreds of duplicates, care having been taken not to part with those specimens which form the essential feature of the Society’s collection. The unique and interesting specimen of the Bellerophon was lent to Mr. Salter for the purpose of having a drawing taken of it, a sufficient testimony to its value, and duly returned by him.

“The manuscript of the late Mr. Williams, relating to the geological collection, was sold to the society under a covenant that, if it were not published within a given time, it should revert to the family. That time has

elapsed, but the curators of the Museum are not yet able to dispense with the use of the manuscript, which the family have very kindly allowed them to retain for a longer period.

“Whilst on this subject, the committee cannot refrain from expressing their painful sense of the loss of one of their secretaries, Mr. Baker, of Bridgwater, whose widely extended acquirements, not to mention his amiable and exemplary private character, rendered him a most invaluable support to the society, and whose death has created a void which they can scarcely hope to see in a like manner filled up.

“By the kindness of several individuals, a large addition has been made to the Museum of the society, not only of objects of archæology and natural history, but also of pamphlets on various questions of antiquity, and Mr. Petit's *Architectural Studies in France*. At the same time, a valuable collection of illuminated missals has been deposited in the Museum, by its owner.

“Some casts of seals of the Haviland family suggest the idea that the members of the society at large should be requested to send casts or drawings of the arms of Somersetshire families, together with brief notices of their history, as much more and better information can thus be expected than from the researches of any one enquirer. To this may be added another request to members of the society, that they would give their aid towards the collection of materials for a *Bibliotheca Somersetensis*, or Catalogue of books written by Somerset authors, or relating to the county.

“Your committee have readily availed themselves of the offer of the Sussex Archæological Society to exchange publications. They feel that they need not insist on the great

advantage of such exchanges, which they hope to be able to extend more widely. They have felt also the importance of possessing such a work as the *Paleontological Journal*, which they have therefore purchased up to the present date, and have enrolled the Society among the annual subscribers for the future numbers.

“The Museum presented a feature of peculiar attraction this year, in a collection of Zoophytes preserved in the living state, which, imitating on a very reduced scale, the similar exhibition in the Zoological gardens at London, was exceedingly interesting and instructive; and the thanks of the society are deservedly due to those who devoted so much time and trouble to the supplying and arranging the specimens.

“The annual volume has been prepared with as little cost as possible, while no necessary expense has been spared to do justice to the illustrations.

“As there still seems to be a want of clear understanding amongst the members regarding their claims, the committee think it right to state definitely, that every member is entitled to a copy of the publication issued by the society for the year, to which his subscription, not being in arrear, relates.

“The *Conversazione* meetings were resumed during the winter, at which many interesting subjects were brought forward.

“In conclusion, the committee feel that the society has completed its first lustrum with more success than might have been anticipated, and with flattering prospects for the future.”

Mr. R. BADCOCK then presented the Treasurer's report, an abstract of which is subjoined, viz :—

The Treasurer in Account with the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society. Cr.

1854	£ s. d.	1854	£ s. d.
To Balance of former Account	33 18 0	By Curator's Salary (9 months)	18 15 0
„ Subscriptions	196 11 0	„ Do. commission for collecting Arrears of Subscriptions	5 0 0
„ Life Members	10 0 0	„ Rent	25 0 0
		„ Printing, Drawing, and Engraving 4th vol of Proceedings (1853)	57 0 0
		„ Stationery and Printing ..	11 14 2
		„ Postage and Carriage ..	6 16 10
		„ Expenses attending General Meeting ..	19 8 11
		„ Cases	15 14 5
		„ Coals and Gas	10 0 0
		„ Glass	1 6 9
		„ Drawings and Plans ..	9 18 0
		„ Stuffing Birds	1 18 6
		„ Insurance	1 2 6
		„ Sundries	4 13 5
		„ Books	7 7 0
		„ Balance	28 1 11
	<u>£ 217 1 0</u>		<u>£ 217 1 0</u>

Papers were then read by the following gentlemen—

The Rev. H. M. SCARTH, on Stone Coffins discovered at Bath, and the immediate neighbourhood of that city, given in Part II., and in the Appendix.

The Rev. F. WARRE, Secretary of the Society, for Mr. STRADLING, on a Young Turf-parer's find in the Turbaries, given in Part II.

The Rev. W. A. JONES, Secretary to the Society, on the Application of Philology to Archæological investigation, given in Part II.

The Rev. F. WARRE, for Mr. FREEMAN, on the Perpendiculars of Somerset, as compared with those of East Anglia, given in Part II.

An ORDINARY was held at the London Inn, which was well attended.

The Evening Meeting.

Papers were read by the following gentlemen:—

Mr. A. CROSSE, Walks on the Quantock Hills.

Mr. J. H. PAYNE, on the Geology of the Quantock Hills, given in Part II.

Mr. C. MOORE, on the new Spirifers discovered in the Oolite of Dundry, given in Part II.

The Rev. W. R. CROTCH, on Facts in Natural History, observed during the late year, given in Part II.
