

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
DURING THE YEAR  
1900.

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THE fifty-second annual meeting of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Dulverton on Tuesday, July 24th.

The proceedings commenced with the annual meeting, held at 12 o'clock, in the Town Hall.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A., Hon. Gen. Sec., read a letter, dated 6th July, from the Right Hon. Sir EDWARD FRY, the retiring President, stating that he was leaving for the North, and was afraid he would not be able to be present at the meeting. He, therefore, asked that his apologies might be presented to the members, and particularly to Sir C. T. D. ACLAND, whom he was sorry not to be able to induct into the Presidential chair. In conclusion, he wished the Society a very pleasant meeting. Mr. WEAVER then asked Sir THOMAS ACLAND to take the chair.

## Annual Report.

Colonel BRAMBLE, F.S.A., Hon. Gen. Sec., read the annual report of the Council.

“Your Committee beg to present their fifty-second annual report.

“Since their last report nineteen new names have been added to your list of members. The loss by deaths and resignations, up to date, has been twenty-four, thus leaving a net loss of five. The total number is now 622.

“The balance of your Society’s General Account at the end of 1898 (your accounts being made up to the end of the year) was £118 11s. 10d. in favor of the Society. The balance at the close of the present account (31st December, 1899) was £144 8s. 11d. in favor of the Society. 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 Volume XLV (for 1899), including printing illustrations and delivery, has been £120 10s. 4d. The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. W. H. Hamilton Rogers, F.S.A., for supplying the illustrations to his paper; to Professor Allen for his excellent photographs; to the Rev. E. H. Bates for his map and drawings of Church Plate; to the Rev. Prebendary Hancock, F.S.A., for his contribution towards the expense of the Church Plate illustrations; and to Mr. McMurtrie for the drawings of the Pre-Historic Remains found at Radstock.

“The work of repair to the Great Hall has been now completed, and the Geological and some other portions of the Museum are now in progress of arrangement therein. This is necessarily, however, a work of labour, and will occupy some little time. The improvement in your property is very apparent, and the value of your collection for the purpose of study and reference greatly enhanced.

“The cost of the work has necessarily been large; the hall measures 120 feet by 31, and this is a considerable area with which to deal. The beams supporting the front of the rooms over the portico, which has now been restored to its original state as an open one, proved to be badly “sprung,” and in some cases rotten. They had to be entirely replaced, the building being shored up for the purpose.

“The subscriptions to the Restoration Fund from various sources, including Col. Pinney’s legacy of £300, amount altogether to £714 6s. 6d. Expenditure and liabilities aggregating to £850, have, however, been incurred, leaving a sum of £140, or thereabouts, to be provided. Your Committee appeal to their members and others interested in the county for further contributions.

“The Castle House has been let on satisfactory terms, but the necessary cost of repairs to such extensive and old premises will prevent any clear additional income being derived during the current year.

“The Council have to report the gift from the Rev. W. H. Lance of seventeen quarto volumes of “Reports of the Egypt Exploration Fund,” and of seventy-three quarterly parts of the “Report of the Palestine Exploration Fund”; from the Representatives of the late Canon Buckle of a large view of Weston-super-Mare about 1831, and of two smaller ones; also from Mr. F. S. Wood of MS. excerpts from Chew Magna Wills with Index. An arrangement has been entered into with the Dorset Field Club for an exchange of *Proceedings*.

“The Photographic Record Committee have presented their report, which is annexed hereto.

“It has been determined to subscribe for three years to the Geological Photographs Committee, who are issuing a series of photographs of Geological sections.

“Frequent applications, which could not in many cases be conveniently granted, having been received by your Committee for leave to photograph various objects of interest in your col-

lections, it has been considered advisable to have such work done officially on behalf of the Society, and to supply copies to members at a reasonable cost.

“The price list of the various volumes of the *Proceedings* in stock has been revised by a Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose, and members have now a favorable opportunity of completing sets. The revised list was issued with the last volume. The sales since that time (thirteen months) have amounted to £21 2s. 8d., some three times the average. Arrangements are also being made for the supply of copies of many of the illustrations apart from the volumes in which they were originally issued.

“The text of the third volume of Mr. Green’s “Somerset Bibliography” is now in type, and directly the Introduction, which the compiler is now preparing, is ready, the work can be issued to the subscribers.

“The number of visitors to your Museum during 1899 was 4978, a decrease of 104 as against 1898, but on the other hand, the receipts from this source (Members being admitted free), was £1 2s. 2d. in excess of those in 1898.

“Since our meeting in July of last year, your Society has sustained several losses by death.

“Two of your Vice-Presidents have died. *Lord Hylton* was President at your Frome Meeting in 1893. He was one of the now fast diminishing roll of Crimean Heroes, and as Mr. Jolliffe, took his part in the famous Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava.

“*Mr. C. I. Elton, Q.C., F.S.A.*, was President at your Chard Meeting in 1882. He was distinguished for his knowledge of the law of Real Property, and his general culture.

“*General Pitt-Rivers, F.R.S., F.S.A.*, Inspector of Ancient Monuments. His knowledge of prehistoric Archæology and his unsparing use of his great wealth, enabled him, in the position he held, to do an amount of service to the cause of archæology which can fall to the lot of very few.

“*Canon Buckle* was long connected with the county and diocese, as well as with your Society, and his genial presence at your meetings will be missed by your members generally. His work was of a character not bringing him prominently before the public, but none the less was of a very valuable character.

“*Mr. E. H. Clerk* was one of the Original Members of your Society, and continued a member until his death—a period of half-a-century. Only nine of the original founders of your Society now, it is believed, survive. *Mr. Charles Hill* was a member of some twenty years’ standing, and only last year hospitably entertained the Society at his residence, Clevedon Hall.

“*Mr. E. D. Bourdillon*, for many years an elected Member of your Committee, and *Mr. F. Mitchell*, until his death Local Secretary for Chard, had each of them done good service to your Society. *Mr. Wm. George* was well known for his acquaintance with the local history of many parts of the county, particularly of the Dunster District, with which he was connected in his youth. He was a frequent attendant at our meetings, and contributed several articles to our magazine.”

*Mr. F. T. ELWORTHY, F.S.A.*, moved the adoption of the report.

The Rev. *E. H. BATES* seconded. He said the great point about the report was the practical completion of the Castle Hall as a Museum. This was a point which was set before the Society from the beginning, twenty-five years ago, when they raised a sum of money to purchase the Castle. The opening up of the roof, and the arrangement of the specimen cases, made it a room as good for the purpose as any in the forty counties of England.

The report was adopted.

### Finances.

The Rev. *F. W. WEAVER*, in the absence of *Mr. H. J. Badcock*, the Treasurer, presented the financial statement as follows :—

## Treasurer's Account.

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1899.

Dr.		£ s. d.		Cr.		£ s. d.	
1898, Dec. 31st.				1899.			
By Balance of former Account	...	118	11	To Expenses of Annual Meeting,			
„ Members' Subscriptions for 1899	...	290	16	Travelling, etc.	...	9	17
(554)	...	16	16	„ Reporters' Notes of Meetings	...	3	3
„ Members' Entrance Fees (32)	...	9	9	„ Repairs, Cases, etc.	...	0	19
„ Members' Subscriptions in arrear	...	14	3	„ Stationery, Printing, etc.	...	11	5
(18)	...	6	5	„ Coal and Gas	...	21	12
„ Members' Subscriptions in advance (27)	...	1	16	„ Purchase of Books, Specimens, etc.	...	24	12
„ Non-Members' Excursion Tickets	...	2	4	„ Printing and Binding Vol. 44	...	84	3
„ Donation from Mr. Stanley for Illustrations	...	27	2	„ Illustrations, Vol. 44	...	27	6
„ Donation from Rev. Preb. Buller for Illustrations	...	12	16	„ Postage, Vol. 44	...	9	0
„ Museum Admission Fees	...	3	5	„ Photographic Survey	...	5	13
„ Sale of Publications	...			„ Curator's Salary (1 year to Xmas., 1899)	...	105	0
„ Sale of Index Volume	...			„ Boy	...	12	17
		£503	5	„ Insurance	...	5	18
		9		„ Rates and Taxes	...	16	14
				„ Subscriptions to Societies	...	8	13
				„ Postage, Carriage, etc.	...	8	4
				„ Sundries	...	3	16
				Balance	...	144	8
						9	
By Balance brought down ...	...	144	8				

H. J. BADCOCK,  
Treasurer.

July 20th, 1900. Examined and compared with the vouchers } HOWARD MAYNARD,  
and Bank Book, and found correct. } ALEX. HAMMETT.

## Taunton Castle Restoration Fund.

Balance Sheet of Income and Expenditure for the year 1899.

RECEIPTS.		£ s. d.		EXPENDITURE.		£ s. d.	
1898, Dec. 31st.				1899.			
By Balance of former Account	...	141	9	To Re-erecting two old Almshouses	...	51	5
„ Rents of Premises	...	49	8	„ Repairs to the Castle	...	360	0
„ Messrs. Hancock, Rent of 3 lights	...	0	1	„ Sundry Repairs to Property	...	11	9
„ Telephone Company Wayleave	...	0	1	„ Rates and Taxes	...	9	6
„ Sundry Subscriptions towards the Repairs Fund	...	33	8	„ Gas	...	0	8
Balance	...	213	15	„ Insurance	...	3	10
		£438	3	„ Sundry Expenses	...	2	3
		9					
						£438	3
						9	
ASSETS.				LIABILITIES.			
On deposit at Stuckey's Bank	...	500	0	Balance as above	...	213	15
				Balance	...	286	4
						1	
						£500	0
						0	

H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurer.

July 20th, 1900. Examined and compared with the vouchers } HOWARD MAYNARD,  
and Bank Book, and found correct. } ALEX. HAMMETT.

Mr. F. A. WOOD proposed the adoption of the financial report, and said that the favourable balance in hand was very satisfactory.

The Rev. S. J. M. PRICE seconded, and it was adopted.

## **Election of Officers.**

The Rev. J. E. ODGERS proposed the re-election of the officers, with the addition of Sir Edward Fry to the list of Vice-Presidents, and of the Rev. H. A. Cartwright and Mr. G. F. Sydenham to that of the Hon. Local Secretaries. He remarked that he did not know of any Society of the sort that had ever been more happy than their own in the diligence and efficiency of its officers.

Mr. F. WERE seconded the resolution, which was carried.

It was stated that Mr. Periam, of Bampton, had presented one hundred-and-twenty copies of a pamphlet on the history of that town for the use of the members, and he was thanked for the same.

## **Photographic Record of the County.**

Colonel BRAMBLE read the report of the Photographic Record of the County, which was signed by Mr. C. H. Bothamley.

“Some progress has been made in the collection of photographs of places of interest in the county, though it is still to be regretted that the work does not proceed more rapidly. The chief difficulty is still the fact that comparatively few of those interested in archæology are also photographers, whilst very few of the more numerous body of photographers take any interest in archæology or even in history. Recently, however, some promises of valuable help have been obtained, and it is hoped that prints will come in more rapidly. It ought, perhaps, to be stated that in all counties where photographic surveys have been organized the same difficulties seem to be met with.

“A list of the thirty-two prints already received is given below. The mounting and cataloguing of them will be completed as soon as possible, and they will be placed in the Society’s Museum in due course.

C. H. BOTHAMLEY,

*July 21st, 1900.*

*Hon. Sec. to the Committee.*

## PRINTS RECEIVED.

*From Dr. F. J. Allen.*

Burrington Coombe; Bishop's Lydeard Church Tower; Congresbury Vicarage Door; Langford, Porch of an Old House; Lydeard St. Lawrence Church Tower; Ruishton Church Tower (2); Shepton Mallet Market Cross; Staple Fitzpaine Church Tower; Taunton St. Mary Church Tower; Rock Shelter, Sharcombe.

*From Mr. C. H. Bothamley.*

Cleeve Abbey, the Church; East side of Cloister; South side of Cloister; West side of Cloister; North side of Cloister; Chapter House entrance; Chapter House; Dormitory; Monk's Day Room; Refectory from South; Refectory interior (2); East Room under Refectory; General View from East. Combe Florey Church; Combe Florey Gatehouse, South front; Combe Florey Gatehouse, North front.

*From Mr. C. D' Aeth.*

Cucklington Church Font; Priestleigh, Old House; Spargrove House, Batcombe; Spargrove Barn; Stoke Trister Manor House.

### Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. E. H. BATES, Secretary of the Somerset Record Society, made a report on the work of the Society. Referring to the non-appearance of the two volumes promised the previous year, he said that Prebendary Holmes was now nearly ready with his volume, "The Registers of Bishop Gifford and Bishop Bowett," and the second volume was to be a "Cartulary of Muchelney Abbey." As there were Anglo-Saxon charters in it, it was thought advisable to have the services of an Anglo-Saxon expert. Owing to his having been busy, it had been delayed. In consequence of the second volume having been thus delayed, the "Cartulary of Athelney Abbey" would be produced in "The Millenary of King Alfred." Winchester wanted to get up some kind of monu-



ment to King Alfred, but if a tangible monument were required, Somerset had as much right to one as Winchester, for the few relics which could honestly be said to have belonged to the King were found in Somerset, or were connected with it. For instance, King Alfred's jewel was found at North Newton, and it was now in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, although had their Society been in existence at the date of its discovery, it would no doubt have secured it. He thought the publication of the "Athelney Cartulary" would form a good memorial of Alfred, as that great monarch was much more associated with that abbey in his life than was Winchester in his death. The volume for 1900 will be the newly discovered "Survey of Somerset," by Thos. Gerard, written in the reign of Charles I. Next year the Record Society were going to bring out a volume of early wills. The Society was going to see how many of them they could get printed in order to make a volume. When he added that the Rev. F. W. Weaver was going to edit the volume, he thought he might say that it would be well worthy of the Society.

Mr. F. T. ELWORTHY asked who was the Anglo-Saxon expert mentioned, and Mr. BATES replied that it was Mr. Stevenson, of Exeter College, Oxford.

Canon CHURCH in moving the adoption of the report, said that he had been desired by Bishop Hobhouse to bring before the Society the fact of the insecurity of parish books, and the Bishop suggested that by some resolution they might do something towards providing a little more security. "The Churchwardens' Accounts of Banwell," dating from 1516 to the end of Elizabeth's reign, which were seen by Bishop Hobhouse in 1890, had disappeared when the fresh incumbent was inducted in 1896, and many similar losses had happened, and might easily recur. The Bishop suggested the passing of the following resolution:—"This Society hearing of the loss of the "Churchwardens' Accounts of Banwell," is anxious to impress on the minds of all incumbents and churchwardens in the dio-

cese the expediency of placing on the inventory of church goods a list of all books and documentary matter belonging to the church, and that all such property should be produced at the Easter vestry, and passed according to the 89th Canon of 1603, from the outgoing to the incoming churchwardens, in the presence of the vestry or the delegates thereof." Canon Church proposed this as a resolution.

The Rev. Prebendary COLEMAN seconded.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER said directly he heard of this loss he did his best to secure the recovery of the books. He wrote to the late Archdeacon Salmon, who held an inquiry at Banwell, but without successful results. Some of the accounts were printed in Rutter's "Somerset." He believed an entire copy of the documents was made thirty or forty years ago. He could not help hoping that the original documents would yet turn up.

The Rev. C. H. HEALE suggested that the Rural Deans should make an inspection of church documents at their visitations, and the Rev. S. M. J. PRICE thought the Archdeacons should be asked to do the same.

The PRESIDENT agreed that there was much need of greater care in the preservation of such documents.

Mr. ELWORTHY feared that the mischief had already been done, and that all they could do was to take care of the future.

The resolution was carried, and the suggestions mentioned were added as riders.

### **The Statue to Blake at Bridgwater.**

Dr. WINTERBOTHAM made a statement with regard to the Blake statue. At the Bridgwater Meeting, a paper was read by Professor Montagu Burrows, who drew attention to the fact that Blake had never been commemorated. The result of the paper was that a certain amount of enthusiasm was stirred up, which cooled down for some time. In the following spring, a small but energetic band met together, and resolved

to make an attempt to raise a statue. They entrusted the commission to Mr. Frederick Pomeroy, and the statue was now in the Royal Academy. It was worthy of his hand, worthy of their acceptance, and worthy to commemorate the great man whose memory they wished to honour. The adornment of the pedestal was nearly completed, with two bas-reliefs giving scenes in his life, and these were really beautiful work. They had not sufficient money to finish the pedestal, and as secretary of the memorial fund, he would be glad to receive contributions. Dr. Winterbotham referred to the common error of assigning Blake's birth to 1599 instead of 1598, which was the correct date. He also described the search made for a correct portrait of the great Admiral, and presented to the Society a large framed photograph taken from a painting in the possession of the Rev. Raymond Pelly, of Great Malvern, who was a direct descendant of Sally Blake, one of the two daughters of Blake.

The PRESIDENT thanked Dr. Winterbotham for his statement, and for the vigour which he had imported to the proceedings of those working with him, also for his gift of the portrait for the Museum at Taunton.