

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
DURING THE YEAR 1855.

PART I.

THE Seventh Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Dunster on Tuesday, August 21, 1855,—the President, Sir W. C. TREVELYAN, Bart., in the chair.

The meeting for business commenced at eleven o'clock, when the President, the Vice-Presidents, the general and local Secretaries, were severally re-appointed. Captain Perceval was elected local Secretary for Blue Anchor; F. W. Newton, Esq., Rev. W. T. Redfern, Rev. W. Routledge, D.D., Rev. T. A. Voules, were re-elected; and Rev. J. P. Scott, and Edwards Beadon, Esq., were elected members of the Committee.

The PRESIDENT, in his opening address, expressed the great pleasure he felt in taking part in the proceedings of the Society. He regretted that, in consequence of his residing at a distance, he had not been able to do so oftener. He took a deep interest in the prosperity of the Society, and in the objects it embraced, and was glad to find by the journals published that the Society had already done much to advance the Archæology and Natural History of the county. He particularly adverted to the

recent important discovery at Taunton, at the depth of many feet, of the remains of a rhinoceros, in connection with the trees of the forest, comprising alder, oak, hazel, and other existing species—thus showing that the climate of this country, when inhabited by this race of animals, was much the same as it is at the present day. He also referred to the value and interest which attached to the collection in the library of the Society—of books relating to the county; and when the books themselves could not be obtained, it was very desirable to have their titles in full. This object would be attained by the *Bibliotheca Somersetensis*, to which he was glad to find the Committee were directing their attention. The President then referred to the iron ore found in the neighbourhood at Treborough, which is equal to the best Silesian iron in quality, and is found in deeper and richer veins. This discovery is of great importance not only to this locality, but to the nation at large. The great value of microscopic investigation was alluded to, especially towards determining the fertilizing properties of streams, by discovering the extent to which Desmidiæ and Diatomaceæ are found in the water.

The Rev. F. WARRE, Secretary to the Society, then read the following Report of the Committee :—

“In presenting their Seventh Annual Report, your Committee have the gratification of being able again to announce that the Society is progressing in members and influence.

“Since the last general meeting, nearly 30 new members have been added to its list; and though the total bears as yet but a small proportion to the number of influential names belonging to the county of Somerset, yet it may be reasonably expected that with the growing taste for such

inquiries as those, which the Society was embodied in order to prosecute, and which, to be successfully conducted, require at once widely-spread exertions and united efforts; and with the more extended knowledge of what the Society has already accomplished, the many interesting parts it has been enabled to record, and the light it has thrown on the darker eras of our history—with these, it may be reasonably expected that each succeeding year will present a goodly addition to its subscribing members, and thus render it more efficient, and better adapted to the requirements of our extensive county; for in prosecuting archæological and other scientific inquiries, it is unfortunately as true as in most other cases, that independently of all the zeal and talent which may be exerted, it is money which constitutes the sinews.

“For further justification of these hopes, the Committee refer to the estimate which appears to have been formed of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society beyond the limits of the county. Thus exchanges of publications have been agreed upon between this Society and the Archæological Institute of Great Britain; the Ecclesiological Society; the British Archæological Association; the Sussex Archæological Society; the Bristol and West of England Architectural Society; the Architectural Society of Northampton; the Surrey Archæological Society; and the Société Vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles at Lausanne.

“Your Committee feel that they may regard in the same view the handsome donations which still continue to be made to the museum, and the valuable deposits confided during the last year to the care of the Curator. Among these will be found curious and interesting pamphlets of ancient date; valuable works of reference; fossils from

the important district of Dudley; Devonian limestones with corals; stalactites from the Holwell Cave, and from the Mammoth Cave, Kentucky; fossil madrepores; specimens of ore containing silver and copper, from Ashburton; casts of ancient British coins; silver Roman coins; geological and other maps; cases of birds from the Himalaya and Demerara; shells from the Black Sea, and numerous other important additions to the Society's museum, many of which are already recorded in the last publication of the Society. A complete list of the remainder, with the names of the donors or depositors, will appear in the next annual volume.

“A sub-committee has been appointed to classify these and previous donations and deposits, and to draw up a catalogue for the convenience of the members and visitors.

“Your Society has sustained a severe loss in the death of one of their Vice-Presidents, Andrew Crosse, Esq., who took so lively an interest in the well-being of the Society, and whose scientific zeal and attainments reflected so much lustre on this his native county.

“The annual volume has been issued to those members who are entitled according to the rules to receive it—namely, those who have paid up their subscriptions; and it is hoped that this volume will not be deemed in any way inferior, either as to the matter it contains or the execution of the illustrations, to those which have preceded.

“An opportunity having occurred of purchasing some valuable casts of sculptures from Wells Cathedral—of the originals of which Flaxman says, ‘It seems to be the earliest specimen of such magnificent and varied sculpture united in a series of sacred history that is to be found in western Europe’—the Committee have availed themselves of it; but at the same time must appeal to the

