

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1918.

THE Seventieth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Taunton on Tuesday, July 23rd. In consequence of the Great War, the Council decided, as in 1915, 1916 and 1917, not to have any excursions, but arranged for a morning meeting to be held for business purposes and the delivery of the presidential address.

A meeting of the Council was held at Taunton Castle at 10.50 a.m., and was followed by the Annual General Meeting, which took place in the Municipal Hall (through the kindness of the Mayor of Taunton), at which there was a good attendance, in spite of stormy weather.

In the absence of the Dean of Wells, the outgoing President, the Rev. Dr. S. J. M. PRICE proposed the election of Dr. F. J. Haverfield, F.S.A., Camden Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford and Fellow of Brasenose College, as President for the ensuing year, and this was seconded by the Rev. F. W. WEAVER, and carried unanimously.

Dr. HAVERFIELD then took the chair.

The Annual Report.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Assistant-Secretary, read the Annual Report, which was as follows :—

“ In presenting the seventieth annual report, your Council wishes to state that since its last report 57 new names have been added to the list of members. Losses caused by death and resignation have been 32. The net gain has been 25. The total membership at date is 927 against 902 at the time of the annual meeting last year : this number includes a few members on military service who have dropped their subscriptions temporarily, but some of them may not be renewed.

“ Your Society records with much regret the following losses by death during the past year :—

“ The Rev. Dr. T. Scott Holmes, chancellor of Wells Cathedral, was elected a member of the Society in 1885, and became a local secretary for Wookey in 1887 and afterwards for Wells. He was for eight years honorary secretary of the Somerset Record Society, for which society he edited the series of Episcopal Registers. One of his most valuable pieces of work was the large contribution he made to the second volume of the *Victoria County History of Somerset*, dealing with ‘ Ecclesiastical History ’ and the ‘ Religious Houses ’ of the county. (An obituary notice of the Chancellor written by the Dean of Wells will appear in this volume).

“ The Rev. W. A. Duckworth, of Orchardleigh Park (1884), who died on December 7th last, aged 88 years, was much interested in the ancient churches of Lullington and Orchardleigh of which he was patron ; and in the mound and stones on Murtry Hill within the bounds of the outer park. At the Frome meetings in 1873 and 1911, Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Duckworth entertained the Society at Orchardleigh Park.

“ Your Society has also sustained the losses by death of (the dates indicate the time of the member’s election) :—The Rev. R. Arden-Davis (1904), Mr. H. Phelps Batten (1886), Mr. John Brown (1882) who recently died at Wadeford at the great age of 94 years, Major-General A. L. Emerson (1908), Colonel C. H. Henley of Leigh House, near Chard (1882), Dr. H. P. Olivey (1896) the author of *North Curry*, the Rt. Hon.

Earl Poulett (1909), the Rev. H. T. Perfect (1881), the Rev. Preb. R. Hayes Robinson (1916), Colonel G. D. Stawell (1907) the author of *History of the Stawell Family*, Mr. Theo. Taylor (1903), Mrs. Vawdrey (1900), and the Rev. J. Worthington (1885) who was a member of the Council for 25 years from 1887 to 1912.

“ Since the last meeting the Rev. Preb. E. H. Bates Harbin has resigned his position as one of the Honorary Secretaries, which he had held for thirteen years. His work on the Index to Collinson, volumes of Somerset Parish Registers, the translation of Domesday and the *Inquisitio Gheldi*, with collation of the Exeter Codex for the ‘Victoria County History,’ his contributions to ‘Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries,’ his compilation of five volumes of the Somerset Record Society, his secretaryship of that Society since 1898, and twenty papers in the *Proceedings* of your Society, witness to his literary labours on behalf of the archæology of the County. But the Council desires to record his services in the administration of the affairs of the Society since he was appointed one of the honorary secretaries. In the catalogues of the books, papers and deeds of the Society, in other departments of its work, on the Committees and on the Council, he has given his time and his learning ungrudgingly. And the Council hopes that he will continue as occasion may require to afford the Society his very valuable assistance.

“ The deficit on your Society’s General Account at the end of 1916 was £73 2s. 7d. At the close of 1917 the adverse balance had been slightly reduced to £70 7s. 1d. 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. This result is considered very satisfactory seeing that taxation and the price of all materials have increased so greatly.

“ Thanks to those who recently contributed to a Special Fund¹ to reduce the deficit on the General Account and to

1. *Special Fund*.—The sum of Five Pounds was kindly given by each of the following :—The Marquess of Bath, Mr. W. F. Blake, Mr. H. H. P. Bouverie, Mr. W. S. Clark, Mr. C. E. J. Esdaile, Mr. Sebastian Evans, Mr. Francis J. Fry, The Lady Theodora Guest, the Rt. Hon. H. Hobhouse, Mr.

meet additional expenses of upkeep caused by the War, the financial position of your Society at the close of the current year will be better than it has been for several years past.

“Independently of the General Account, your Society has a small Capital Account (from life membership fees) which, on December 31st last, amounted to £103 13s. 0d. (including a War Bond, £100), a Book Fund of £107 11s. 4d. (the interest of which is spent on new books), and a balance in hand on the Woodward Fund of £172 14s. 2d. (which in accordance with the bequest is used as required for special Museum and Library improvements).

“The expenses attending the issue of Vol. LXIII of the *Proceedings* (for 1917), including printing, illustrations and delivery, will be about £160. Owing to War conditions, the volume has been somewhat reduced in size, and it is anticipated that the book for 1918 will have to be still smaller. The plates illustrating the third paper on the ‘Monumental Effigies in Somerset’ have been provided through the kindness of the author, Dr. A. C. Fryer. Thanks are also due to Mr. T. B. Dilks for providing the blocks of the Bridgwater deeds and seals. The new volume was again indexed by the Rev. Preb. Bates Harbin and Mr. H. St. George Gray, on the same lines as the previous volumes of the fourth series.

“Your buildings generally are in a good state of repair, but little painting has been done during the period of the War. The lease of the Castle Lodge expired at Lady Day last; owing to its unsatisfactory condition it has been relet to the same person on a yearly tenancy only. As a favourable opportunity occurred, the Society is now renting the yard on the south side of the Castle House (the Curator’s residence) on a yearly tenancy.

“The additions to the Museum during the year have been considerable; and a large number of gifts have been made to the Coin Department, especially of coins of the Roman period

H. W. P. Hoskyns, Lord Hylton, Mr. G. S. Lysaght, the Rev. F. J. Montgomery, Lt.-Colonel W. L. Morgan, the Viscount Portman, the Hon. H. B. Portman, the Rev. Dr. S. J. M. Price, Mr. A. F. Somerville, Mr. H. King Sturdee, Mr. H. G. Turner, Lady Tylor, the Rt. Hon. Earl Waldegrave, Mr. G. A. Wills, the Rev. H. H. Winwood, and two anonymous subscriptions.

found in the county. Messrs. Petters, Limited, have presented a selection of 100 'third brass' coins of the Constantine period, forming part of the large hoard found on the Westland Estate, Yeovil.¹ By means of a fund subscribed to by members of the Society, the whole of the Roman coins found in Somerset formerly belonging to the late Mr. H. Franklin have been purchased. The nineteen *siliquæ* in his collection found at Holway, Taunton, bring the Society's series from this hoard up to 132 specimens. The Franklin collection also includes Roman coins from Ham Hill, South Petherton, Ilchester, Barton St. David, Compton Dundon, and Whitchurch (or Felton). Mr. G. E. Cruickshank has presented a large number of small bronze Roman coins found at Combe Down, near Bath.² Mrs. Valentine, on leaving Somerton, has given to the Museum the bronze coins and tokens collected by the late Dr. E. W. Valentine, which includes some Roman coins found in the neighbourhood.

"Mr. T. Charbonnier has during the year made considerable additions to his collection of Pewter, the specimens now numbering about four hundred and fifty.

"The most important addition to the Museum since the last annual meeting is the bronze sword found at Midsomer Norton in 1873. It dates from the Bronze Age and is in an excellent state of preservation.³ This specimen was originally bought by Downside Abbey from the finder, and had been preserved there until last autumn, when it was acquired by your Society partly in exchange for books which the Abbey required and which were duplicates in the Taunton Castle Library.

"A bronze knife-dagger found at the 'Battle Gore,' Williton, in 1863, formerly in the collection of the late Dr. Greenwell, has now passed into the hands of your Society.

"The harpsichord, dated 1790, temporarily deposited by

1. The hoard is described in the *Proceedings*, LXII, 86-112.

2. Roughly listed by Scarth in *Aquæ Solis* (1864), p. 134; and more fully catalogued in this volume (pp. lxii-lxiii) in "Additions to the Museum."

3. See full description in this volume (pp. lvi-lvii) in "Additions to the Museum," 1917-18.

Mr. H. A. Jeboult,¹ was recently offered by him for the Museum at a small figure. Since then it has been purchased by twenty members for the Society.

“Officer’s uniform of the 2nd Somerset (Militia) Regiment worn by the late Major William Barrett, of North Curry, in the fifties of last century, has been presented by the kindness of his widow.

“The Mayor and Corporation of Taunton have deposited an interesting receipt, dated 26th September, 1657, given by the Mayor of Taunton and others to the executors of Robert Blake for a legacy of One Hundred Pounds bequeathed by him to the poor of Taunton.

“Other donors to the Museum of several specimens include :—The Rev. Dr. S. J. M. Price, Miss Edith Price, Mr. T. W. Cowan, Dr. R. H. Walter, and Mr. O. I. Young.

“Included in the Museum work during the year is the completion of the cataloguing and ticketing of the Arthur Hull Collection, which was removed from Chard to your Society’s Museum at the end of 1915. The Curator’s report on the subject in the *Proceedings* of 1917 has been reprinted to serve as a Museum guide book, price 8d.

“Gifts to the Library include a number of Somerset deeds, the most interesting being those presented by the trustees of the late Mr. Worsley Battersby of Knowle, near Timberscombe, dating from Edward III to James I. A short calendar of them has been compiled by Sir H. Maxwell Lyte. About 630 Somerset deeds, mostly of late date, have been purchased for your Library through the instrumentality of the Wiltshire Archæological Society. Among the donors of deeds and manuscripts are :—Mr. H. B. Sheppard, Mr. A. W. Marks, Mr. W. Dommatt (Churchstanton deeds, 1654–1785), and Mr. C. Yandell.

“Printed books have been presented to the general Library chiefly by :—Mr. A. H. Withers (a small library of books on Brittany), Dr. H. Downes, Mr. T. W. Cowan, Mr. C. Tite, Dr. G. F. Sydenham, and Mrs. C. T. Wilson. Mr. Tite has also added several volumes of books and drawings to his Somerset collection.

1. *Proceedings*, LXI, p. xlvii.

“By drawing on the Woodward Fund several gaps in the series of Public Records have been filled up. From the same fund the complete set (322 sheets) of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey Maps of Somerset has been purchased.

“In sorting some deeds which had been in a cabinet in the Museum for many years an autograph letter of Alexander Pope was found, written to his friend Will Fortescue mentioning that Gay is staying with him ; probable date 1735.¹

“Mr. H. G. Cray, of Banwell, who has presented several excellent rubbings of brasses in Somerset churches, has kindly undertaken to continue this work for the benefit of the Society.

“As reported at the Annual Meeting last year the copy of Weaver's *Somerset Incumbents* in the Society's Library has been interleaved. The period covered by this valuable work extends from 1309 to 1730, but there are gaps in the series some of which have been filled by Prebendary Bates Harbin. Incumbents are invited to forward additions from 1730, so that the interleaved copy may eventually become a full directory of the Clergy of the Diocese.

“The Natural History Sections of your Society, whose work and workers were mentioned at some length in last year's report, have continued their records on similar lines. Owing to the departure of Mr. W. D. Milner to another sphere of work in Devon, he has resigned his position as secretary and treasurer of the Botanical Section—an office which he has filled admirably since the formation of the Section—and he has been succeeded by Dr. W. Watson. Mr. T. W. Cowan, of Bishops Hull, who has brought the Herbarium into a state of efficiency, will shortly be leaving for Clevedon, where he hopes to continue to mount and ticket botanical specimens for the Society. Since the last meeting a number of plants have been added to the collections by the Rev. E. S. Marshall, Mr. H. S. Thompson, Mr. Cowan, and Dr. Watson.

“Dr. J. Wigglesworth, one of the recorders of the Ornithological Section, has succeeded the late Lord St. Audries as president of that Section. The Section has been enriched by

1. The letter is printed in Elwin and Courthope's edition of “Pope's Works and Correspondence,” IV, 132.

the gifts of two rare birds from Mr. C. L. Fry Edwards, namely, a Tengmalm's Owl, shot at Winscombe in 1859, and a Red Grouse, shot on Blackdown, Mendip, in 1884. Three specimens of the Little Owl have also been added to the collections.

“Your Museum was visited by 5891 persons last year, including 1125 visits from members. In 1916 the total number of visitors was 6110, when there were 1485 visits from members. During the first six months of the current year there have been 2785 visitors, as compared with 2202 during the corresponding period of last year.

“In accordance with Rule II one-third of the elected members of the Council retire annually by rotation, but are eligible for re-election. Those retiring at this meeting are the Rev. Preb. J. Hamlet, the Rev. C. H. Heale, the Rev. J. Byrchmore, and Mr. A. E. Eastwood; all of them are willing to act again. During the year vacancies on the Council, caused by the resignation of the Rev. W. T. Reeder (who still remains a local secretary for Porlock) and Mr. F. Were (a local secretary for Bristol), have been filled, subject to the approval of this meeting, by the inclusion of Mr. Sebastian Evans and Dr. H. Downes.”

The report was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr. C. H. BOTHAMLEY, seconded by the Rev. W. T. REEDER.

Finances.

Mr. H. J. BADCOCK, Hon. Treasurer, presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1917, and proposed its adoption.

Mr. A. E. EASTWOOD, Chairman of the Finance Committee, seconded, and the adoption of the accounts was then carried.

Annual Accounts of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1917. (GENERAL ACCOUNT).

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.									
		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.				
To Members' Subscriptions, 1916	...	3	3	0	By Overdraft at Bank, 31 Dec., 1916	...			73	2	7		
" " 1917	...	523	16	0	" General Printing and Stationery	...	9	4	1				
" " 1918	...	3	13	6	" Fuel and Light	...	32	13	1				
		530	12	6	" Repairs to Buildings	...	16	13	2				
" Entrance Fees	...		34	13	0	" Repairs and Renewals of Furnishings	...	10	8	8			
" General Donations	...		3	13	6	" General Postages and Telegrams	...	10	4	8			
" Museum Receipts	...		63	8	6	" Insurances	...	32	11	8			
" Publications	...		10	16	10	" Rates and Taxes	...	74	14	10			
" Franklin Coins Fund	...		7	18	0	" Petty Expenses	...	7	4	0			
" Rents	...		29	9	0	" Sundry Payments	...	0	10	0			
" Donations towards Illustration Fund, Vol. LXII.	...		14	5	6	" Watermain Wayleave	...	0	1	0			
" Dividends on New Zealand 4% Stock (Book Account)	...	4	6	0		" Curator's Salary	...	225	0	0			
" Do. Exchequer and War Bonds	...	3	16	0		" Wages of Staff	...	87	9	0			
						" Accountant's Charges	...	5	5	0			
" Transfer from Woodward Fund	...		8	2	0					511	19	2	
" " Capital Account, Interest on Deposit	...		0	7	10	" "Proceedings," Vol. LXII (including £145s. 6d. contra)...	...				159	14	2
" Sundries	...		0	5	0	" Subscriptions to Societies	...	5	9	0			
" Bank Overdrawn	...		70	7	1	" Museum Specimens	...	3	16	0			
						" Books and Bookbinding	...	25	19	7			
						" Annual Meeting	...	2	8	9			
						" Extensions of Furnishings	...	0	0	0			
											37	13	4
											£782	9	3
											£782	9	3

Finances.

Audited and found correct. January 7th, 1918.

A. C. MOLE & CO., *Incorporated Accountants, Taunton.*

H. J. BADCOCK, *Hon. Treasurer.*

WOODWARD FUND, 1917.

		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.			
To Transfer to General Account for Books	8	10	6	By Balance from 1916	...	176	18	11	
„ Balance	172	14	2	„ Interest for Year	...	4	5	9	
				<u>£181</u>		4			<u>£181</u>		4	8
							„ Balance of Fund to 1917	...	172	14	2	

CAPITAL ACCOUNT (LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES).

		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.			
To Transfer to Current Account	0	7	10	By Balance from 1916	...	103	18	10	
„ Balance, Invested in £100 5% War Bond	...	95	2	9	„ Bank Interest	...	...	...	0	2	0	
„ „ On Deposit at Bank	8	10	3			<u>£104</u>		0	10
				<u>103</u>		13			<u>103</u>		13	0
				<u>£104</u>		0	10					
							„ Balance to 1917	...	103	13	0	

BOOK FUND.

By Balance from 1916 (New Zealand 4% Inscribed Stock) ... £107 11 4

GENERAL STATEMENT.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.			
To Deposit at Parr's Bank (Woodward Fund)	...	172	14	2	By Balance, Woodward Fund	...	...	...	172	14	2		
„ „ „ „ (Capital)	...	...	...	8	10	3	„ Capital Account	...	...	103	13	0	
				<u>181</u>		4	5	„ Book Fund	107	11	4	
Less Overdraft as per General Account	...	70	7	1	110	17	4								
To £107 11s. 4d. New Zealand 4% Stock at cost	107	11	4									
„ 5% War Loan Bond (£100)	95	2	9									
Balance being deficiency on Special Funds, and being amount overdrawn on Receipts and Payments Account	<u>70</u>		7	1								
				<u>£383</u>		18	6						<u>£383</u>	18	6

Audited and found correct, January 7th, 1918.

A. C. MOLE & CO., Incorporated Accountants, Taunton.

Election of New Members and Officers.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Assistant-Secretary, read the names of 57 new members, who had been provisionally elected by the Council since the last annual meeting.

The Rev. Preb. D. M. ROSS proposed, and Mr. C. TITE seconded, that the election of the new members should be confirmed. The motion was carried.

Colonel E. ST. C. PEMBERTON proposed the re-election of the officers of the Society, including the four outgoing members of the Council, viz., Prebendary Hamlet, the Rev. C. H. Heale, the Rev. J. Byrchmore and Mr. A. E. Eastwood; also the election of the Dean of Wells as a Vice-President of the Society, Mr. Sebastian Evans and Dr. H. Downes as members of the Council (to fill two vacancies mentioned in the Annual Report), and Mr. T. G. Simmonds as local secretary for Congresbury.

The Rev. G. W. SAUNDERS seconded, and the motion was carried.

The report of the Somerset Record Society is printed on page xlii.

Presentation of the Hensleigh Walter Collection of Ham Hill Antiquities.

The Rev. Dr. S. J. M. PRICE proposed that the hearty thanks of the Society be accorded Dr. R. Hensleigh Walter for the gift which he made to them of his collection of antiquities from Ham Hill. It was not the first time that such a proposal had been made to such a meeting in connection with the name and family of Walter, for a similar vote of thanks was made many years ago to Dr. Walter's grandfather, Richard Walter, and more recently to his father, Dr. Walter Winter Walter, and he believed he was correct in saying that a similar vote of thanks was accorded his maternal uncle, Dr. Hugh Norris, of South Petherton. Now, after a lapse of a hundred years since the first Mr. Walter began to gather together relics from Ham Hill, partly to mark the centenary, partly in memory of his forbears, and partly to add to the distinction of Dr.

Haverfield's presence, Dr. Walter was making a most generous gift of his own collection of objects from Ham Hill. The Council of the Society had that morning elected Dr. Walter as an honorary life member of the Society, as they did in the case of Dr. W. W. Walter and Dr. H. Norris. The Council was sure that that was an act which would be approved and confirmed by the general meeting.

The PRESIDENT said there was no site in Somerset within range of Taunton so well worth excavation as Ham Hill. He would like to add his testimony to the great public service Dr. Walter had rendered to the Society and the county in presenting to them that extremely interesting and important collection of relics.

DR. R. HENSLEIGH WALTER, F.S.A., in returning thanks, said that if half the kind things that Dr. Price and Professor Haverfield had been good enough to say of him were applicable, he should consider himself "some" antiquary, as our good American allies would express it, but much as he appreciated such kind expressions he must allow the merit to rest with those of his kinsmen who had been collectors before him, and whose work he had endeavoured to carry on. Having been born under the shadow of Ham Hill, and nurtured in the atmosphere of its romance and history, he was, perhaps, unduly jealous of its antiquarian reputation. Though it had yielded much during the past century he believed that its storehouse of treasures was far from being depleted. Though he spoke with due reserve in the presence of so great an authority as Dr. Haverfield, he thought he might say there were few, if any, collections of Romano-British relics from a temporarily occupied hill-fort of more varied interest than the combined Walter and Norris collections from Ham Hill. It was somewhat surprising that this was so, as the purely Roman occupation of the hill was probably of very short duration, between A.D. 43—the date of the Claudian invasion—and A.D. 47, when Aulus Plautius, the commander-in-chief, returned to Rome to celebrate his triumph, having subjugated two powerful tribes, which are generally accepted to have been the Belgae and Dumnonii. After this victory Ham Hill would appear to have lost its former strategic importance

and the troops withdrawn. These were probably of the Second Augustan Legion, presumably under the command of the illustrious Vespasian himself. He had been fortunate enough in recent years to be able to add considerably to the previous collections by obtaining an even greater number of relics from the hill of a widely representative character, and further to locate the site of a Roman villa there, as well as the sites of several Romano-British dwellings of a more temporary structure. It was with great pleasure that he entrusted to the safe-keeping of the Society his collection of Ham Hill relics, now deposited in the County Museum, as a gift to his native county in memory of the founders and donors of the Walter and Norris collections. He took that opportunity of thanking their Curator, Mr. H. St. George Gray, for the painstaking care with which he had, with limited case-room, classified and arranged the collection.

The Presidential Address. (*See* postscript, p. xxxvii).

The PRESIDENT, Dr. F. J. Haverfield, F.S.A., F.B.A., then delivered his address, which was as follows:—

THE CHARACTER OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AS SEEN IN WEST SOMERSET.

May I begin with one or two personal or even egoistic remarks about myself and about you—that is, about our Society? First, I rejoice to find myself in Somerset. As a boy, 40–50 years ago, I had my home in this country, not, indeed, in Taunton, but far to the north-east at Bath. Thence I explored east Somerset, tramping afoot—cycles were little known in 1875—and deeming it a trifle to walk from Bath over Mendip to Wells, and—once, at least,—to walk back by moonlight.

At Bath, great Roman remains were then being dug up. Thus, about 1868, I got my first interest in things Roman. I got it, indeed, from a genial Somersetshire clergyman, who now perhaps is almost forgotten,—Prebendary Scarth. Born in the year before Waterloo, he was long rector of Bathwick

(1841–1871), and afterwards of Wrington, till his death in April, 1890, and for many years he did good work for Roman Somerset.

However, my connexion with Somerset seems to go back far behind Waterloo,—into dim medieval days. Genealogists tell me that in the reign of Edward I, 600 years ago, my forbears held land about South Petherton. This land has not come my way, and I have not sought out the truth of the tale, or cared to endow research into it.¹ But my personal history, and the fact (or fiction) of my ancestry alike connect me much with Somerset; it is doubly pleasant to me to become president of this Society.

I have a second and less selfish cause for pleasure. In the course of my work, for twenty or thirty years, I have had occasion to read nearly all the publications of the many local societies which deal with our national antiquities and to form an opinion on their merits, and I am clear that the Somersetshire volumes stand out among the best. I make no invidious comparison if I say that this Society is doing excellent work. It has not, indeed, concerned itself much with Roman Bath. Thanks mainly to the ‘moors’ of mid-Somerset, Bath and Taunton (barely 50 miles apart) belong to distinct archaeological worlds; those who live in the one can hardly keep touch with the other. Somersetshire has no proper geographical centre. The bishopric of Bath and Wells unites the whole region, but only at the cost of a double and a watery title, and even in a railway and motoring age, Wells is not geographically central to anything. Hills divide north and south Somerset; marshes sunder east and west. Some might desire two, or even four societies; into such problems I do not enter.

This, however, does not lessen the achievements of our Society, which I will try to sum up. (a) In respect of publications; the set of its *Proceedings*, now sixty-three volumes long, which fills six feet on my library shelves, is a serious contribution to learning: I count it as not the least valuable

1. Since this lecture was given, the Rev. F. W. Weaver has very kindly furnished me with clues to possible forbears of mine in the seventeenth century, at and near North Petherton; these I hope some day to follow up.

part of my four thousand books on Roman Britain. The latest volume (LXIII), issued amid grave difficulties due to war,—issued, too, by new editors, since ill-health lately forced Mr. Weaver to give up the editorship which he carried on with success and devotion for twenty-one years,—this volume shows archæological vigour even in evil days. It contains excellent papers. Let me instance two which chance to interest me. That on the “Black Death in Somerset in 1348,” by Preb. Bates Harbin, must strike every reader as combining serious labour, scholarly work and sound judgment. As its author observes, it has a special interest for us to-day. Four years ago, in August 1914, I ventured the forecast that this war might end through some plague, which would drive Europe into peace. I have no wish to prove a true prophet, but I feel that Mr. Bates Harbin has drawn a vivid sketch of what a great war or a great plague may do to a nation. Those who wish to learn in detail how certain famous plagues may have wounded the Roman Empire will be grateful for this article. I hope Preb. Harbin will write for the Society more such admirable articles.²

Another valuable paper is Mr. Gray’s catalogue of the Hull collection from Chard, lately added to our Museum. To this I shall recur later. Altogether, the Society may well be content with Vol. LXIII, and thank its editors. Thanks are due also to the printers, Messrs. Barnicott and Pearce, for the excellent dress in which they have issued it. One notes with pride that, since 1914, no local archæological society in Britain has failed to produce its usual volume. What has happened

2. I leave unaltered what I wrote (and said) at the end of July, 1918, but, alas, Preb. Harbin died rather suddenly at the age of 56, near the end of the following September; we can expect no more from his pen. An account of him appears elsewhere in this volume. I may repeat here what I wrote about him on September 24th, in *The Times* :—

“He was one of these local archæologists who, though little accounted of by most modern historians in our Universities, do really deserve the title of ‘scholar.’ He was a relative of other not unknown men of his name—among them the late Cadwallader Bates of Northumberland (died 20th March, 1902), a brilliant, if at times somewhat speculative historian, and an older man, the Northumbrian Thomas Bates, who was famous as a breeder of short-horns (1775–1849).”

in Germany, I naturally do not know. In 1916, a German publisher's circular stated that German reviews and periodicals had already been killed or suspended, to the number of 3000.³ Our French allies, I know, have kept up splendidly the production of learned literature, and this surely is right. If research is worth anything, if, to take my own subject, Roman History has real value, one ought not, save in utter necessity, to drop all intellectual work on it. As I hold, we and societies like ours do well to continue, within limits, our serious activity, issuing our publications and holding our (rare) meetings. During the two decades of the Napoleonic Wars, 100—120 years ago, research and the publication of its results went on in France and in England, not indeed unlesened, but with real vigour. Those twenty years gave England and France some of the most splendid and costly of the great local histories and studies of the two countries.⁴ The 'slump' came *after* the war, in 1816—1820.

I am aware that such learned works will not help to win the war, but that is true of much that is now printed and issued by common consent weekly and indeed oftener.

(b) In other fields, too, the work of our Society gives cause for much satisfaction. At Taunton Castle we have a first-rate Museum, kept in admirable order. The change, since I first remember it more than thirty years ago, is enormous, and each successive visit shews new and delightful features. I am not surprised that men in Somerset are tending more and more to deposit here their private antiquities; I am fully conscious that such deposits strain the Museum's narrow resources of space; those we *must* prepare to enlarge, but I

3. Sperling's '*Zeitschriften Adressbuch*,' cited in the *Publishers' Circular*, 6th January, 1917. I imagine that by no means all the 3000 were learned publications.

4. I refer to such works as those of John Carter on Architecture (2 folios, 1795—1816); Gough's enlargement of Camden (4 folios, 1789—1806); the eighteen volumes of Britton and Brayley's *Beauties of England and Wales* (1801 foll.); the four giant quartos of S. Lysons's *Reliquiae Romano-Britannicae* (1813—1817); the eight quartos of his *Magna Britannia* (1806—1822) and the like,—all *éditions de luxe*, sumptuously illustrated, which form valuable records, to which foreign and even English scholars in the early nineteenth century paid far too little heed.

hope the tendency to deposit will continue. For to students isolated collections, hid in private houses, are unmitigated nuisances. They are hard to hear of, hard to get admission to, and perhaps hardest of all to get to. They involve an intolerable deal of travelling and much letter-writing, and often when the student, after correspondence, has learnt that he may come, he arrives, as I have now and then done, to find that the owner has suddenly been called away, has forgotten all about his visitor and has left no one who knows where the things are kept which he had promised that I should see. Or,—the owner is at home, but he has mislaid his keys. I have had odd experiences. More than thirty years ago, some friends took me to see by arrangement a fine private collection of Roman antiquities—not in this part of England. We asked the owner if he would open his cases to let us examine objects not clearly seen through the glass. He expressed the keenest desire to let us look at all we wanted, but deplored that he had mislaid the keys. Then he went off, to have (as he said) another look for them. Whilst he was gone, it was discovered that *all* the cases were unlocked; when he returned to deplore again that the keys could not be found, he realised (to his obvious horror) that they were superfluous. Taunton Museum is open at all reasonable hours, and serious students have all reasonable facilities in it; nor do I think that Mr. Gray loses his keys when they come. Some day, I hope, the Society will make bold to put out an illustrated catalogue. Blocks to illustrate it already exist; parts of it have already been written piecemeal by our Curator, and it should be easy to prepare a stately tome which would have real value for all who could not get to Taunton. I need hardly add, that if, in respect of objects which I understand, I could help to the completion of such a work, I should be very glad. But I hope it may not be delayed till the Museum has been enlarged, and all its contents put on exhibition. Such a catalogue would be meant not for visitors—for whom a threepenny guide and selected labels would suffice—but for students who cannot come to see, but want to know what the Museum really contains.

In yet another point, the Society has been very beneficially

active. It has built up, bit by bit, a first-rate library of 20,000 volumes. What that means for isolated workers, far from the great public libraries of England, I need not explain. Few measures help better the study of our local antiquities than the provision of good local libraries. Books, after all, matter almost as much as objects. No good work can be done unless men know what their forerunners have achieved. The wise care bestowed at Exeter on the Fisher Library—soon, I hope, to be extended,—and the steps lately taken at Wells to deal with the books of Canon Scott Holmes (whose recent death we all regret) deserve high praise. I venture two small suggestions—first, that our library buy the better archæological books published abroad, *e.g.* in France, often priced beyond the limits of a private pocket; secondly, that it try to get into touch with some big lending library in London, and arrange to borrow books thence, which local readers might use in our rooms. Even costly works might be lent to a library like ours, while they might be refused to a private reader, with perhaps a family of healthy children, fond of the paint-brush and anxious to improve the illustrations.

I will add one more point, in which our Society has done well in the past, though since 1914 the war has necessarily put a veto on it. It has helped excavation; when peace returns, may it help it further. I will not touch on the thorny subject of Glastonbury, nor need I do more than refer to the volumes of our *Proceedings*, with accounts of excavations conducted by Mr. Gray. But I note that quite apart from Bath, many Roman sites in Somerset await and merit excavation. Most of these are far afield from Taunton, to the north and east, round Bath, or near Radstock, or in the Vale of Wrington, etc. But there are 'villas' well worth exploring near Bridgwater, near Langport, near Somerton, and also amid the Blackdown Hills. There is, too, the great settlement of Ham Hill, from which—thanks to Dr. Walter,—precious treasures have lately come to our Museum. Let us prepare to resume the spade, whenever the sword be sheathed and the income tax abates its fury.

(B).

I pass to my special subject, the character of Roman west-Somerset. The district may be briefly described as a salient of Roman civilisation, pushed out into south-western Britain. The point of the salient lay beyond Somerset, at Exeter. There, on the line of the Exe, Romano-British civilisation practically ended. Exeter was, in Roman days, a small Romano-British town. It had town-walls; it had houses with Roman mosaics—not many, indeed, but just enough to prove its character. It was the tribal capital of the canton of Dumnonii, which has left its name to Devonshire. Far as it lay to the westward, it had its share in civilisation. But it was an ‘ultima Thule.’ Beyond it was nothing Roman. Roman roads led to Exeter from the east; the highway which runs through Honiton and then past Fairmile and Streetway Head to Exeter seems to be of Roman origin. Another road which joins this just east of Exeter, coming from near Sidmouth by Newton Poppleford, may also be on Roman lines, while the straight road from Topsham to Exeter has much the look of a Roman way, built, perhaps, to connect Roman Exeter with sea-going ships. But west of Exeter, no sure trace of a Roman road has yet been found, though Roman milestones occur in Cornwall,⁵ and much has been wildly conjectured. The Roman, it seems, ruled as far as Land’s End, near to which he mined tin, but his civilisation did not stretch so far.

However, our concern is rather with west Somerset, and first with Taunton itself. Roman objects have been found up and down its area—numerous coins, burials and potsherds, but no houses, or streets, or structures of any sort. These finds suggest that Roman Taunton was not so much a town as a large village, or even two or three adjacent villages, divided up by the streams which still make Taunton rather a straggling town. The proper elements of town-life are wanting amid Taunton’s Roman remains. The clearest sign of communal or town-life is supplied by that humble structure,

5. One is in Tintagel Church; another at the south door of the Church of St. Hilary, near Marazion.

the drain. When men use common sewers, town-life is seldom far away. No Roman drain nor (as I have said) any Roman structure has yet been found in Taunton. I cannot accept the idea which the Ordnance surveyors got from the late Dr. Pring, or from some local enthusiast, that Bathpool Lane in the north-west of Taunton, and Ramshorn Bridge in the south-west, are Roman in origin. I regard Roman Taunton as a large, maybe a straggling place, doubtless the largest inhabited place at the time in West Somerset. Probably it was a market centre, to which Romano-British farmers sent eggs and butter, chickens and pigs (ham was much liked in Roman days), apples and, maybe, cyder.

In this connection I note that no important Roman road led to or through or even near Taunton. The great Fosseway which connected Bath with Exeter ran near Yeovil and Chard, but its line lies 15 or 20 miles to the south-east of Taunton; and while some stray finds suggest that a branch-road from it might have run to Taunton, perhaps along the line of one of the present branch G.W. railways, the evidence is very weak. Actually, the easiest natural route from east and mid-Somerset across the 'moors' to Taunton is the ridgeway along the top of the Polden Hills, from Street near Glastonbury to Bridgwater. Possibly the Romans used this, but direct proof is lacking. Nor is there real evidence for a conjectured track from Honiton across the Blackdown Hills to Taunton. On one of its maps, the Automobile Club labels the road from Honiton to Cullompton as 'Roman,' but one need not worry about that.

Turn now to the country round Taunton, and first to the upland on the south, the Blackdown Hills. Civilised life existed in Roman days in that high expanse. Two 'villas,' which were clearly better than mere farm-houses, existed here, one at Wadeford (Combe St. Nicholas), the other not far off, close by Mr. Elton's house at Whitestaunton, connected, it may be, with the spring called St. Agnes' Well. Some day, both sites will have to be fully dug up. No doubt other such remains await discovery among the grass-grown recesses of this upland. Indeed, any antiquary who wanders through these hills might well, even in war-time, look out for

Roman traces. They are known mostly to the shepherd and to the drainer, whose tools encounter them in draining fields; but they do not get mentioned till one actually asks, and they are seldom reported to the workers in the lowland. In the eighteenth century the country clergy noted such remains actively, and reported them to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and to similar periodicals. To-day, the growing labours of parochial work seem to have crowded out these secular interests. The Blackdown valleys, however, are likely places for Roman farms or country-houses. They open out to the south and west winds, while the long high ridge which looks down on Taunton and Wellington shelters them from north and east.

Roman villas, I may explain here, were not what we now call 'villas,'—elegant suburban houses, with bow-windows, lace curtains, and neat tiled paths to their front doors. The larger Roman 'villas' correspond to our modern country-houses. They were the comfortable and often luxurious dwellings of well-to-do landowners. The smaller, simpler 'villas' may rather be called farm-houses, less comfortable, but not uncivilised. Those who lived in the 'villas' could some of them speak and write latin, and that seems true of not only the masters, but also of the servants. For instance, two British villas have yielded potsherds marked 'fur' ('thief'). These marks I take to be warnings from the servants of one house to those of another; it is just what many of us long ago wrote in our school-books, to warn unscrupulous school-fellows. It follows that some Romano-British domestic servants could read and write, and understood at least certain Latin words. What influence such houses had on the neighbouring peasantry it is not easy to guess, but we may believe that they had influence, and we may say that the eastern Blackdown Hills contained at least two little centres of civilisation, occupied, it may be, mainly in winter (for hunting), but still not without effect on the neighbourhood.

North and west of Taunton rise other hills, Quantock, Exmoor⁶ and so forth. Here 'villas,' etc., are, I believe, wholly absent. But two or three features merit notice.

6. Exmoor Forest lies mostly within Somerset, and the Exmoor upland has more to do with Taunton than with North Devon, as indeed modern postal arrangements testify.

(a) Some hoards of late Roman coins⁷ suggest that in late Roman days Irish raiders landed in Minehead Bay, housed amid the moors, and pillaged inland, storing their booty in the recesses of the hills. They were, so to say, forerunners of the Scottish Doones of the seventeenth century; they have naturally left no more structural trace than the Doones in Badgworthy.⁸ However, the wildness of the coast, from Minehead to Morte, and the wildness of the moors behind that coast may have deterred Irishmen from very frequent or serious landings.

(b) Perhaps, too, miners dug for the iron ore (brown haematite)⁹ in the hills near Luxborough—ore that, if only it were present in greater quantities, would to-day be exceedingly valuable. But of actual Roman workings I have found no clear trace.

(c) Lastly, Exmoor has yielded two remarkable inscriptions of late Roman date, which, as they have never been fully described in our *Proceedings*, I will treat in an appendix, p. xxxviii; the more remarkable of these was detected about 1890 on open moorland on the top of Winsford Hill, 8 miles north of Dulverton. It bears the name of 'Caratacus,' that is, the name which we know better as Caractacus. The other, found

7. See my paper, *Archæological Journal*, 1903, lix, pp. 342 foll.; also H. St. G. Gray in *Trans. Devon Assoc.*, XLIV, 715-717.

8. I accept the view that the Doones are historical, and came from Scotland. See proof in the Rev. J. F. Chanter's paper, in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* for 1903 (vol. xxxv, 239-250). Whether the correct spelling is Badgeworthy, or Badgworthy (ordnance maps), or Bagworthy (Blackmore in "Lorna Doone"), I do not know. The local pronunciation (as Blackmore noted) is "Badgery."

9. The Brendon Hill mines have important veins of spathic iron ore. Near Simonsbath, one of these is or was known as the 'Roman Lode.' But the production of ore—especially lately—has been small and unimportant; recent attempts to re-open the mines (10 or 12 years ago) are said to have been unsuccessful; see the Home Office "Returns of Production of Ore in the United Kingdom," and the "Report on the Sources and Production of Ores used in the iron and steel industry" (issued by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 1918, p. 25, etc.). See also W. W. Smyth, *Quarterly Journal of Geological Society*, xv (1858), pp. 105 foll. Further west, across the Devonshire border, Combe Martin boasts of a silver mine, and Mr. Blackmore—probably using local tradition—records gold-mining in the seventeenth century, near Black Barrow Down.

about 1910, between Lynton and Parracombe, is the tombstone of one 'Cavudus' (Plate I). Both stones seem to belong to the class which antiquaries agree to call Christian, and assign to the British post-Roman period. One may think that Christians in that troubled age fled to eastern Exmoor for refuge from the invading Saxon. 'One may think too that, as the English pressed them hard, the thoughts of the Britons may have gone back to a British hero who had fought bravely for their freedom against the Roman invaders of the first century. Certainly the occurrence of the two stones, the one in the extreme west of Somerset, the other just a few miles across the Devon border, is very notable.

East of Taunton, in the Parret levels, other interesting features meet us. On the western edge of these levels, near Bridgwater, and on the eastern edge near Langport, a few Roman 'villas' existed; none of them has been properly explored as yet, but it is clear that some form of civilised Romano-British life flourished on the edge of the marshes east of Taunton. Again, field-names in the parish of Chedzoy and Drayton furnish two of the seven or eight known 'chesters' of Somerset (*see note, at the end of this paper*). Moreover, pottery-mounds in the 'moors,' under the west end of the Polden ridge, point to brick-making and possibly to peat-digging, but these undrained moors, rife as they must have been with ague, can have offered little attraction to any but the very poorest class of settlers.

Throughout, no Roman soldiers occur. If Irish landed on the north coast, and pillaged, the government left them there. Brigands, indeed, abounded in the Roman Empire, as dacoits in parts of modern India. They were accepted as necessary evils, as we accept tax-collectors and rate-collectors, or as western England in the seventeenth century for a few years tolerated the Doones. If brigands ever became intolerable in Roman days in our hills, stealing cattle, kidnapping women and children to sell as slaves, and the like, the remedy was to send to the legionary fortress at Caerleon-on-Usk (Newport in Monmouthshire) and fetch a force of soldiers to clear them out. Indeed, with this resource at hand, there was no need for a permanent garrison in our region, nor is there anywhere

in Somerset any sign of one. The military remains on Ham Hill seem to belong mainly to the beginning of the Roman occupation. Some, indeed, may argue from the two 'chesters' at Chedzoy and Drayton, that Roman troops were posted there. But 'chester,' though derived from the latin 'castra,' and though generally (but not always) used of Roman sites, does not necessarily imply a military post. There are many 'chesters' in England, at spots which show no sign of Roman troops; in southern Scotland, there are many 'chesters' which have nothing to do with the Romans. (*See* p. xxxix, foll.).

The truth is, that the Roman Imperial army lay almost wholly on the frontiers. In Britain, it lay in the north, close to the two great frontier-walls, the Wall of Hadrian between Newcastle and Carlisle, and the Wall of Pius between Edinburgh and Glasgow. The south was free from troops. Guide-books often point out that the streets of this or that Romano-British site once echoed to the tramp of the mailed legionary. I doubt if, after the first conquest, Roman soldiers were ever posted in Somerset. Victims of gout and arthritis no doubt sought the Bath waters. But whether they took their armour with them, and stalked about in it, may be doubted.

The Empire, indeed, behind its frontiers, was on the whole a land of peace. The Stoic religion, which ruled many minds in the Empire, described the condition of the truly wise man, as one of outward war and inward peace. That well describes the Empire itself. West Somerset, I imagine, save for chance brigands and the like, was a peaceful land, but on the northern frontier of Britain, and on the continental frontiers in Europe, and in Asia, things were different. There the Empire had to face the so-called Invasions of the Barbarians, vast migrations of warlike peoples, set in motion by strange stirrings far away in Central Asia, where water-springs were drying up and rainfall was failing, and wild tribes, Huns and others, were moving westward to seek new homes. The storm broke on the European frontiers of the Empire, about 150 A.D., and the struggle lasted till about A.D. 450, when the western Empire sank. That is the longest war known to history. During it, ten generations of men were born, grew up, and died, and in many lands these ten generations saw

not a day of peace. A Scottish novelist, Dr. George Macdonald, in his romance 'Phantastes,' speaks of the condition of life in the outermost planet of the solar system (chapter xii). That, as he perhaps fancifully observes, has the longest orbit of any planet in the solar system; it takes so many months to circle once round the sun that its seasons far outlast those of our earth; so protracted are they that an ordinary man, born in that 'lonely and distant star,' would not live a whole year round. If born in spring, he would be dead before autumn, after a life of unbroken summer. If born in autumn, his fate would be unmixed winter. This may be bad astronomy, but it is good human history. In the last two great Wars of Europe, the Napoleonic and the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), men were born and grew up to man's estate, who never enjoyed any time of peace. So it was with the Roman Empire. For 300 years,

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"kings that rose up out of the populous east"

battered harder and harder at its gates, with inexhaustible man-power, and in the end it was this long war that broke the Empire down. It was not decay of morals or depopulation. Much less was it capitalism or over-export of gold or an adverse balance of eastern trade, that laid the Empire low. It was rather attrition. The barbarians were formidable fighters. Their man-power was inexhaustible. Without railways and explosives, perhaps no generalship could have wholly kept them back. Still, Rome held fast through 300 years. A long series of Emperors—some seventy or seventy-five in all—came one after another to the throne; most of them went out to defend the frontiers, and many died in the field. They were not heroes, these rulers; hardly one was a really first-class general or a statesman of elevated ideals or true power; rather, they were violent men, treacherous, greedy of gold and of power; yet none of them shrank from their task, nor did the populations of the Empire fail to support them or make common cause with the enemy. Through battles without and seditions within, through the red carnage of uncounted wars, through the devastation of great plagues, the defence went on. It was not, indeed, marked by special

genius or intelligence ; as I have said, these rulers of Rome were mostly not very able men. Real military skill was rare among them ; and even in the art of war, the Roman War Office lagged behind. It clung to an obsolete infantry, neglected new tactics, and cared little for new engines ; war was not for it a fertile mother of invention. The Roman successes were the victories of character, not of genius ; but their obstinate courage kept out the barbarian through the long years, and behind the guarded frontiers Roman civilisation took strong root and spread. The result is seen in Europe to-day. That we are allies of the Italians and the French, and even, by a strange chance, of a Hohenzollern prince in Roumania, is due in part to the persistent courage of the Roman Empire.

It will be plain that the Three Hundred Years' War can have only slightly affected Roman West Somerset. This region, close to the end of the then known world, with its coast sheltered by the storms and the unexplored width of Ocean, far from political strife and civil war, from ambition and the excitements of great cities, must have enjoyed peaceful days. News can have reached it seldom. Armies may have been destroyed, emperors have risen and fallen, before any rumour came to this world's end. We live quite another life. The morning and evening news-sheet, the telegrams at the club, record battles almost before they are fought, sometimes even battles that never get fought at all. We should have found it dreadfully dull in Roman Taunton, and the Taunton men of Roman days would have fled with horror from our more wild and savage life.

To one of the Roman struggles, however, the mind necessarily reverts to-day (July 23rd, 1918), to the hour when, on the dreary plains of Chalons, a mixed host of Gauls and others faced and foiled the most terrible of the barbarians (A.D. 451). Attila the Hun, the Scourge of God, the man who boasted that grass never grew where his horse had trodden, reached here his furthest westward point, and was thrown back into Central Europe. In that memorable fight, it was settled that Roman civilisation should survive and flourish in Western Europe, full as far east as the Rhine. Roman troops fought in the

army which threw Attila back, and Rome here performed her allotted part in guarding the future of Europe. Had the Huns beaten down the humane and civilised life which the Roman Empire had succeeded in planting, the earlier achievements of human civilisation would have wholly perished. We can scarcely doubt that such a fate would have followed the victory of Attila, for the Roman Empire then stood alone in a wild world. Outside and around it roared the chaos of barbarism. We to-day can say that, if war wrecked civilisation in Europe, it has other homes across the sea, where it might still flourish. In the fifth century, there was no such refuge for civilisation. Its one chance of survival was in the Roman Empire. To protect the tradition of an ancient culture is at certain times a necessary task, though not so striking to the imagination of the journalist as to be pioneer in fresh conquests. If war can ever be justified by its results, or force ever aid the true progress of mankind, the long resistance of the Roman Empire justified itself. By 300 years of stubborn fighting, Rome preserved for our use the religious fruits of Jewish history, the art, literature, and philosophy of the Hellenes, the social organisations of the Italians; that we are not all Huns to-day, we owe to Rome. If it is necessary to draw lessons in history, the motto of the Empire might be found in a verse of the New Testament, which itself deals with a tribulation, greater (perhaps) than even that of to-day, "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (St. Matt. xxiv, 13).

It is true that in the end the Empire fell, but not until it had planted its civilisation so firmly in Western Europe that when the Huns finally broke in, the barbarian races came rather to admire than to destroy.

POSTSCRIPT.—The preceding article was written and read last July; since then the world has changed so much that many sentences may seem out of date. I cannot, however, recast the whole article, nor can I feel sure, as I correct the proofs in November, that further changes might not make any revision equally inappropriate. I therefore leave the article practically as delivered in July, and hope that my readers may adjust the facts for themselves.

NOTE I.

ROMAN CHRISTIAN INSCRIPTIONS ON EXMOOR.

I have alluded above to two remarkable inscriptions of late Roman, or rather post-Roman date, which have been found on Exmoor, one in Somerset, the other a few miles over the Devonshire border. As neither of these seems to have been much noticed in Somersetshire, and as something can be added to an account of the latter in our *Proceedings* (xxxvi, ii, 82-87, with a poor illustration), and as I have myself seen both stones, I venture to add a short note on them.

(a). One was detected, five or six years ago, by the Rev. J. F. Chanter, F.S.A., on the high land between Lynton and Parracombe. It is a rude block of local sandstone, 6 feet long by 2 feet broad, with two lines of rude lettering running lengthways, and broken at the end of the second line. (Plate I). The letters are :

CAVVD-FLIVS
C-V-L-*

Here *I* is four times written horizontally, as not seldom on such stones. In the word *filius* in the first line, as my plate shews, the first *I* is omitted ; the second is tacked on to the end of the L. The lettering may be read, then,—

Cavudi f[i]lius Civilis, 'here lies Cavudus, son of Civilis.' (*Devonshire Association*, XLV, 1913, p. 270 ; see my *Roman Britain* in 1913, p. 41).

This is an ordinary tombstone of a British post-Roman period. The name 'Cavudus' is a Celtic name, connected with a south Welsh Cewydd. There is or was, as Sir John Rhys pointed out to me, an extinct church in Glamorgan called Llangewydd. Though the stone bears no specific sign of religion, we may put it down as Christian, that is, as put up by and to a Christian.

(b). The other stone was detected about 1890, on Winsford Hill, some eight miles north of Dulverton, standing on the open moorland, nearly 1200 feet above the sea, near a farmhouse called Folly.¹ It is a rude block of hard slaty stone, about 3½ feet long, exclusive of the part which is now below the surface, and about 15 inches broad. The lettering which is fairly legible in a good light (best about midday) is arranged as follows, in two lines lengthwise. The first letter in the second line is a broken N. :

CARĀACI
•I EPVS

That is, *Carataci nepus*. In the first line, the second A, with a bar (A) across the top, denotes AT or TA. Rhys was doubtless

1. It is near the 'Spire Cross' (see Ordnance Survey, 6in., Som. LVII, n.w.).



ROMANO-BRITISH INSCRIBED STONE BETWEEN
PARRACOMBE AND LYNTON.



right in taking *nepus* to stand for the latin *nepos*, and to mean, as that word does, on other Romano-British inscriptions, 'the kin of,' or 'the descendants of'; this is a Celtic method of expressing kinship. The inscription then means that a man or men descended from one Caratacus were commemorated here on Winsford Hill. Caratacus is, of course, the correct spelling of the name of the British hero, vulgarly known as Caractacus, who fought against the invading Romans in the first century A.D. Perhaps when, in the fourth or fifth century, the Saxon invaders were pressing on the British, British memories went back to their ancient hero, and maybe his name returned into commoner use. It will agree with the general character of these stones, if we think that this, like the stone of Cavudus, is Christian. Apparently the Christians of that troubled age fled into eastern Exmoor for refuge from the barbarian English, and for a while Christianity maintained itself in these hills, just as it did in the hills of Wales and of the North.

We need not be surprised at the survival of the name, for it has survived into modern England. Everyone to-day who bears the name, commoner perhaps in the North of England than in Somerset or the Midlands, of Cradock (Caradoc or Craddock) may be considered to recall the Welsh national hero of early Roman days.²

NOTE 2.

THE PLACE-NAME 'CHESTER' IN SOMERSETSHIRE.

It may be convenient to collect here the cases known to me of 'chester' and similar forms in Somerset. I can cite eight instances:—

(1). Ilchester, the site of a Romano-British village, at the point where the Fosse-way from Bath to Exeter threw out a branch to Dorchester. The modern name means 'the chester on the river Ivel,' and this form (Ivelchester, etc.) occurs in medieval documents; thus Florence of Worcester (c. 1100 A.D.) has Givelcaster. The Roman name of the spot is unknown. The place has been identified with the *Ischalis* of Ptolemy; that, however, is perhaps a muddled form of 'Isca Sil(urum)', the well attested name of the fortress of the Second Legion at Caerleon, near Newport-on-Usk, in Monmouthshire.

(2). Stanchester in the parish of Curry Rivel, site of a Romano-

2. There was a South Welsh prince, Caradog, who fought against the English, and fell in 1035; another Caradog, belonging to Glamorgan, was a friend of Geoffrey of Monmouth, about 1145. Possibly we may trace Welsh influence on Exmoor; as Cavudus seems connected with men of the same name in Glamorgan, so the Caratacus of the Winsford Hill stone may owe his name specially to its having remained in use across the Channel, almost within sight of Winsford Hill. (As to the inscription see further *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, ix, 982, and *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1891, p. 29).

British farm or country-house, close to the boundary of Drayton and Curry Rivel parishes, and about 700 yards east of Curry Rivel church.

(3). Stanchester in the parish of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, at the bottom of Hamdon Hill. No Roman remains seem to have been found on the precise spot.

(4). Newchester, near Merriott, north of Crewkerne (no Roman remains have been noted here).

(5). Stilchester, in Barwick parish, a little south of Yeovil (ditto).

(6). Chestercroft, mentioned in the boundaries of North Pether-ton Forest, A.D. 1298 (Collinson, III, 60) : no Roman remains known here.

(7). Chesters, in Chedzoy parish. The Chedzoy Award of 1798, now in the Registrar's Muniment Room, at Oxford, notes, on p. 30, 'a tenement situated in the parish of Chedzoy, called Chesters.' It gives no clue to the exact spot, but the rector of Chedzoy told me four years ago that an orchard on the Manor Farm there bears this name, and has borne it as long as anyone can remember. Manor Farm lies west of Chedzoy village ; and at Slapeland, on the same side of the parish, Stradling (*Chilton Polden Museum*, publ. Bridgwater, 1839, pp. ii, 15) says that he found a nearly perfect hypocaust, and other remains. If these were Roman, as seems credible, and not something medieval (medieval masonry, etc., have been found near), we might believe that a Roman farm-house once stood in the west of Chedzoy parish.

(8). Chesterblade, in Evercreech parish. Here, some years ago, foundations, Roman potsherds and coins were found ; close by is the 'camp' of Smalldown, which Mr. Gray excavated in 1904, and which has yielded remains of pre-Roman date (see Mr. Gray's paper in our *Proceedings*, 1904, vol. L, pt. ii, pp. 32-49). It is not certain that the first half of the name Chesterblade is really connected with 'chester,' though the form 'Cestrebald' occurs in a Somerset plea of A.D. 1225. Mr. W. H. Stevenson, our best living authority on early English place-names, tells me that it may be derived from the early English *caestel*, and not actually from *caester*. The meaning and origin of the second part 'blade' he declares to be uncertain.⁸

3. Another case of 'chester' in Somerset is provided by a spot named Porchester's Post, on Worth Hill, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west of Withypool village ; but this name, I suspect, is modern, and is an importation from the Porchester in Hampshire. Anyhow, no Roman remains have been recorded as found near it, though Mr. Gray has described a stone circle about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north-east of the spot (see *Proceedings*, LII, 1906, pt. ii, 42-50). That circle, of course, has nothing to do with things Roman, or with any name 'chester' : indeed, it is not really very near the name.

It would seem, then, that while the name Chester (or kindred form) is not uncommon in Somerset as compared with other counties, the sites on which it occurs are not by any means all or predominantly connected with occupation during the Roman period. Still less have they to do with any Roman military occupation. This, I believe to be true of most counties in England. Of course, many sites of Roman towns, like Dorchester and Winchester, contain this element in their medieval and modern names. It is the fame of these places which has led to the general idea that 'chester' necessarily denotes a Roman site.

Nor is the element 'chester' very common in adjoining counties like Devonshire and Dorset. With the exception of the name of Exeter, I know only two or three Devonshire examples. (a) According to the Woollcombe MS., a volume now in the Devon and Exeter Institution which is based on observations made about 1830-1840, there is or was, in the parish of East Worlington, five or six miles east of Chulmleigh, towards Tiverton, "a close called Witchester"; in the same parish Roman coins are said to have been found. (b) Further, according to the same authority, five miles north-west of Okehampton, near Bradbury or Broadbury, is or was a Scobchester, and near it a Chester moor and a Wickchester. Enthusiasts have thought that a Roman road from Exeter to Stratton in North Cornwall ran hereabouts, but the existence of this road is exceedingly doubtful. No Roman remains are quoted by Woollcombe from the vicinity.

In Dorset examples of 'chester' are no commoner, so far as I have been able to observe. The county-town Dorchester does not seem at any period to have set a pattern for the nomenclature of its neighbourhood, and the only other cases known to me are (a) Horchester, a tiny hamlet near Evershot railway station, between Yeovil and Dorchester. (b) Hogchester, a farmhouse on high ground a little inland from Charmouth. Hogchester sounds as though it were a polite antiquarian form of 'pigstye.' Actually no old form of it seems to be known, and it is not quite clear (Mr. Stevenson tells me) whether the second half of the name really contains 'chester' or not. No Roman remains seem ever to have been noted on the spot, nor, when I once visited it, could I detect any bits of Roman tile or Roman potsherds lying on the surface anywhere. (c) Bedchester, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west of Shaftesbury, near Fontmell Magna, on the south-western edge of Cranborne Chase; I am unaware whether any Roman remains have been recorded from these sites, but I cannot agree with the late Mr. J. T. Irvine (*Archæological Journal*, xxii, 356) who refers to the names Horchester and Buchester (so he or his printer spells it) as indicating two Roman towns in Dorset. Chester, even where it belongs to a Roman site, does not prove that that site was a Romano-British town of any sort.

I set these details out, in the hope that a local worker may be able to verify and supplement them. That can only be done locally.

Sir C. HERCULES READ, LL.D., ex-President of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and Keeper of the British and Mediæval Antiquities in the British Museum, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the President, and made some interesting remarks on the dating of archæological antiquities which he regarded as being the very marrow of history.

Mr. A. E. EASTWOOD seconded, and the vote of thanks was heartily carried.

The meeting then closed.

Somerset Record Society.

In the summer of 1918, the Society issued the Register of John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1425-1443, in two volumes, edited by the late Rev. T. Scott Holmes, Chancellor and Canon of Wells. Its next publication will be a volume of documents illustrating the history of the Honour of Dunster, selected by Sir H. C. Maxwell Lyte, K.C.B. Although the material is practically ready, the enormous recent rise in the cost of printing has delayed progress.

To meet growing expenditure, an increase in the number of subscribing members is much to be desired.

The Society has suffered a grievous loss by the death of the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, Prebendary of Wells, who had been its Honorary Secretary and Treasurer for twenty years. It has also to deplore the death of another of its most active members, the Rev. T. Scott Holmes, mentioned above.

The Dean of Wells has since joined the Council.

Somerset Earthworks Committee.

DOLEBURY CAMP.

ON July 26th and 27th, 1918, Mr. H. St. George Gray and Captain J. M. Pollock (of Churchill) did a little excavation work at Dolebury Camp in the parish of Churchill. (The camp is fully described in "Earthwork of England," by A. Hadrian Allcroft, pp. 682-697).

Their attention was drawn to a stone-built hole of oblong form, about one third of the distance through the camp from the western entrance, and 40 paces from the interior foot of the inner vallum on the north. The hole measured 3ft. 6ins. from E. to W. by 2ft. 8ins. from N. to S. The limestone steening of the sides was vertical and reached to a depth of 3ft. 2ins. from the surface. The average size of the stones was 10ins. by 6ins. They rested on a natural sandy clay of yellow colour, which we excavated to a depth of 2ft. 6ins. below the steening. The stones were laid in fairly even courses, especially in the upper part; but no traces of mortar were observed. The upper 18ins. of the hole was open, and the filling of the lower part did not appear to have been disturbed. The filling consisted of a reddish-brown mould, mixed with blocks of limestone which had fallen in from the walls, especially on the N. and W. sides. The S. and E. walls were intact. The purpose of the hole is unknown, and there is no reason why it should not be regarded as comparatively modern. No relics were found in the filling.

On the N. side of the camp there are various patches of vertical walling on the outer face of the inner vallum, similar to the walling which may be seen at Worlebury Camp. We made some observations at a point about half-way between the east and west ends of the camp where about a length of 6 feet of this walling is exposed. In this section is one large block of limestone, measuring 32ins. by 21ins., which appears to rest in its original position on the surface line of the ground as it was before the vallum was thrown up. We cleared a considerable quantity of loose stones at the top of the filling of the fosse in this position, and some of the finer silting under these to a total depth of 4ft. 8ins. below the bottom of the large block of stone. Time did not permit of our re-excavating the fosse to the bottom, and a much larger excavation would be necessary for the purpose of ascertaining the exact method of castrametation.

Glastonbury Abbey Excavations.STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, *Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, 1918.*

GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION FUND.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
By Balance of Former Account	45	1	10	To Labour Account, for Weeding.. ..	0	19	0
„ Interest on Deposit Account, 1917	0	19	11	„ Postages	0	2	0
„ Donation (A.G. Witherby) 1	1	0		„ Balance in hand (Sept. 30, 1918) ..	46	1	9
	<u>£47</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>£47</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Hon. Treasurer.*