

## The President's Address.

THE PRESIDENT then rose amidst cheers to deliver his presidential address. The Society having now completed fifty years of its existence, he thought it would be interesting to look back upon what had been done in the past as well as to look forward to what they were going to do in the future. Perhaps they could not now boast of such men as Dr. Buckland ; Bishop Clifford ; their great electrician, Andrew Crosse ; of the learned dissertations that were printed in their volumes by Mr. Hugo. But they had in the Society many excellent men, some of whom, he was sorry to say, could not be there. Amongst these were Mr. Ayshford Sanford, whom we welcomed last year at Quantock Lodge, and who brought to earlier meetings of the Society Professor Boyd Dawkins, to whose learning we owe a great deal ; and the accomplished author of the "Origins of English History," Mr. Elton, who had told him (the President) he would have been present if it were possible. Then there was Mr. Luttrell, to whom they owed

the restoration of Cleve Abbey, perhaps one of the most important things that had been done in connection with the Society. He had also restored the beautiful old castle and the two parish churches, which had now been thrown more or less into one. The PRESIDENT then referred to the gentlemen who had at various times acted as secretaries to the Association, and afterwards dwelt upon the necessity for a classification of the documents to be found in the Taunton Shire Hall. They had, he said, in the Shire Hall all the documents belonging to the county of Somerset for hundreds of years, and he was sure that their accomplished Clerk of Quarter Sessions and the Lord-Lieutenant of the county would assist anyone in having these documents scheduled and catalogued. He thanked them for listening to him, and, although he felt he was not archæologist enough to occupy the presidency, yet "Can a man do more than he can do?" was his motto, and so long as he could do anything to promote the welfare of the Society he would be at their service.

Bishop BROWNLOW, in proposing a vote of thanks to the President for his address, mentioned that Dr. Jessop had written a recent article in the *Nineteenth Century*, which was founded on one of the volumes of the Somerset Record Society. He thought that by similar articles much practical good might be done, as there were very few parishes in England that could go back as far as parishes in Somerset.

Preb. COLEMAN seconded, and the vote of thanks was heartily accorded.

The PRESIDENT having suitably responded, the members attended a luncheon in the Castle Hall, hospitably given by the Mayor of Taunton.