

Fourteenth Annual Meeting.

THE Fourteenth Annual General Meeting was held at Wellington on the 20th August, 1862, EDWARD AYSHFORD SANFORD, Esq., President, in the chair.

The PRESIDENT, in opening the proceedings, assured the members he was speaking the sentiments of all the residents in this neighbourhood when he said they were very much indebted to the members of the Archæological Society for coming there to hold their Annual Meeting. He considered it a matter for congratulation, as it afforded an opportunity to individuals for seeking information relative to the history and antiquities of the town and neighbourhood, while it gave the members of this Society an opportunity to communicate the information they may have acquired. He was proud to say that he was surrounded at that moment by a considerable number of gentlemen who had made antiquity their study—not only the antiquity of architecture, but even antiquity as to the formation of the globe. The temporary museum contained many curiosities and fossil remains worthy of observation, and which, doubtless, would afford matter for discussion; but he was rather afraid that his antiquarian friends would hardly find a sufficient number of antiquities to repay them for coming, but such as there were he had no doubt would be shown to them most readily. Laying aside his official position as their President and taking up his natural character of a resident in the neighbourhood he had much pleasure in giving them a hearty welcome to Wellington.

The Secretary, the Rev. F. WARRE, then read the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

“MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—Your Committee have, on the occasion of our Fourteenth Annual Meeting, nearly the same causes for congratulation and regret as they had when they presented their last Report. Now, as then, they may safely say that the Society has not made a single retrograde step during the year, except in their having delayed the publication of the volume of *Proceedings* for 1861 until the time for bringing out that relating to 1862, a step rendered imperative by the unfavourable state of the finances of the Society, which has been in a great measure caused by the irregularity of members in paying their subscriptions. This delay, however, the Committee believe, will not eventually be in any degree detrimental to the interests, either of the Society generally, or of the members individually. The loss of the expected number has been made up to the newly-elected members by the presentation to them of the volume for last year, to which, ordinarily, they would not have been entitled, and the Committee hope by this arrangement to issue, early next year, a larger and more costly volume than they would otherwise have been justified in undertaking.

“The interest taken by the public in the welfare of the Society has been evinced by the presentation and deposit of articles of value and rarity in the museum, while the number of subscribing members has been fairly kept up, the list now containing 408 names, shewing a diminution of three from last year, by death, removal, &c. The Committee venture to hope that a considerable addition may be made to the list of members at this meeting and

during the ensuing year; and they would urge on the members of the Society the importance of exerting themselves in this way to promote its welfare and increase its efficiency.

“The limited income at the disposal of the Committee has prevented them from making any outlay during the year in any special archaeological investigation with the exception of the excavations made on the site of a Roman Villa at High Ham, near Langport. In this case the Committee had much pleasure in co-operating with members of the Society in the neighbourhood, whose zeal and energy in the undertaking they would also commend to the imitation of their friends in other districts. A ground plan of this villa (as far as it could be made out) and an accurate drawing of the tessellated pavement were executed under the direction of your Secretaries; and by the kindness of W. W. Munckton, Esq., a very valuable and interesting collection of the Roman Remains and other relics from High Ham and Curry Rivel have been deposited in the museum.

“During the construction of the Watchet Railway a large collection of Romano-British pottery was made by the Rev. W. A. Jones, one of your Secretaries, near Norton Fitzwarren, and presented to the museum. The circumstances under which they were discovered would imply the strong probability of the existence of a large manufactory of earthenware on that spot, and the similarity in texture and pattern as compared with pottery found in other places would lead us to suppose that a great portion of the common ware used by the Romano-Britons of this county was supplied from Norton. The fact that this extensive series of specimens, so valuable for illustration, would in all probability have been buried under the

railway if the collection of them had been delayed only twenty-four hours, affords a sufficient ground to your Committee for urging members of the Society to make prompt and careful observations wherever works of this character are being executed.

"The office of Curator, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Clarke, has been filled up by the appointment of Mr. Wm. Bidgood, whom the Committee recommend for election as well qualified to perform the duties required of him by the Society.

"On the whole, your Committee feel that they may fairly congratulate the Society on its present state and on its prospects of future success and usefulness."

R. G. BADCOCK, Esq., read the following Financial Statement :

**The Treasurer, R. G. Badcock, Esq., in Account with
the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.**

1862.			1861-2.		
	Dr.	£ s. d.		Cr.	£ s. d.
To Balance of former Account		6 2 9	By Expenses at Annual Meeting at Langport	..	1 14 6
.. Subscriptions	197 1 0	.. Advertising .. ..	..	4 10 9
.. Entrance fees	8 0 0	.. Coal, Gas, Candles, &c.	..	10 0 2
.. Sale of Volumes	1 0 0	.. Stationery, Printing, &c.	..	20 17 10
			.. Postage and Carriage ..	..	8 13 8
			.. Repairs, &c. .. ..	..	2 0 10
			.. Curator's Salary .. ..	..	31 5 0
			.. Mr. F. May, Balance of Account for Printing Vol. X. .. ..	..	36 5 6
			.. Illustrations, Vol. X. ..	..	32 9 3
			.. Petty Disbursements ..	..	1 4 8
			.. Rent .. ..	..	25 0 0
			.. Insurance .. ..	..	1 2 0
			.. Mr. H. Davis, Book-case for Pigott Drawings	..	13 10 0
			.. Mr. Tucker for Drawing Teesclatd Pavement at High Ham .. ..	..	3 0 0
			.. Balance .. ..	..	19 10 1
		£212 3 9			£212 3 9

Aug. 18, 1862. Examined and found correct, Balance £19 10s. 1d.

W. E. GILLET.

Both of these were unanimously received and adopted.

The Officers of the Society were then severally re-elected.

The following gentlemen were elected on the Committee:—J. H. Pring, M.D., Rev. W. R. Clark, W. G. Rawlinson, W. P. Pinchard, W. E. Gillett, M.D., W. M. Kelly, M.D., J. R. Allen, W. W. Coker, J. F. Norman, H. Alford, Rev. W. T. Redfern.

On the motion of W. A. SANFORD, Esq., seconded by F. H. DICKINSON, Esq., it was resolved that the next Annual Meeting be held at Wells.

The following resolution was also carried:—"That this Society pledges itself to further the objects and promote the interests of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in connection with the proposed meeting of that society at Bath, and that they concur in the memorial of the Mayor of Bath to the Council of the Association that they should hold their meeting in Bath in 1863, or as soon as may be after."