

Edmund Chisholm-Batten.

SINCE our last issue the Society has sustained a great loss by the death of one who took, for many years, a lively interest in its welfare, and was almost to the last a constant attendant at meetings of the Committee. Mr. Edmund Chisholm-Batten, who was a J.P. for the county of Somerset, was born in 1817, and for many years resided on his manor of Thornfalcon, near Taunton. He was educated at Sherborne School, where he succeeded Mr. T. E. Rogers (Chancellor of the Diocese of Bath and Wells) as head boy.

In 1834 he proceeded to the University of Edinburgh, and the *Life and Letters of Principal J. D. Forbes* (a book which his godson, Major J. Forbes Chisholm-Batten, has presented to our Library) tells how the young English student was the favourite pupil and the life-long friend of the young Scotch Professor. Subsequently he was called to the Bar. The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1843 records :—"On August 1st, at Windlesham, Edmund Batten, barrister-at-law, to Jemima, only sister of The Chisholm." On The Chisholm's death in 1858, this lady became her representative, the heiress-at-law, of the three last chiefs, her father and her two brothers. Edmund Batten then assumed the prefix of Chisholm, by Royal licence, and from that time his annual visit to Scotland, kept up till 1896, was usually extended to the Highlands. But he never lost touch with his native county. Literary tastes seemed to have been inherited with the manor of Thornfalcon, for his ancestor, Robert Batten, whose estate at Pitminster was sold to buy that manor, is credited with having written, over the initials

R. B., in the *Spectator*, to his friend, Sir Richard Steele. Mr. Chisholm-Batten wrote on various subjects (we give a list of his works at the end of this notice), and was interested in many associations, and was strenuous in all. Besides our own Society, he was a member of the Northern Meeting, the Highland Society of London, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Somersetshire Society, the Tithe Redemption Trust, and the Somersetshire Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, whilst the biographer of Bishop Fox was gratefully nominated by Corpus Christi College, Oxford, as their representative on the governing body of Bishop Fox's School at Taunton. He was one of the earliest members of the British Association, and had been for more than fifty years a member of The Athenæum.

Mr. Chisholm-Batten died at Thornafalcon on Saturday the 13th of February, 1897, and was buried there (under the shadow of the church which he had repaired from floor to roof) beside his wife, who died in 1883 in the forty-first year of their marriage.

The following is a list of his contributions to the *Proceedings* of the Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Society.

On the Cause of the Heat of the Bath Waters	...	xxii, ii, 52
Gaulden Farm	xxiii, ii, 70
Henry VII in Somersetshire	xxv, ii, 49
The Holy Thorn of Glastonbury	xxvi, ii, 117
Letter Missive of King Henry VII to John Calycote of Shepton Mallet	xxx, ii, 159
The Admiralty Court of Minehead	xxxv, ii, 46
The Forest Trees of Somerset—The Walnut	xxxvi, ii, 175
" " The Elm	xxxvii, ii, 106
Obituary Notice of O. W. Malet	xxxvii, ii, 127
The Centenary of William Smith, LL.D., the Father of English Geology	xxxviii, ii, 351
Burton Pynsent	xl, ii, 155

Besides these he edited—"The Charters of Beauly Priory, Inverness-shire," in 1877, and in 1889 "The Register of Richard Fox, Bishop of Bath and Wells (1492-4)." To the latter he added, as an Introduction, a most valuable life of that prelate.

J. R. B.