

Charles Marcus Church, M.A., F.S.A.

SINCE we lost him various endeavours have been made to record something of Canon Church as a devout priest, the beloved Principal of the Theological College, a diligent dignitary, a competent historian. But what we all recognised was the charm of his modesty, his gracious courtesy, his unfailing kindness. Sir Charles Nicholson has happily expressed it, "I shall always remember him as one of the most charming and courteous and kindest men I have ever known, and I think I shall most of all remember how, in spite of his wealth of knowledge and his wide experience, he had the gift of putting a much younger and less experienced man entirely at his ease on all occasions."

Charles Marcus Church was a son of John Dearman Church, High Sheriff of Cork in 1809, who afterward lived in Portugal and Italy, and Caroline Metzener a native of Hanover. His uncle General Sir Richard Church was one of the heroes of the Greek War of Independence. Charles Church was born on February 2nd, 1823, in Florence, but his father dying when he was about three years old, his mother soon afterwards returned to England, settled in Bath, and lived until Charles was old enough to go up to Oxford. So except for his infancy, a prolonged tour in the Near East and two years in London, his home was ever in Somerset.

Whilst he was an undergraduate at Oriel, his brother Richard, afterwards Dean of St. Paul's, was a Fellow of the College and one of the two Proctors whose veto prevented the condemnation of Tract XC. In 1845 Charles took a second class in Lit. Hum. and after a short time at Eton as private tutor to the Marquis of Hastings, went in 1848 on a long tour to Italy, Malta, Greece (staying at Athens with his uncle

Sir Richard), Constantinople, and as far as the Crimea. He had for a companion Edward Lear, a Dane, who painted many water-colour sketches of the places they visited and became famous for his "Book of Nonsense."

On his return from the East Charles Church entered as a student at the new Theological College at Wells, and in 1850 was ordained to the curacy of Shepton Beauchamp and Barrington. From there he went for two years to Curzon Chapel, Mayfair, but in 1854, on a thrice repeated request of the Principal, he returned to Wells as Vice-Principal and resumed a connection with the College which lasted until his death. In 1855 he was given a Prebendal stall in the Cathedral and in 1861 was appointed Sub-Dean.

In the same year he married Elizabeth Mary, daughter of the Rev. Henry Bennett of Sparkford Hall, and lived to celebrate in 1911 his golden wedding. The picture is from the group photographed on that occasion.

In 1862 he became a member of our Society. In 1870 the Historical MSS. Commission examined some of the documents of the Chapter and reported on them as dirty and unarranged. Some four or five years later he began those studies in the muniments of the Chapter and the See which continued to be the chief occupation of his leisure until the end. But it was not until he was made a Canon Residentiary in 1879 and had resigned his work as Principal of the College that he obtained the position and the leisure which enabled him to pursue these studies with full effect. In 1880 an expert from the British Museum was brought down to put the whole mass of original documents into good and accessible condition, and two years later his brother-in-law, the Rev. James A. Bennett, began his great work of calendaring which reached its final form and was shown to Canon Church not many days before his death.

In 1887 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. In the same year he became one of the original members of the Somerset Record Society and may have suggested to his brother-in-law, the first Secretary, its motto. The next year he, with others, founded the Wells Natural History and Archæological Society; in 1894 he rendered essential service

in the provision of its museum ; and in 1908 secured the amalgamation with it of the Mendip Nature Research Club.

He watched the growth of our Society from under four hundred to over nine hundred members, was appointed a Local Secretary for Wells in 1888 and was elected a Vice-President at the Wells meeting in 1909 ; at his death there were only three with a longer membership. He was fortunate both in the first meeting he attended and the last. At the Wells meeting in 1863 there was Freeman to expound the genius of the place, J. R. Green to tell of Giso and Savaric, and Stubbs knowing " every action of every bishop who had ever lived," Professor Willis whom Freeman called " my master," to tell the story of the growth of the Cathedral, and J. H. Parker to serve as cicerone in the Palace and other ecclesiastical houses. And when they went out to Wookey they had Boyd Dawkins to tell of his recent exploration of the Hole.

The last meeting he attended was in 1913 when he came to Cadbury and climbed the steep ascent to the camp. Standing there, on ground enchanted by traditions of Arthur, told to his children by their mother and recorded for all time by her brother, and now tested by scientific excavation, with his back to the ancient earthworks he gazed across the countryside so full for him of memories. There, away to the right at Whatley was the grave of Richard his famous brother revered by the highest and best of men ; beyond the Tor of Glastonbury in the hollow this side Mendip was the scene of his own long life's work ; at his very feet the village and Church, the trees and Hall of Sparkford where he had found the bride, with whom so lately he had kept his golden wedding surrounded by the throng of their children, save two, one of whom had died *pro patria* in far Hartebeestefontein.

In the last year or so of his life there was some slight failure of hearing and in sureness of step, but his vitality was remarkable ; ever active in body, alert in mind. When he was 88 years old he had himself lowered in a workman's cradle over the parapet of the central tower that he might examine a figure in a niche at the n.w. corner which he thought might be a 14th century statue of Elias de Dyrham, a Prebendary

of the Cathedral, well known at Salisbury and Winchester, and in 1220 "one of the two incomparable artificers" of the shrine of St. Thomas at Canterbury. After he was 90 he took a visitor up to and all round the triforium and up the central tower. Only two days before his death he took part in a chapter meeting. His last visit to the Cathedral was on his ninety-second birthday, Candlemas, when he assisted at the altar and read the Gospel for the day which includes—Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.

A brass to his memory has been placed in the south transept of the Cathedral, and the epitaph by Dr. Field a son-in-law, sums up in felicitous words his life story. Within a border of branches of olive bearing their fruit, and having at the four corners the lily of Florence his birthplace, the arms of his family, his college, and the cathedral, beneath the words IN PACE and a floriated cross:—

CAROLVS MARCVS CHVRCH
 FLORENTIAE NATVS
 CVM REDINTEGRATAE FORTVNIS
 ITALIAE RENASCENTISQVE GRAECIAE
 PER NECESSITVDINES SOCIATVS
 CAELI ALIENI ITA DESIDERIO IMBVTVS
 VT PER ANNOS FERME LX CONTINVS
 SCHOLAE SACRAE THEOLOGIAE VICE PRINCIPALIS
 PRINCIPALIS CVRATOR OPERAM IMPENDERET
 IN HAC ECCLESIA PRAEBENDARIVS
 SVBDECANVS CANON RESID:
 STVDIO INDEFESSO
 ANTIQVITATES EXPLORARET AEDIFICIVM CVRÆRET
 SACRA OFFICIA DILIGENTISSIME IMPLERET
 OB. VI. ID. FEB. A.S. MCMXV
 ANNOS NATVS XCII.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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- (2). *Archæologia*, published by the *Society of Antiquaries, London*
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- (4). *Reports of the Wells Nat. Hist. and Arch. Society.*

1879. The Greek Frontier, 1829-1879. (*New Quarterly*).

1884. The Prebend of Dinder. (1).

PLATE VIII.



THE REV. CANON C. M. CHURCH, M.A., F.S.A.

Dawkes & Partridge, photographers, Wells.

1887. Bishop Reginald. (2).
 1888. Bishop Savaric. (2).
 Bishop Jocelin. (2).
 Documentary evidence relating to the Early Architecture of Wells Cathedral. (1).
 1889. Bishop Roger of Salisbury. (2).
 1890. Early Church Builders: Winscombe. (3).
 Archbishop Laud's Visitation of Bath and Wells. (3).
 1891. Early Bishops of Bath and Wells. (3).
 Connection of the Bitton family with Wells. (4).
 1892. The Chapter House and its Builders. (4).
 Notes on Mendip Forest and East and West Harptree. (4).
 1893. The Prebendal Psalms in the Church of Wells. (1).
 Humphrey Willis. (3).
 1894. Chapters in the Early History of the Church of Wells, 1136-1333, Svo, pp. i-xiv, 1-450.
 Rise and Growth of the Chapter of Wells. (2).
 Documents bearing upon the Excavations on the south side of the Cathedral. (1).
 1895. Notes on the Chartularies of Bath Priory. (1).
 The families of Bridport and Meysy at Wells. (3).
 Condition and arrangement of the Cathedral in the XIII Century. (4).
 1897. The Cathedral Church of Wells. Svo. 82pp.
 Stalls and Misericords in the Church of Wells. (2).
 Oak Canopy in the Library. (3).
 Early Christian Memorials in Rome. (4).
 Wells Cathedral. (*Good Words*).
 1898. History of the Stained Glass in the Cathedral. (4).
 1899. Portus de Radeclive, Redcliffe. (3). Ancient form of election to the Deanery of Wells. (3). The Bekynton Chantry, Wells. (3). The Prebendaries of Wells in 1551. (3). Comparative value of the Prebends of Wells in 1291 and 1536. (3).
 1901. Buildings, Books, and Benefactors of the Library of the Dean and Chapter. (2 and 4).
 Wells Prebends and Prebendaries in 1536 and 1551. (3).
 1902. Place of the Bishop of Bath and Wells at the Coronation. (4).
 The Chapter Library.
 1903. Will of Bishop Bubwith. (3). Battle of Shrewsbury. (3).
 1904. Visit of Henry VII to the Deanery of Wells. (4).
 Historical Traditions at Wells, 1464-1497.
 1905. Joint editor (with Mrs. Church), Sir Richard Church in Italy and Greece. Svo. 356pp.
 1908. Some Reminiscences of Travel in Greece, 1848-1906.
 1909. Remarks on Mr. St. J. Hope's paper on the first Cathedral Church of Wells. (1).
 The Clock and Quarter-Jacks in the Cathedral. (1).
 Four Somerset Bishops, 1136-1242. Svo. 98pp.
 Wells in the Old Time. Svo. 122pp.
 1911. Wells and its Cathedral. (*Church Family Newspaper*).
 1913. The Wells Corporation Seals. (3).

J. HAMLET.

Isaac Sadler Gale, M.A.

THERE passed away on October 1st, 1915, in his ninetyeth year, the Rev. I. S. Gale, Prebendary of Wells Cathedral, and one of the oldest members of our Society,—having joined in 1871.

For forty-four years he took a very keen interest in Somerset archæology. Appointed Vicar of Kingston St. Mary in 1870 he restored the beautiful church, built a new vicarage and devoted fifteen of the best years of his life to diligent, pastoral work. A lecture delivered by him in 1884 on "Kingston Church: its History and Architecture" was afterwards published. During these years he was a member of the Committee of this Society and frequently occupied the chair at the monthly meetings.

Prebendary Gale removed to Cleeve in North Somerset in 1885, and is best known as being in conjunction with five others the founder of the Northern Branch of this Society; this was on February 12th, 1890. For eight years his chief work as secretary was that of organization, and many enjoyable visits to the local churches were arranged by him.

The Northern Branch, after an existence of a quarter of a century is still flourishing under the Presidency of the Right Hon. Sir Edward Fry, G.C.B., with fifty members, and a credit balance of £69. It is responsible for the publication of interesting local pamphlets relating to the Parishes of Backwell, Barrow Gurney, Chew Magna, Flax Bourton, Tickenham and Wraxall; and also of the Rev. C. S. Taylor's paper on the Long Ashton Rural District from the time of the Romans to the Reformation.

The writer of this brief record would like to add that there was a graciousness and a beauty about the late Prebendary Gale's life that endeared him to all the members, and his retirement from the district to spend his closing years in Malvern was a cause of general regret.

J. BYRCHMORE.

Thomas William Jex-Blake, D.D.

DEAN OF WELLS, 1891-1910.
PRESIDENT AT GLASTONBURY, 1902.
OB. 2 JULY, 1915, AGED 83 YEARS.

THE late Dean of Wells filled many parts in his long life. His rule as headmaster at Cheltenham and Rugby will be remembered by his pupils for years to come; and it is also due to his memory to put on record his services to archæology in Somersetshire.

The appointment to the Deanery did not mean in this case a dignified and leisurely retirement; and the great floods in the county shortly after his arrival gave Dr. Jex-Blake an opportunity of taking an active part in raising and distributing the funds provided for the unfortunate sufferers.

The Cathedral was his constant care, and numerous works of repair and decoration were carried out under his supervision, including the much needed restoration of the great central tower. One of the bells added to complete the peal of ten was his gift.

The work of the County Archæological Society was bound to appeal to a born educationalist. The volume for 1894 contained an article from his pen on Robert Stillington, Bishop of Bath and Wells 1466-1491, whose memorial chapel had just been disinterred, though levelled down to the foundations, in the lawn on the south side of the Cathedral. This was followed by another article on the battle of Lansdown, 1643, based on a lecture delivered to the members on the actual site of the struggle. For a long period Dr. Jex-Blake was a regular attendant at the excursions of the annual meeting, when his remarks stimulated discussion, and his courteous expression of thanks to owners of invaded properties and houses was a real recognition that their kindness was appreciated.

In 1902 when the Society met at Glastonbury the Dean worthily filled the office of President for the year; he gave an address which dwelt on the great acquisitions of knowledge produced by excavation, instanced by those in the "Forum Romanum" and, at the other end of the scale of civilisation, in the Lake Village near Glastonbury.

For these and many other efforts to increase the growth of sound knowledge, the memory of the late Dean of Wells deserves to be had in remembrance.

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PLATE IX.



FRANCIS ARNOLD KNIGHT.

From a Painting by Mr. Percy Bigland.

Francis Arnold Knight.

MR. F. A. KNIGHT, of "Wintrath," Winscombe, who passed away on February 11th, 1915, had been a member of our Society just a quarter of a century; and, although he had not contributed to our *Proceedings* he had done much excellent literary work in which Somerset formed a prominent feature. For many years he was one of the masters at the great school connected with the Society of Friends at Sidcot, and subsequently had a school of his own at "Brynmelyn," Weston-super-Mare. Those who came under his influence at these places have borne loving and grateful testimony to his many and varied gifts and to the charm of his personal character. Moreover, their appreciation found expression in various ways. For instance, there was an annual serenade by former pupils after he had settled down in his delightful and picturesque home on the sunny slope of Mendip; while pupils and friends also presented him with his portrait, painted by an old Sidcotian, Mr. Percy Bigland, a photographic reproduction of which accompanies this notice (Plate IX). After his death, the Sidcot Old Scholars' Association sent three ambulances and the Old Brynmelyn Boys a touring car for the use of the Friends' Ambulance Unit in France and Belgium, in memory of their old master.

Mr. Knight was a zealous student of Nature, and a real lover of good literature. Moreover, he had the great gift of being able to make excellent use of the knowledge he thus gained. His walks near home and the trips he took during his holidays were often delightfully described in the leading columns of one of the great London dailies, in a well-known weekly, or in a popular magazine. Many of these articles subsequently took more permanent form in such volumes as "By Leafy Ways," "Idylls of the Field," "The Rambles of a Dominic," or "By Moorland and Sea."

When shattered health compelled him to retire from the profession of teaching, he wrote some of his most substantial books, such as "The Seaboard of Mendip" and its companion volume "The Heart of Mendip." The latter was published only a week or so before he passed away. In it, he tells us that he had "endeavoured to embody the personal recollections, experiences and researches of more than half a century spent in the Mendip Country, supplementing his own knowledge by drawing largely on the works of previous writers, and availing himself in great measure of the help of many friends." But he pathetically reminds his readers that a large part of the work had been completed under circumstances of great physical disability.

Mr. Knight also wrote "A History of Sidcot School: A Hundred Years of West Country Education—1808-1908," an intensely interesting volume, most sympathetically written. The volume on "Somerset," in the series of Cambridge County Geographies was another of his books. In this (with the assistance of his daughter, Mrs. Dutton) he gave an excellent summary of the history of the county and of its physiography.

But the volumes named do not exhaust the list of his labours. There were others, such as "In the West Country," and the charming description of his own home and its surroundings, "A Corner of Arcady." Mr. Knight also edited, for a short period, "The Annual Monitor," the yearly record of departed Friends.

C. T.

Joseph Houghton Spencer.

MR. J. H. SPENCER, of Corfe, who died on 30th September, 1914, was a member of an old Norfolk family, but was born at Taunton, where his father, the Rev. John Ward Spencer, was vicar of Wilton for a long period. He served his articles with a firm of architects in London, but returned to his native town, and carried on his profession there about forty years. His quiet, genial, gentlemanly manner endeared him to many friends and neighbours, while his devotion to his profession caused him to be consulted about many works of considerable importance, especially as to the building, restoration and repair of churches, schools, manor-houses and almshouses in Somerset and elsewhere.

Mr. Spencer made a careful study of Taunton Castle, some of the results of which were embodied in a paper he wrote for our *Proceedings* in 1910, entitled "Structural Notes on Taunton Castle."¹ This was admirably illustrated by an excellent series of plans and drawings. He also superintended certain alterations of the Castle buildings, and advised the Council of our Society on such matters during many years. When he retired from practice, he was appointed as their Hon. Consulting Architect.

Mr. Spencer contributed two other papers to our annual volumes: one on "Castle Neroche: its Position with Relation to Neighbouring Earthworks"; and another on the use of the place-names "Tangier and Gibraltar" at Taunton. Few names have been so long on our list of members as that of Mr. Spencer, for he joined the Society in 1871.

C. T.

1. This brochure is also sold separately at 4d.