

William Duppa Miller, B.A.

WILLIAM DUPPA MILLER of Audrey, Stodden's Road, Burnham-on-Sea, who passed away early on Wednesday, 8 November 1933, had been a member of the Society since 1910, a councillor since 1929, and previously, for some years, a local secretary.

Although we knew that he was far from well when he attended the May meeting of the Council in 1933, we little thought that it was his last appearance among us, and that his genial presence and enthusiastic voicing of the claims of natural history would so soon be missed. He was born on 5 July 1868 at Tupsley, near Hereford, and in his early days showed a keen interest in natural history, especially in plants and birds. He was educated at St. Edward's School, Oxford; and later as a scholar of Hertford College, Oxford, he made the acquaintance of George Claridge Druce and his interest in plants was thereby strengthened. After his Oxford days he was a schoolmaster for some years and then acted as tutor to the son of Lord Manvers at Thoresby Park, Nottinghamshire. For some time he acted as private secretary to the then Lord Sandon, and later became tutor to the children of the late Mr. Eustace Vesey at Hestercombe, where he was for some time private secretary to their mother, the Hon. Mrs. Portman.

It was during his residence near Hestercombe that he came under the influence of the Rev. E. S. Marshall, the well-known botanist, who published a supplement to Murray's *Flora of Somerset*. Mr. Miller's knowledge of plants improved greatly, and when the Botanical Section of the Society was formed in 1910 he became Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, a position which he held till his death. The admirable way in which he filled this position is shown by the progress of the Section and by the excellent 'Botanical Reports' which have appeared in these pages. For many years he kept an index of plant records for Somerset, and directed the steps of many botanists to the localities in which plants they were anxious to see were to be found. He thus fostered an appreciation of our wonderful flora in botanists from all parts of the country.

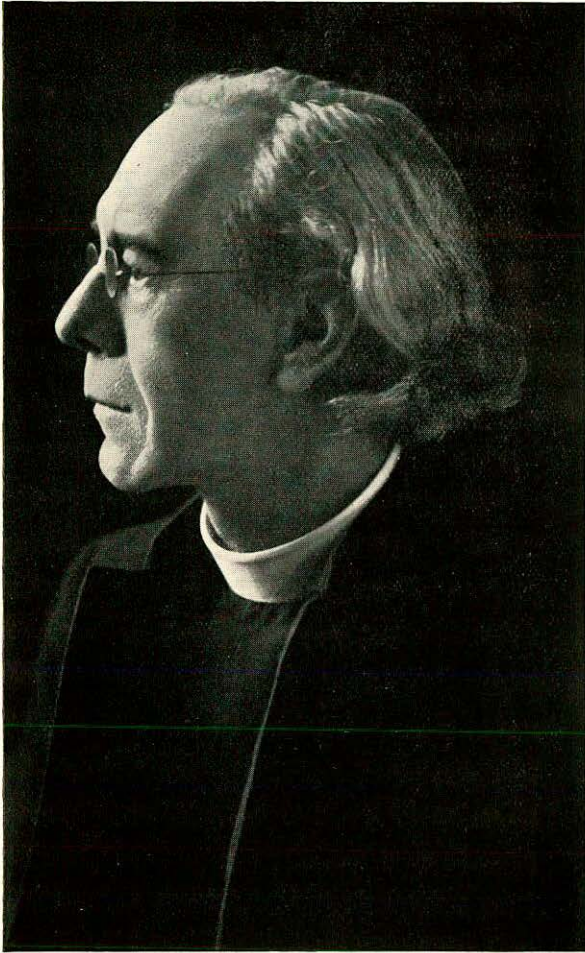
He acted as correspondent of the Plant Protection Section of the Selborne Society, was a prominent member of the Wild Flower

Society, and was a member contributing notes to the Botanical Society and Exchange Club of the British Isles. His notes in their report for 1932, 'On the Southern Distribution of *Listera cordata*' and 'On Extinct and Rare Species of the County of Somerset' are of great interest to students of our flora, and were mentioned in the *Journal of Botany* for December 1933. Apart from these papers, and the 'Botanical Reports' published in these *Proceedings*, he did little literary work, though it must not be forgotten that the arduous task of indexing Marshall's *Supplement to the Flora of Somerset* was carried through by him. He preferred outdoor work in his garden or rockery, or a ramble with another botanical enthusiast. Strong wind or pouring rain could not deter him from friendly comradeship in search of some botanical treasure.

Some time after his retirement he removed to Burnham, and devoted himself more particularly to botanical pursuits and to the care of his rock-garden in which many rare British plants were grown. He was always very careful that his interest in a rockery did not lead him into any act threatening the existence of a rare plant. His interest in birds was evidenced by his attendance at the meetings of the Ornithological Section: he was a keen member and assisted in drawing up its rules. He was, however, much more interested in flowering plants, and many naturalists have grateful remembrances of his help and encouragement.

WALTER WATSON.

PLATE XIX



THE VERY REV. J. ARMITAGE ROBINSON, K.C.V.O., D.D., F.B.A.
Dean of Wells

The Very Rev. J. Armitage Robinson

K.C.V.O., D.D., F.B.A., *Dean of Wells.*

(Plate XIX)

By permission of 'The Times'.

DR. ARMITAGE ROBINSON, who resigned the Deanery of Wells in March 1933, and had before been Dean of Westminster, died at midnight on Sunday, 7 May 1933, at his home at Upton Noble, Somerset, at the age of seventy-five.

Joseph Armitage Robinson was born in 1858, the third son among the thirteen children of the Rev. G. Robinson, vicar of Keynsham, near Bristol. He obtained a scholarship at Christ's College, Cambridge, and though his brothers all did well he surpassed them in his University record. In 1881 he was fourth Classic, and won the Chancellor's second medal. In the same year he was elected to a Fellowship at Christ's, and lectured on classical subjects. After his ordination a short period as domestic chaplain to Bishop Lightfoot at Auckland Castle showed the bent of his studies. He returned to Cambridge in 1884 as dean of his college, and was for a time curate at Great St. Mary's. Then he took his turn as university preacher in the former Chapel Royal at Whitehall, and in 1888 he accepted from Jesus College the vicarage of All Saints', in Jesus Lane.

In these years he made a reputation as a preacher, which he afterwards maintained and increased. There were strong party men who felt he had deserted the Evangelicalism of his youth, but with persistence he was taking his own line. Under the influence of the famous 'three'—Westcott, Lightfoot, and Hort—but chiefly under that of Hort, he gave himself to an investigation of post-Apostolic documents. The 'three' had worked wonders for the text of the New Testament, and two of them had shone as expositors. Robinson and the younger men turned rather to the second and third centuries, and produced their collations of primitive documents in the series called *Cambridge Texts and Studies*, his share being one on the Athos Codex of the Shepherd of Hermas; an appendix to the Apology of Aristides; the Passion of St. Perpetua, the African martyr; the Philocalia of Origen; and the Euthaliana. All this meant travel; one of his vacations included a visit to Patmos, and he spent some time in Germany. At five-and-thirty he had received

honorary doctorates from both Halle and Göttingen universities ; he was equally at home among the French clergy.

In 1893 the heads of houses at Cambridge elected Mr. Robinson to the Norrisian Professorship of Divinity, vacant by the death of Dr. Lumby, a fine scholar of the old school. His young successor devoted himself to New Testament studies, and soon exercised much influence in the Divinity School. He had already resumed his connexion with the diocese of Bath and Wells, having accepted in 1888 the post of examining chaplain to the Bishop, and in 1894 Dr. Kennion nominated him to the Prebend of Compton Bishop in Wells Cathedral. He continued as professor to produce additions to the *Texts and Studies* series.

In 1899, at the age of 41, Robinson was appointed a Canon of Westminster. The attachment to his stall of the rectory of St Margaret's and the duty of constant preaching in a prominent pulpit had drawbacks for a man of his mainly academic traditions, and within a few months he took the opportunity of being transferred to a canonry that was free from such duties. Here, a pupil of Westcott, in the position which Westcott had most enjoyed, he was able to devote the requisite time and labour to his sermons and instructions, and was already at work on his great edition of the Epistle to the Ephesians, which at once proved its right to a place on the same shelf with Lightfoot and Westcott's volumes. For his was not a nimble mind, though it was shrewd and even unfathomable ; men who had known him for years were fain to confess that even now they could seldom read him clearly. Neither was he ready of speech, depending closely upon the notes he had written. But given time and a congenial theme, he proved an incomparable teacher of the subject in hand ; cautious, certainly too cautious for many, but quite clear as to what he meant to convey. Two years later came the great solemnity of the Coronation, an occasion which required that one member of the Chapter of Westminster should specially devote himself to the task of mastering the details and the meaning of the ancient and elaborate ritual. It was here that Canon Robinson's training showed its value, and it need not now be concealed that he contributed to *The Times* a lucid description of the ceremonial.

Even so it was hardly anticipated that, being a junior member of the Chapter, he would be chosen to succeed Dr. Bradley on his retirement from the Deanery soon after the Coronation, though from many points of view the fitness of the choice was obvious. His sympathies were wide, and he possessed a large measure of theological attainment and humane culture. At the end of 1911 he was

transferred at his own request to the Deanery of Wells—' ad Wel-lenses suos ', as he put it in a graceful dedication.

His time at Westminster had an effect on his studies. He became an antiquary. Along the leads outside his study he could pass over the cloisters into the Abbey muniment room, where there is store of material beyond the dreams of most antiquaries. He worked away at Flete's history, he wrote studies of Abbots Crispin and Langham, he produced an admirable monograph on the history and architecture of the Deanery, just as, when he went to his new home in the west, he laboured at the Saxon Bishops of Wells and other branches of Somerset history. In its own line it was all of the greatest value, for he had a wonderful gift for guessing over an obscure document and finding confirmation of his guesses. At Wells he remained the same grave and searching preacher that he had been at Westminster, and he helped the clergy greatly by his lectures.

But no great work came to justify his real powers as an expository editor of the New Testament. Some reason may be found in his health and temperament, which were hostile to heavy and sustained effort, in his inability to keep normal hours, and in a weakness of the eyes which first attacked him at Westminster. Personally he was a picturesque figure, tall, gaunt, long-haired, and prematurely bent. In the pulpit he seemed to be inspired, and in private life he possessed an urbanity and charm not always to be found in scholars of his distinction. Mention must be made of his happy marriage, in 1914, to Miss Amy Faithfull, then of Lambeth Palace, and sister of Miss Lilian Faithfull, sometime principal of the Ladies' College at Cheltenham. Dr. Robinson was Lord High Almoner and Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the King, a K. C. V. O., a Fellow of the British Academy, an honorary Fellow of Christ's College, and an honorary doctor of Dublin and Glasgow.

During the great war Dr. Robinson was President of the Somerset Archæological Society from 1916 to 1918, and afterwards a Vice-President till the time of his death.

His chief contributions to the Society's *Proceedings* were as follows :—

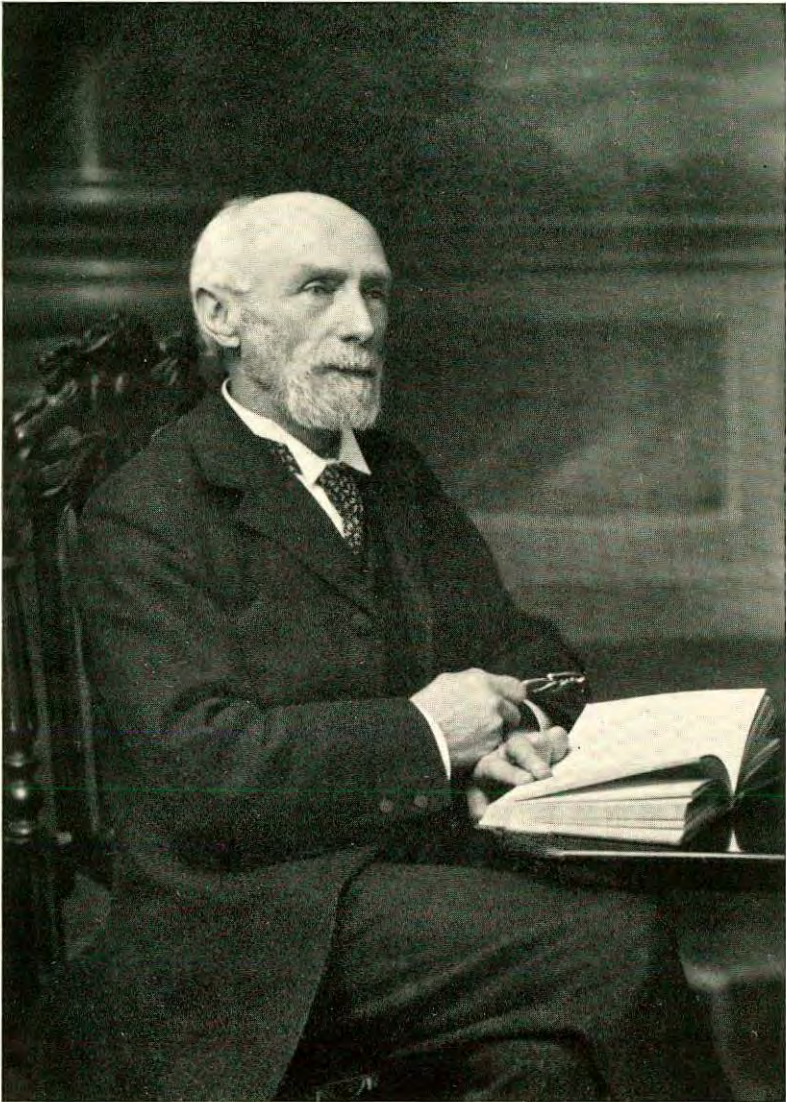
Correspondence of Bishop Oliver King and Sir Reginald Bray, vol. lx ; *Thomas Boleyn, Precentor of Wells*, vol. lxi ; *Memories of Saint Dunstan in Somerset*, vol. lxii ; *The Foundation Charter of Witham Charterhouse*, vol. lxiv ; *The Prebend of Yatton*, vol. lxx ; *The Effigy of ' John de Middleton ' at Wells*, vol. lxxi ; *The Historical Evidence as to the Saxon Church at Glastonbury*, vol. lxxiii.

Charles Tite

(Plate XX)

THE death of Mr. Charles Tite on 20 May 1933 has removed from our midst a man of distinction as an antiquary. His great characteristic was his love of his native town, with him almost a passion, which touched his life in many directions and gave it much of its colour. Of its more recent history, especially in the Victorian times through which he lived, Mr. Tite possessed a greater knowledge than any man of his day. Nearest to his heart after his town, came his county. Of the literature of both he was a faithful student. He considered that enough had not been made of Somerset men of letters and was anxious to rescue some of them from neglect. He was often heard to express the hope that a good life of the poet Daniel, born at Taunton in 1562 and the successor of Spenser as poet-laureate, would be written. Yet it may be questioned whether the taste of the present day would find in Daniel an acceptable study. Mr. Tite himself wielded the pen of a ready writer and to him are due several obituary and other articles appearing in the *Proceedings* of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society. As a collector he displayed remarkable keenness. Happily he was endowed by nature with what may be described as a Horace Walpole instinct for the books, engravings, coins and antiquities of which, during the latter half of his life, he was in constant quest.

But it was not merely such things as these which attracted Mr. Tite and enlisted his sympathy. He was a magistrate, a member of the Committee of the Taunton Free Library, and of the Taunton Borough Education Committee. He was a generous supporter of St. Mary's Church and at one time a teacher in its Sunday School. His position as Chairman of the Trustees of the Taunton Town Charities had the result of making him the constant friend and adviser of the inmates of Gray's and other almshouses. A generous donor to the Free Library, to which he gave £500 and many books, pictures and engravings, he was in the main responsible for its extension in 1912 and for the institution of the Children's Library which has been so much valued. Moreover, to Mr. Tite is really due the possession by the town of the land adjoining Vivary Park, which



CHARLES TITE

Hon. Secretary and Vice-President. Somerset Archæological Society

From a Photograph by Cyril Siedmere

now forms the Corporation golf-course. It is not long since he constantly presided at meetings of the Taunton Field Club and *Conversazione* and joined in the excursions. He was always a lively speaker and very encouraging to lecturers. Mr. Tite found recreation in his garden, and his conservatory was the admiration of all who saw it.

Mr. Tite was a native of Taunton and his earlier days were spent in the town. He started life with no initial advantages, but owed everything to himself. When comparatively young, he migrated to Yeovil, where he became the editor of the *Western Flying Post*, eventually amalgamated with the *Western Gazette* of which Mr. C. Clinker was the editor. This paper was sold for a large sum in 1886, and Mr. Tite retired from professional life. After a period of travel and a short sojourn at Wellington, he came to live at Taunton, where he spent the ensuing forty years. This time was passed, not in leisured ease, but in active and useful work for the causes which he loved. We have already seen how much Taunton owes to him. Yet the question of the debt of the Archæological Society to Mr. Tite has not yet been fully realized. He is not however likely to be forgotten by any of the members, for he has left behind him undying tokens of his efforts. He was from 1900 until his death one of the honorary secretaries of the society, and, in 1913, became one of its vice-presidents. The Tite Library is his master-piece. It consists, as we all know, of that great collection of Somerset books, paintings, engravings and choice folio-albums now so worthily housed, catalogued and arranged in the Tite room at the County Museum. Mr. Tite's object was to place together all books that could be discovered, either written by natives of Somerset or by persons long resident in the county, or books written about Somerset, as well as portraits of Somerset worthies and engravings illustrating the County, its churches, houses and other buildings. This library is of first-rate importance to the historical student and the shades of Somerset worthies may now be assured that they will not pass into oblivion and into the land where all things are forgotten. Whenever a writer shall appear able and willing to write the history of Taunton, a history not for the moment, but for all time, he will find everything at his hand in the Tite Library and be able to give admirable illustrations for his work. He will in fact find the long and painful toil of collecting material already accomplished for him, and enter into Mr. Tite's labours.

As the visitor looks at the collection in the Tite room, he can only marvel at the care, thought and expense so lovingly devoted to the formation of such a library and reflect that it must be a great en-

couragement to local patriotism. Not only did Mr. Tite form this collection, but he also presented many other gifts to the Museum, notably trade-tokens and coins. Within a short time of his death, he told the writer how engrossing he had found this pursuit and how it had brought him into pleasant relations with others similarly engaged. Even in those days when he could no longer attend the monthly meetings of the Council of the Archæological Society, Mr. Tite invariably produced the agenda of proceedings and asked for an account of every item.

Mr. Tite then was a great benefactor to Taunton,—not as Hugo was a benefactor, by burning midnight oil in research among ancient documents. Mr. Tite was not an historical writer, but unquestionably he was an able collector of materials necessary to the author, useful to the student and interesting to all Somerset people. In that capacity he stands, and probably will stand for many years, without rival.

The loss of Mrs. Tite hastened his end and he survived her but a few months. He died at the ripe age of ninety-one, retaining to the last his memory, judgment and former interests. The Somerset Archæological Society benefited under his will by two thousand pounds; and the greater part of his fortune was bequeathed to local philanthropic objects.

H. P. PALMER.



THE REV. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A.

From a Photograph by Mr. J. Reginald H. Weaver, F.S.A.

The Rev. F. W. Weaver, F.S.A.

(Plate XXI)

By permission of 'The Times'.

THE REV. FREDERIC WILLIAM WEAVER, who died at Oxford on 29 April 1933, at the age of 81, was in his day a noted Somerset antiquary. He belonged to a past generation of county historians who worked, for the most part, alone, taught themselves the technique of research, and acquired their learning unaided by the many facilities enjoyed by the highly-trained specialist of to-day.

The youngest son of James William Weaver, of Oaken House, Codsall, Staffordshire, he was educated at Wolverhampton Grammar School and Magdalen College, Oxford, of which he was a mathematical demy (1871-1875). After his ordination in 1877, he was in turn a master at the King's School, Bruton, Somerset, curate of Bruton, and of Alford, before being placed in charge of the neighbouring parish of Milton Clevedon in 1879. There he remained for thirty-eight years, being presented to the living by Lord Ilchester in 1898.

Under the influence of his friend Bishop Edmund Hobhouse, who at that time was living in retirement at Wells, Weaver took up with zest the study of local history and genealogy, tackling first his own parish registers, then diocesan records, and finally national archives at Somerset House and the Public Record Office. He had neither the equipment nor the constructive power of the trained historian, his real *flair* being for genealogy and the following up of the *vestigia* of forgotten families, and especially of medieval ecclesiastics. To this and the many cognate subjects he brought great thoroughness, a mathematician's accuracy, and a lively sympathy with the past. He edited *Heralds' Visitations* of Somerset (1885) and of Hereford (1886), *Somerset Incumbents* (1889)—a complete record of institutions to the benefices of the county from the thirteenth century to the eighteenth, and *Wells Wills* (1890). For the Somerset Record Society Weaver edited five volumes, viz. *Somerset Medieval Wills*, 3 vols. (1901-1905), the *Cartulary of Mynchin Buckland Priory* (1909), and a *Feodary of Glastonbury Abbey* (1910). For many years

he was joint editor with his life-long friend, the late Rev. Canon C. H. Mayo, of *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*.

He was one of the honorary Secretaries of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society from 1896 to 1919, and a vice-president from 1913 to the end of his life. Mr. Weaver was editor of the Society's *Proceedings* from 1896 to 1903, after which he was joined by Mr. H. St. George Gray till 1915, and in Mr. Weaver's last year of editorial work (1916) they were joined by the late Prebendary Bates Harbin.

Mr. Weaver's chief contributions to the *Proceedings* were as follows :—

Thomas Chard, the last Abbot of Ford, vol. xxxvii ; *The Fate of the Dispossessed Monks and Nuns*, vol. xxxviii ; *On a Painting of St. Barbara in Cucklington Church*, vol. xxxix ; *Two Thomas Chards : a Correction*, vol. xlii ; *Worspring Priory*, vol. li ; *Cleeve Abbey*, lii ; *Keynsham Abbey*, liii ; *Barlinch Priory*, liv ; *Wells Wills (Serel Collection)*, lxi.

Weaver was a bachelor, living alone among his books in the large vicarage of his tiny parish. His genial, hospitable nature, amusing talk, and quaint ways endeared him to his many friends, far and near. They will long remember the familiar figure, always wearing a clerical straw-hat (indoors and out) and always carrying a stick and umbrella (rain or fine). He was a devoted reader of *The Times*, which for years he fetched daily from his nearest post office, a mile and a half away. After his retirement from Milton Clevedon in 1917 he lived at Oxford in failing health. He long outlived many of his closest friends, but his memory is still fresh between Bruton and Evercreech, in Wells and in Taunton, and in other centres of the county which he loved and served so well.