

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society,

*Held at Taunton, on the 26th of September, 1849, at Twelve
o'Clock, when about 350 persons were present.—An
adjoining room was fitted up as a temporary Museum.*

SIR WALTER CALVERLY TREVELYAN, BART. THE PRESI-
DENT, IN THE CHAIR.

SIR WALTER TREVELYAN, on taking the chair, observed that it was scarcely necessary for him to enlarge, before such a meeting, on the advantages of an association like this,—which was now in its infancy, but which he hoped would grow rapidly,—nor to show its utility in preserving, and collecting, and spreading information upon subjects of considerable importance to all of them; nor was it necessary, he thought, to state how rich this county was in all the objects for the investigation of which they were assembled together.

It was rich in the various departments of Natural History; as in Fossils, of which many splendid specimens of Saurians, (collected near Glastonbury) are in the British Museum,—Minerals, Plants, Animals and Fishes, in which latter departments one of their members, Mr. Baker, of Bridgwater, had made some interesting discoveries, speci-

mens of some of which he had contributed to the temporary Museum. It was not so rich in Roman forts, and other works, as some of the border counties were, where of old they had been obliged to keep large bodies of troops. Bath, however, presented many remains of Roman temples, villas, and sculptures; and several Roman roads traverse the county, near which other remains of that people are often met with. Some of the finest specimens of middle-age architecture existed in this county: some of the carved work, especially in wood, he thought, surpassed that of any county in the kingdom. The rood-screens, at Taunton and elsewhere, were particularly fine; and some good specimens of ancient domestic buildings had been preserved, owing to the county having been seldom ravaged by wars. The ancient papers, preserved among family records, in this county were very valuable, and there were few things of greater interest than the correspondence of former times. Researches of this kind had been brought much into note lately, and it was necessary that they should have some such society in this county. The society had numerous members, and he was very glad to see so many clergymen present, for they could render it most efficient service, by examining the parish records and also by reporting on the antiquities and natural history of their parishes. He might mention that very often the old bells of churches were found to contain some interesting inscription, such as the name of the Saint to whom the church was dedicated; and the staircases of the towers were frequently subjects of interest, for he often found that the covers of stone coffins and sculptured stones, had been used to form the steps. One of the objects of the Society was the formation of a Library and Museum to illustrate the Antiquities and Natural History of the county; and they

were in hope that in the course of a few years they might get together a rich collection. At present the Society was in its infancy, and having, as yet, no fixed locality they could not expect much; but they had already received some presents, and many valuable articles had been lent for exhibition. He would now call on the Secretary to read the report.

The Rev. T. F. DYMOCK then read the following report :—

“At this first general meeting of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, the committee have merely to report to the members the steps which have been taken, and the progress made toward the establishment of the Society. No actual work has yet been publicly entered upon; we have found sufficient employment in preparing the machinery by means of which we hope, by and bye, to explore the treasures of nature and art which this county contains, and to accumulate a body of facts in aid of the studies of the antiquary and natural historian.

“Somersetshire presents as good a field for investigation as perhaps any county of the same size in England; it has the natural advantages of varied soil and surface, and contains many important remains of mediæval antiquity; it is very desirable that this field should be explored thoroughly and systematically, and without further delay, before the works of nature or remains of art suffer any further change from the progress of cultivation, or through the lapse of time.

“It was with some such feelings as these that several gentlemen of Taunton and its neighbourhood met together in the spring of this year for the purpose of forming your society. Our doubt at first was, whether it should be a

society co-extensive with the county, or only one for West Somerset, of which Taunton is properly the centre. The former, as by far the most desirable object, if attainable, it was determined to aim at in the first place; failing this, it was easy to fall back upon the more limited plan.

“Another point to be decided was, whether we should proceed at once to frame the society’s rules and appoint its officers, or wait till we could obtain the presence of a larger body of gentlemen from all parts of the county. The difficulty of securing anything like a general county meeting while everything was undecided, and the very existence of the society in abeyance—this difficulty on the one hand, and on the other the advantage of going forth to the public with the object of the society’s operations defined, and the society itself in existence,—determined our course: we declared the existence of the society, and framed its rules. We then invited our personal friends and acquaintances to join us, and meeting with tolerable success with these, as soon as we thought it likely that our society might really become what we wished to make it,—a society for the whole of Somersetshire,—we issued a circular to every clergyman and magistrate resident in the county.

“The result has been that we now have a list of 250 subscribing members, and amongst them a very good proportion of our principal landed proprietors and literary men.

“We have purposely abstained from naming any place for the society’s permanent head quarters, because there is no single town in Somersetshire which, from its position and importance, can be regarded as the capital.

“The city of Bath is in an extreme corner of the county. Wells, from having no railway communication, is practically still more remote. Bridgwater and Taunton

lie too far to the west. In this state of things members will naturally favor most that town to which they have the readiest access. We have felt this to be a considerable difficulty, and that it is impossible in the circumstances of the county, to make the choice of any one place satisfactory to all the members; and we think that, probably, the best arrangement will be, that the annual meetings* should take place in rotation—at all the principal points in the county, while one place is reserved where the other meetings may be held, and where the society's library and museum may be stationed.

“Whether Taunton is the best place for this purpose or not, it will be for the members to decide when they have had some experience of the workings of the society, and when they have discovered where its operations can be carried on most efficiently; only, the committee suggest that that decision should be made at no distant period, that members may not be in doubt as to the destination of any presents or loans which they may be disposed to make, and that no time be lost in getting together a collection of sufficient importance to be of real help in those studies which the society is established to promote.

“For the present your committee have provided a room in this town as a temporary receptacle, to which a few things have already been sent; before this year is over we hope to be obliged to seek better accommodation, and still further look forward to the time when we may be able to say that we possess a good collection of the antiquities and objects of Natural History which are found in Somersetshire, and also a well-furnished library, in suitable buildings which we can call our own.

* It has since been determined to make *all* the general meetings migratory.

“In order to the more effectual working of the two branches of science, which the society purposes to enter upon, the committee recommend the formation of two sub-committees—one for Archaeology and one for Natural History—to consist each of three members of the general committee, whose regular attendance may be calculated upon, and such other distant members as may be willing to offer suggestions in writing, and occasionally to give their personal attendance. It is obvious that by means of these sub-committees the researches which the society sets on foot may be made more systematically and correctly than if they were entrusted to the direction of a general committee. Already a sub-committee has been engaged in preparing questions, entering into details on Archaeology, which will very soon be circulated generally throughout the county; and it is further intended to prepare similar questions on Natural History,* as far as the subject may admit of it.

“The Committee have the pleasing task of acknowledging, with many thanks, the encouragement which they have received from those gentlemen of established literary reputation, who have consented to become honorary members. Some are now present to give us their counsel; others who are unable to be here to-day have given us reason to hope that they will come on some future occasion; and several, who have literary stores at their command, have kindly volunteered to communicate with us out of those stores on subjects relating to this county.

“In conclusion, the Committee are anxious to offer some apology for themselves, in coming forward so prominently in the formation of this society. Circumstances

* Questions on Archaeology and Botany have since been circulated, and will be found *infra*.

rather than qualifications—the lack of other persons better qualified and near at hand—and a taste for, rather than acquirements in, archaeology and natural science, have placed them in the position in which they now stand. They would rejoice to quit that position, and hand over the direction of the society to abler hands; and would suggest that if hereafter, in any one place in this county, a body of men can be found really qualified from their literary attainments to conduct our affairs, that place would be, for all purposes of this society, the most *central position* in Somersetshire.”

The CHAIRMAN announced that Lord Portman, the Dean of Llandaff, and Sir Thomas Phillips regretted their inability to be present. The latter would prove a valuable friend, for his collection of manuscripts was one of the largest in the kingdom, and he had promised to supply them with copies of such documents as he possessed that referred to the county. Sir H. Ellis, of the British Museum, had also kindly promised his co-operation, as had Sir C. Trevelyan, of the Treasury, Professor Sedgwick, and Dr. Wilson, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh. The Chairman then introduced

The DEAN OF WESTMINSTER, (Dr. Buckland,) who said that as it had been his lot first to see the light in a contiguous county—being a native of Axminster—he was no stranger to the county of Somerset : and although it had never been his good fortune to possess property within the borders of that county—he meant property under that usual denomination, which those who had it not, called “*dirty acres*”—yet he had property in the county which he valued more highly. Scientific men were often justly

accused of neglecting pecuniary rewards for their services, and gratifying their ambition by the acquisition of literary or scientific reputation. It had been his lot a quarter of a century ago, to take possession within that county of a large manor—a manor that interfered not with the rights of noble lords or honorable gentlemen, but a scientific manor in which whatever he had done was convertible, if they pleased, to their pecuniary advantage. It had been his lot before he obtained the assistance of his kind friend the Dean of Llandaff, in the completion of this work, during three of the most interesting weeks of his life to travel in solitude—his only companion being an ordnance map, which he had geologically coloured on the spot—over the whole of Mendip, from one end to the other, for the first time that it was ever traversed by any individual of the human species, employed, and successfully employed, in ascertaining by personal inspection, the structure of that important range of hills. It had been his lot to traverse the whole of that small mountain chain, and at the end of three weeks, when he had finished his geological map of the district, and stood alone on one of the highest crests of Mendip, viz. on *Blackdown*, he felt a pride which he never felt before or since ; he felt a pride which he trusted it was not improper for him to feel—that he was the first of the human race whom God had permitted to understand the geological construction of His glorious works in that important part of the county of Somerset. He had occasion during many years to traverse this county on his way to and from Oxford, and there were few villages in it, of which he did not know the composition from personal inspection. And he could tell many of them, where they could *not* find the treasures of coal which interested adventurers would fain persuade them to seek to their great cost

and loss. Since the publication of his map of Mendip in the transactions of the Geological Society of London, the Government of the country and the Board of Ordnance, had begun to perceive the importance of knowing what the subterranean contents of every county were; but our brethren, in America, were a quarter of a century ahead of us in this respect. Every one of the United States had been geologically surveyed at the expense of the respective states of that enlightened republic, and the result was that they knew, within half a mile, what were the contents of the whole of their enormous continent. They knew, what was not known ten years ago, the fact that there was in North America a coal field, of excellent quality, larger than the whole of England—not of the English coal district only, but larger than the entire area of England! America—which, without this large coal field, must have depended upon other nations for many productions of manufactures, with this coal field would become a great manufacturing and commercial country. We might not live to see the time, but our posterity would live to see it; it was a time rapidly accelerated by the the increased demand of fuel for steam-engines for our manufactures, by the increasing application of fuel to the warming of houses, and by a thousand other applications of coal to uses which were not anticipated some years ago. There were portions of minor coal fields which were at this moment virtually extinct, e. g. that of Kingswood, in the neighbourhood of Bristol. The coal field of Radstock was a small one, and would soon be used up; the Forest of Dean was larger, but a large application would soon exhaust it, and our last hope was the stock in Monmouthshire and South Wales. The South Wales coal field would endure to the time when every particle of coal in the neighbourhood of Birmingham and the

coal fields of Staffordshire, Yorkshire, and Newcastle would be exhausted. Then our posterity would see the manufacturers of Birmingham transported to the coal fields of Monmouthshire.

Having apologised for this digression, Dr. Buckland proceeded to say that the history of the county of Somerset might be considered a type of the physical history of England. Its description might be made to form a small monograph—its subterranean antiquities forming one side, and its present natural history the other. He trusted that this society would give a stimulus to some properly qualified person to undertake such a monograph. Among the many advantages of a society pursuing the study of ante-deluvian, and post-deluvian, and mediæval times, the first was that it afforded the only occasion he knew for cultivating those feelings of brotherly love and friendship which he rejoiced to see existing among all classes, however differing one from another in politics or religion; it afforded *neutral* ground, on which persons of all parties in religion and politics, might meet: and he rejoiced to say that amongst the wise provisions of this institution there was one which forbade all discussions on subjects of a religious or political character. Here they met as brethren, as subjects of one common government, and children of one common God; and it was their business, to investigate the works of the Almighty in creation, and the works of Man in the ages long gone by, to collect evidence and documents concerning past political events, which affected us little now, except as they were beacons to admonish us to avoid those political errors into which our forefathers often fell and perished. Antiquity, he need not tell them, was of two kinds—natural and artificial—the earliest comprehending the works of God, and the later kind the works of man. The natural

subdivided itself into two great departments, the living and the dead ; the extinct races of animals which peopled the world before the creation of man, and the remains of the works of the human race during the many centuries since man had been created.

The existence of such towns as Bath, Wells, and Taunton, in the richest valleys, and the non existence of any towns at all upon the tops of Quantock, or Blackdown, or Exmoor, depended upon geological causes. The very fact of persons being present in that room must be traced (if they went back to first causes) to a geological cause. Why were the meadows of Bridgwater and the rich marsh lands of Somerset so productive of fat cattle and well-fed inhabitants?—Why was the Vale of Taunton favored so much before all other localities in—he might say almost in the whole world?—Why that full and perfect developement of the human species both male and female?—Why so much peace and plenty? When travelling over Europe in 1820 with a German Geologist more observant than himself of such matters, his companion whenever they came to a town where there were more pretty faces than usual, would say—“We are coming to a good geological formation.”—And the moment they got into the mountain regions—the Alps, for instance—ugliness was the universal characteristic. There was as much difference between the inhabitants of the rich valleys and the mountaineers as between one of their own well-fed beasts and a half starved Irish or Welch bullock. An old Scotch proverb said “the stomach was the man” it was the condition of the stomach, that from infancy, through life, affected not only the strength, but the beauty of the “human form divine.” Now he wished to remark that, although our government, following the example of America, had but a very few years since, (and after a geolo-

gical map of England had been constructed by private individuals) come to recognise the value of geology, and to desire to know the contents of their kingdom—as America knew her gold region in California, and her coal fields in Kentucky, and on the banks of the Ohio—yet those who were entrusted with the education of our people still cared not a rush about these matters. This was a gross defect of our national education, which is to us a reproach as a people. Whilst young men were crammed to insanity with the crotchets of Greek metres, they were almost taught to despise the works of God. The study of Natural History had been utterly neglected at our public schools, and he knew certain persons in authority in certain universities of the land who had said “that man is good for nothing, for he is addicted to the vain study of natural sciences.” They were ignorant of science themselves, and wished to keep others so. It was the old conclusion,

“*Damnans quod non intelligunt.*”

It was time these things were put an end to, and through the energies of such societies as this, the “consummation, so devoutly to be wished,” was likely to be effected. He then proceeded to prove his assertion that the actual presence of the audience around him was attributable to a geological cause. He would show this by contrast—by referring to certain lofty districts in the county where they could not find that perfection of man and beasts which they saw in its valleys—first, because there were no human beings here, the hill tops being too poor to attract or feed them. And, secondly, because the very cattle upon them were half starved. He would allude first to the Quantock Hills: all that he remembered of their history when he was a boy, was, that persons brought from these hills to Axminster and Lyme, donkeys laden with wortel berries to make pies;

how small is the revenue from an acre of wortel berries ! Pointing on the map to the regions of barren unproductive slate-rock, he observed that there was none of the red oxide of iron there. Let the soil be red, and the soil never would be bad. The summits of Quantock and Exmoor being blue slate were sterile ; but the moment they came to Dunster Castle and Nettlecombe, where the soil was red and the climate mild, they found the finest oaks in England, oaks which were sent for from Liverpool to make the stern posts of the largest vessels, and purchased at immense prices, for they *must* have them. It was a geological cause which made these oaks worth 100 guineas each. They could not get such timber on the blue slate, and even if the soil were good the climate would spoil them ; for where rocks were thrown up 1,800 or even only 900 feet, as on Dartmoor and Exmoor, if the soil was good the climate would prevent the trees from growing as in sheltered valleys. But where nature had been kind, man was indisposed to labour. Why was it that the Scotch were half a century ahead of us—that Scotchmen were to be found in every town in this kingdom, and in the British empire—that three-fourths of our officers in India were from Scotland—that the Scotchman was found at every court in the world—that English gentlemen preferred Scotch gardeners, and were getting 25 per cent. more from their estates when managed by Scotch bailiffs, or on the Scottish system ? It was because the intelligent natives of that highly civilized land had the good sense to discover the value of education. Nature had made Scotland a sterile and therefore an improving country ; but the natives of the County of Somerset were in a state which deserved compassion. In the Vale of Taunton and at Bridgwater the

land was too fat, and afforded not to the well-fed farmer sufficient work.

—————“ Pater ipse colendi
Haud facilem esse viam voluit.”

It was not easy to get a crop of corn from the heights and mountains of Scotland, or from the sides of Exmoor or Dartmoor; God had appointed that industry and energy should be the lot of the greatest part of mankind; but the inhabitants of these fertile valleys formed a pitiable exception; where God had done much, man was a lazy animal, and would do little; and where farmers had nothing to do but to buy lean Welch cattle—turn them into the Bridgewater meadows to walk about and get fat—drive them fattened to Bristol, and come home with the money in their pocket—where this was the case, he had compassion on them. It was a temptation to idleness, which led to every vice and every disease, both of the body and the mind. The farmer under such circumstances is under continual temptation to become indolent and sottish—he might eat, drink and smoke too much and get gout, and die of indigestion. Therefore he said to those farmers who occupied the fertile valleys of Somerset, that on all the principles of human nature they ought to be bad farmers. Tenants on bad lands must be good farmers, or they must starve; but by all the usual motives of human conduct the occupiers of rich lands will be made bad farmers, and whenever they are good, how great was their merit in resisting the temptations by which they were assailed! They had in the low Somersetshire valleys the very fat of the earth—the scourings of the impoverished hills about Sherborne which were washed down the valley to make the fertile marsh lands that extended from Ilchester to the sea; into the fertile valleys

of the Parret, the Brue, and the Axe, the goodness of the country was swept, to form the rich grazing lands that lay along the rivers. The best lands of Somerset were of three kinds—marsh lands, red marl, and sandy loam of the lower oolite formation. Let gentlemen buy their estates (and not sell them) on the red soils; let them buy them on the red marl; but don't let them invest their capital upon Blackdown or Whitedown or any Down at all.

The Mendip hills formed a high range, extending east and west, from near Uphill, on the Severn, almost to Frome, they consisted of mountain lime stone raised up by volcanic forces from the bottom of an ancient sea, and dipping in two opposite directions (viz. north and south,) on each side of a long axis of elevation, composed of old red sand stone. The beds of lime stone are placed like sheets of lead on the boards which form the two sides of the high pitched roof of a gothic Cathedral. Mines of lead and zinc were worked long ago by the Romans, and still are worked, though scantily, on the Mendips.

If we ask the cause of this extensive elevation of a chain of hills, 20 miles long and from 3 to 6 miles wide, and from 200 to more than 800 feet in height; we must refer it to the same uplifting and explosive force of vapours, generated within the earth by subterraneous fires, which are still producing earthquakes and exploding ashes and streams of lava in regions which are at this time agitated by nearly 200 burning volcanoes on the actual surface of the globe.

Fractures and dislocations which attended the elevation of these strata from the bottom of the sea, may be seen in the rocks of Cheddar Cliffs on the east flank of Mendip; and in the yawning chasms of Brockley Combe and Goblin Combe, on the west side of Broadfield-down, near Bristol; and in the gorge through which the Avon passes at Clifton.

But the vents that have discharged igneous rocks in the hills of Somerset are few; one at Hestercombe, in the south flank of Quantock, was described by Mr. Horner, more than 30 years ago; a second was noticed by myself in 1817, on the N. W. shoulder of Broadfield-down, near the upper terminus of Brockley Combe: of this I have published no account, and I am not aware that it has been recognized by any subsequent observer: a third has been laid open by a railway cutting at the west end of the Mendip chain, near Uphill.

A rich iron is to be found near Minehead. He might mention (though somewhat reluctantly, because it appeared egotistical,) that after Sir H. De la Beche, with his staff of geological officers, had gone over the ground, they could not find a single error in his map of Mendip, whilst *per contra*, he had detected a military error in the ordnance map—a camp on the Mendip hills, which had been put in the wrong place; the Mendip and Dartmoor and Quantock hills, and nearly all the hills in the world, had been raised, from the bottom of the sea, in which they were formed, to become the more or less perfect abodes of the human race.

The rev. gentleman then turned to consider the various kinds of stone observable in the geological formation of the county. There was the lias which extended largely over England, France, and Germany. That lias was not only of use to the architect, for making Roman cement and pavements, but useful also to the Palæontologist. It was a formation of which it might be truly said, as Virgil said of some lands prolific of the farmer's pests,

“ Quæ plurima terræ
Monstra ferunt.”

The monsters of the lias were, indeed, most awful monsters, they were creatures which, had the present company been

living in their age, would have swallowed us up in less time than he had taken to tell this story. He had valued one collection of these monsters which formerly belonged to Mr. Hawkins, and is now in the British museum, at £2000. They were so perfect that they could be dissected almost as an anatomist would dissect a dead dog; the skin, the scarf skin, and even what they had eaten for their dinners, was discoverable. After referring to the Plesiosaurus discovered by Mr. Conybeare, Dr. Buckland stated that on Tuesday last, at Birmingham, there was laid upon the table, a thigh-bone larger than that of any elephant that was ever seen; it had no marrow, it was as solid as a gate-post; it had a fibrous structure which exists not in any whales; and particular perforations for blood-vessels, which exist now only in the family of frogs, and toads, and salamanders. It was the thigh-bone of a colossal salamander (*the chirotherium*), and was found at Aust Passage, near Bristol, not 35 miles from Taunton.

Turning to the architecture of the county, he spoke of Wells Cathedral, built of stone from Doultling near Shepton Mallet, of a subdivision of the inferior oolite formation, of a very enduring character. He wished he could say as much for the beautiful Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Taunton, which was built of Keuper sand-stone, and which had much decayed. The ashlers were of Ham-hill stone, which was also decaying; the quality of the stone being inferior to some which had been obtained at Ham-hill in times previous to the building of Taunton Church. At Ilminster, Yeovil, and Crewkerne, houses were built of a yellow sandy stone of the lower oolite formation; so they were in the towns of Towcester and Northampton, where it bears the local name of gingerbread rock. The Bath stone was used abundantly in London; this was a gross mistake, they could

get a much more enduring stone from Normandy and from Yorkshire. As long as he lived, no Bath stone should be used again on the outside of Westminster Abbey. Having descanted upon other topics the Rev. Dr. entered into a warm refutation of the assertion that the study of geology clashed with theology, and said all these geological formations were anterior to the creation of man; they were indeed preparatory to his reception on a surface fitted to sustain him by its animal and vegetable productions. The difficulty of reconciling the earth's high antiquity with the bible chronology has been satisfactorily explained by many writers; but by none so well as in a recent small volume entitled "*The Earth's Antiquity*," by the Rev G. Gray.—The style of this volume is beautifully poetical, rigidly logical, purely classical, and profoundly religious; and would richly reward the perusal of every literary and scientific reader in Christendom, in these days when the facts of geology are unjustly supposed by many not to be in accordance with the Mosaic record. He quoted with much solemnity the line of Byron—"the dust we tread upon was once alive"—and concluded by asserting that geology led them to see in the relics of bye-gone ages the works of an All-wise, Omniscient, Omnipresent, All-great, All-powerful God, who has "created all things, and for whose pleasure they are, and were created."

Mr. F. H. DICKINSON, said, that after the very eloquent address of the Dean of Westminster, it would hardly become him to seek to occupy the time of the meeting at any length: but he might be pardoned for calling attention to the more strictly archaeological investigations which the society proposed to institute. The effect of Dr. Buckland's address, in one part, was to show that the studies of archaeology and of natural history were neglected:

and he (Mr. D.) feared that his remarks were too true as regarded Somersetshire, in common with the country generally. Those who had followed these studies were, therefore, the more entitled to the thanks and gratitude of the public for their labours, and for the valuable discoveries they had made; such discoveries could not be made by every one; a day's walk on Mendip of Dr. Buckland, and Mr. Conybeare, would produce far more excellent results than much more extended researches of men not equally qualified, and the same might be said concerning natural history. But in investigating the antiquities of their own neighbourhood each person, however small his attainments, might give valuable information, and the paper of queries which it is the intention of the society to circulate, would afford them all an opportunity. If he was not mistaken, very valuable materials were collected for a statistical survey of Scotland, by the circulation of such a paper among the ministers of the Kirk of Scotland. Mr. D. then alluded shortly to the prevailing character of the church architecture of the county; the third pointed or perpendicular, which, though approved of especially by some persons, could not be considered so interesting or beautiful as the earlier styles, and drew attention particularly to the remains of earlier work, which may be detected in some churches as at St. Cuthbert's, Wells, and at Martock; a matter which should be carefully studied, whether it be viewed in connexion with the plans of the churches, or the alterations they have undergone, or more generally with reference to the history of architecture.

The Museum.

A TEMPORARY museum was formed in one of the large rooms in the Market House. Most of the objects exhibited were deposited by the undermentioned friends of the society.

By Sir Walter Trevelyan.—Original Grant of Nettlecombe, (Hen. II). Confirmation of the same by Henry II., dated Bruges. Appointment by John of Gaunt, as King of Castile, of the Earl of Devon as his Lieutenant during his absence from England (1377). A deed of Mortimer, Earl of March, [21, Rich. II.] Grant by Richard Mallet, (9 Hen. V). Deed of Hugh Courtnai, Earl of Devon, (6 Hen. VI). Deed of Ann Countess of Devon, (21 Hen. VI). Confirmation under Great Seal, of the Chantry of Simon Raleigh, in Nettlecombe Church, (1453). Directions for the Chaplain of Simon Raleigh's Chantry, (1489). An indulgence granted to John Pampius, (*printed.*) Miniature Portrait of Chas. I., worked with his own hair. Fine Seals were attached to most of the above ancient charters.

By Rev. P. Thomas.—Portions of an ancient *Reredos* from Wellington Church, richly sculptured, painted, and gilded. [See Mr. Giles's paper, with engraving, in the second part.]

By Rev. T. F. Dymock.—Antique head (supposed of Germanicus) dug up at Nismes. Selections from a cabinet of coins, exhibiting the principle features of the Roman and English series. Saxon and Norman pennies struck at Bath, Taunton, Ilchester, and Watchet. [See Mr. Dymock's paper in the second part.]

By Mr. George Roberts, Lyme Regis; Rev. C. P. Parish; and Rev. T. F. Dymock.—Remains of Ichthyosauri Penta-

crinite, and Sepia, from the lias of Lyme Regis and Somersetshire.

By Sir Thomas Phillips.—A transcript of a Deed of the 13th century, relative to Huntspill Church.

By Mr. Harris, Bath.—Roman Sword, Celt, and Pottery, found in Bath, and its neighbourhood.

By Mr. R. Ready, Norwich.—Casts (132) of the Great Seals of England, from Edward the Confessor to William IV. Models of corporate and other seals, illustrating Somersetshire.

By Rev. J. Horner, Mells.—Drawings of Churches in Somersetshire, and several valuable ancient manuscripts.

By Rev. M. Clerk.—Five ancient deeds relating to lands near Frome. Six Spear Heads. A piece of Pottery found in the Nilgherry Hills, India. Several ancient Egyptian Rings, Scarabœi, Amulets, an Idol, and Glass Seal. Fossils from central India. Fibula found in a drain at Wells.

By Mr. John Bluett.—A collection of English stuffed Birds in 80 cases. Coins of William I. and William Rufus, struck at Taunton. Mexican Crystal, (St. Isidore). Ancient German Enamels on Platina, Bacchus and Ceres. Ancient Silver Gilt Ring. Two ancient Lead Casts found in London.

By Major Raban.—Tertiary and Hardwell Fossils.

By Rev. W. Pyne.—Account of the Pitney Pavement, by Sir R. C. Hoare.

By Mr. Eales White.—Coloured Drawings of the Cathedrals of England. Drawings of Fossil Ornithocephalus, and the old Manor House at Orchard Portman. Patterns of Roman Pavements at Watford, near Chard, and at Pitney, near Somerton. Stuccoes from Pompeii. Fragment of Tessellated Pavements from the Baths of Titus, and of Caracalla. Ancient Church Music. Specimen of Vegetable Ivory. Lamp of Terra Cotta from Pompeii.

By Mr. A. Ramsay, Beaminster.—Adoration of the Magi, ancient Oak Carving.

By Mr. W. M. Kelly.—Three specimens of Fossil Remains. Cast of Head of John Locke.

By Mr. W. D. Crotch.—Eggs of British Birds. [See Mr. Crotch's paper in the second part.]

By Mr. W. F. Elliot.—Drawings illustrative of Somerset. Paintings, cast of Foliated Capital, and Sculpture from the house of the Carmelite Friars, Taunton. Paintings of the Landslip at Lyme, and of the Ram's Horn Bridge, Taunton.

By Rev. T. F. Dymock; and Rev. C. P. Parish.—A collection of some of the rarer Plants of Somersetshire.

By Mr. Ashworth.—Coloured Drawing of St. Mary's Church, Taunton, from the south-east.

By Mr. C. E. Giles.—Coloured Drawings of the exterior and interior of Nunney Castle. Full sized casts of the Spandrils of west door of St. Mary's, Taunton; [see paper in the second part.] "*Statistique Monumentale de Paris.*" "*Illustrations of Cothelstow House.*" "*Churches of Northamptonshire.*" Three vols. of Scraps, Sketches, and Memoranda. A coloured drawing of King Alfred's Jewel.

By Mr. A. A. Clarke.—Views of ancient remains in Taunton. Encaustic tile from the Monastery at Athelney.

By Mr. J. A. Roberts.—Encaustic tile and coloured glass from Glastonbury Abbey.

By Mr. S. Cox.—Fibulæ, Celt, &c.

By the Earl of Cavan.—Spine of *Menanthus monili*, jaw of *Saurichtlus*, and other Fossils from the coprolite bed of the lias, at the shore near Sheraton Bars.

By Mr. W. Baker.—Fossil Corals, &c., from Cannington Park and Over Stowey; and numerous zoological and anatomical specimens. [The Fossils are referred to in his paper in the second part.]

By Mr. W. Tucker, Cannington.—A case containing male and female Grasshopper warbler (*Curruca Locustella*)

By Rev. John Scott, Bath.—Rare Books, MSS. and Prints, illustrative of the Antiquities of England. Miniature Portrait on copper, by Guido. Sketch by Hogarth. Small Landscape on silk, said to be by Titian. Three Marble Statues (one dug up at Bath). Ancient Signet Ring supposed of one of the early Kings of England.

By Mr. John Woodland.—Collection of British Insects, mostly from the neighbourhood of Taunton.

By Rev. H. D. Wickham, Frome.—Charter of King Ina (702) relating to property at Croscombe.

By Mr. F. Lake.—Double Ryal of Queen Elizabeth Daguerreotypes of St. Mary's Church, Taunton. An ancient Pedigree.

Mr. C. J. Richardson—The Elford Effigies, from Lichfield (23 casts). Fifteen Rubbings from Brasses, &c.

By Mr. J. Britton, F.S.A.—Daguerreotype by Claudet. Busts, Models, Drawings, Books. Gold Medal from the King of Prussia to J. Britton. Portfolio of Drawings illustrative of Somerset and Wilts.

By Dr. Daubeney.—Drawing of Tessellated Pavement found in Dyer-street, Cirencester.

By Mr. W. Stradling.—Celts, Spears, &c. found in the Turbary, near Chilton-on-polden. Roman Coins from Bath. Moulds of Roman Coins, from Chilton Turbary. Battle Axe, and two Monmouth Bills, from Sedgemoor. A large Celt from Somerton. A Lamp from Lynn, Norfolk.

By Mr. J. H. Payne.—Specimens of Minerals.

By Mr. F. C. Stockdale.—Portfolio of Sketches of Somersetshire Churches. Drawings of Barrington Court; Montacute House; and St. Mary's Church, Taunton.

By Rev. W. H. Turner.—Print of Evereccech Church.

By Rev. E. O. Trevelyan.—Carvings from the Church of Huish Champflower.

By Mr. Moore, Ilminster.—A rich collection of Fossil Fish, and Insects, from the lias near Ilminster.

There were numerous other curiosities exhibited, but it was impossible to make a complete list, in consequence of the parties who had deposited them having omitted to send descriptions.
