

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
FOR THE YEAR 1867.

PART I

THE Nineteenth Annual General Meeting was held at BRISTOL, on the 27th August, 1867, under the presidency of Sir EDWARD STRACHEY, Bart. The President on taking the chair said :—When our Society last year resolved that our next meeting should be held at Bristol, I felt some misgiving as to the propriety of our thus crossing our own border and entering our neighbours' territory. But this misgiving was dissipated when I learnt with what hearty zeal the prospect of our coming was welcomed by the gentlemen of Clifton and Bristol, who formed themselves into a committee to make the arrangements for our meeting—a welcome not of words only, but of deeds—of a generous expenditure of their time and labour and money—so that we cannot but feel that we are not come as questionable intruders, but rather as old and

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intimate friends, who may without impropriety invite themselves to their neighbours' houses. And I would, on behalf of our Society, take this opportunity of offering our sincere thanks to the local committee and secretaries for all their kind and obliging labours. It may be in the recollection of some members of the Society, that at a former meeting, one of our then Secretaries, whose retirement from ill health we so much regret, though we welcome his presence to-day—I mean Mr. Browne—mentioned to the meeting, as a matter of some interest, the existence of a Manuscript History of Somersetshire, by my ancestor, John Strachey. I have here the proposals for its publication, which were printed in 1736; but it has remained in manuscript among the family papers, and only occasionally been brought to light for a moment. It was not known to Collinson; and though I have not attempted any considerable comparison of the two histories, I may say that, as far as I can judge by those parts which relate to my own neighbourhood, John Strachey's researches, which were carried on for 40 years, extended farther than those of Collinson's among ancient records, and that he has preserved many of those local details which give life and interest to a county history, but which are not mentioned by Collinson, and no longer exist in our oral traditions. I have placed the greater part of the manuscript in the temporary museum, and shall be happy to give further information respecting it to any gentleman whom the subject interests; and also a map of the county, which was made by John Strachey, from his own surveys, and which was published, or at least sent to subscribers, though I have not met with any copy but my own. I will not now detain you longer from the business of the meeting, but call on our Secretary to read the Report.

Mr. R. G. BADCOCK, (hon. sec.) then read the following Report of the Council for the past year :—

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, 1867.

“The Council have the pleasure to report that the Society now in its 19th year continues to receive the support of its Members. It pursues its wonted course, and while it has not to report any extraordinary event during the year past, it has the satisfaction to record an increase in the number of its Members, and that the interest in the objects and pursuits of the Society is unabated.

The Council regret that the publication of the 13th Volume of your Proceedings has been unavoidably delayed. This arises mainly from an ardent desire of the contributors—volunteers be it remembered—that their papers should be entirely worthy of your acceptance, and sustain the character of your publications. However, the Council hope the volume (of which the greater part is nearly ready for binding, the remainder being either ready or preparing for the press) will soon be in the hands of the Members, and that it will be at least equal to any that have preceded it.

For want of available space and other appliances, the Museum in some departments is not so complete and well arranged as the Council could desire, and they recommend as a rule, that hereafter only specimens that illustrate the Zoology, Botany, and Geology of the County, and antiquarian relics found within its borders, or immediately connected with its history, be admitted. Judicious and careful weeding may also be pursued with advantage. Recent changes have increased the accommodation in the Museum and will promote the arrangements which the Council have had in contemplation for some time past.

The Council would urge upon the Society the necessity of impressing on the public great caution and care in any works of restoration, and particularly in Church Restoration ; and in the language of a Sister Society would say, 'Let the spirit of preservation exert a strong influence on your work, restore as accurately as possible what is gone, and preserve what remains.' New work is easier, but however well done, no copy can ever realise the original.

The Council announce with much regret the retirement of two of your Secretaries, and the absence of the third from England. Whatever success the Society has achieved is greatly owing to them, and their loss is therefore severely felt, and the thanks of the Society are eminently due to them for their services. It devolves upon this Meeting to appoint two new Secretaries at least, and to provide a *locum tenens* for the third till his return to England.

The income of the Society would meet the expenditure, provided the Members would promptly pay their subscriptions, and not allow them to be in arrear. The collection entails considerable expense, which the Council think might be avoided by the Members availing themselves a little more of the services of their bankers as suggested in the Society's circular.

In conclusion the Council desire to express their thanks to the President, to the Mayor of Bristol, to the Members and Honorary Secretaries of the Bristol Committee, the Bristol Architectural and Archæological Society, the Bristol Naturalists' Society, and the Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club, and also to the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company, for their cordial co-operation in promoting the views of the Society on their visit to this city.

Annexed is the Account of the Society for the year

ending August 20th, 1867, audited by W. P. Pinchard, Esq., and showing a balance of £8 16s. 4d. in favour of the Society."

Mr. BADCOCK presented the following Financial statement:—

The Treasurers in Account with the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Cr.

1865		1865-6,	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
August 18.		By Expenses at Annual Meeting	
To Balance of former account	5 7 2	at Ilminster	2 0 0
„ Subscriptions	131 10 6	„ Advertising	4 18 0
„ Entrance Fees	5 0 0	„ Repairs, Glass, &c.	5 1 4
		„ Stationery, Printing, &c.	4 1 8
		„ Coal, Gas, &c.	14 0 8
		„ Curator's Salary to Aug. 3,	
		1867	37 10 0
		„ Rent to Midsummer, 1867	30 5 0
		„ Insurance	15 0
		„ May, on account of Print-	
		ing Vol. XIII	20 0 0
		„ Subscription to Ray Society	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Palæontological Society	2 2 0
		„ Wheatley (Reporting)	1 0 0
		„ Excavations at Wadford	4 12 6
		„ Postage, Carriage, &c.	4 4 4
		„ Sundries	1 9 0
		Balance	8 16 4
	<u>£ 141 17 8</u>		<u>£ 141 17 8</u>
August 20, 1867, Balance ...	£ 8 16 4		

H. & R. & H. J. & D. BADCOCK,
Treasurers,

21st August, 1867, Audited and found Correct,

W. P. PINCHARD.

Proposed by the President, and carried unanimously, "That the Report and Treasurers' Account now presented be received and adopted."

Proposed by the President, and carried unanimously, "That the Committee be empowered to make arrangements for the next meeting, and for the appointment of President."

The Vice-Presidents were re-elected, with the addition of the Right Hon. Chichester Fortescue, and Sir Edward Strachey, Bart.

The Treasurers were re-elected.

The Secretaries were appointed as follows : Mr. W. A. Sanford, Dr. Pring, Mr. R. G. Badcock, General Secretary ; Rev. W. A. Jones, Honorary Secretary.

The Local Secretaries were re-elected with the addition of Mr. W. F. Elliot, and Dr. Kelly.

The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Committee : Mr. H. Alford, Mr. J. Hamilton, Mr. E. Beadon, Captain Doveton, Rev. W. T. Redfern, Mr. H. J. Alford, Mr. O. W. Malet.

Colonel PINNEY said he believed that some Members were not present because they disapproved of the Society stepping over its borders. For himself he did not see why they should not go into neighbouring counties, some of which had no Archæological Society of their own, especially as this Society had now been in existence for some years, and had gone over most parts of its own county. If the border was not extended, it would be necessary to go over the same ground a second time to some extent. Referring to the projected excursion on Thursday, Colonel Pinney said they would then have an opportunity of criticising the improvements and alterations which the President had been making at Sutton Court.

The Rev. F. BROWN stated that a friend of his had suggested Milborne Port as the next place to be visited.

Mr. E. A. FREEMAN stated that if the Society had done wrong in coming to Bristol, the scourges ought to fall upon his back, for he was the wrong doer. He made the recommendation to visit Bristol, but he did not do so without strong grounds. He maintained that they could not properly and completely discharge their functions, unless they took into their sphere of operations, at least for once, a city which was so closely connected with them. A large part of Bristol was really in Somersetshire, and that part

contained a most important object—namely, Redcliff Church. Some of the Bristol churches were essentially in their architecture, types of the Somersetshire churches, and the Society could not complete its archæological surveys without inspecting those churches.

The President then called upon Mr. J. T. ...