

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
FOR THE YEAR 1871.

THE Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Society was held at CREWKERNE, on Tuesday, August 29th, 1871, under the presidency of EDWARD A. FREEMAN, Esq. M.A. D.C.L.

In the unavoidable absence of the President Sir W. C. Medlycott, Bart. Lord ARTHUR HERVEY, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, moved that Edward A. Freeman, Esq. D.C.L., the President elect, take the Chair, at the same time congratulating the members of the Society on having chosen as their President a gentleman so eminently qualified to fill the office. The motion was carried by acclamation, and Mr. Freeman took the Chair as President for the year.

The Honorary Secretary, Mr. WILLIAM ARTHUR JONES, read the

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

“In presenting their Twenty-third Annual Report, the Council have the pleasure to announce that the Society continues to sustain its position as a valued institution in the county, and that by the accession of new members, the losses occasioned by death and removal are more than made up.

The Museum of the Society has lately received a valuable addition in the series of Somersetshire Minerals, contributed and arranged by Mr. Spencer Geo. Perceval.

The Council have also the pleasure to report that they have received two valuable contributions of objects of interest from His Excellency the Rajah of Sarāwak.

In accordance with a Resolution passed at the last General Meeting, a memorial was duly forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, urging the importance of placing the more interesting monuments of antiquity under the supervision of the State. The Council regret that Her Majesty's Government have not as yet thought fit to take any steps towards carrying out that object, but they earnestly trust this may be done before the memorials of the past history of the land are irretrievably lost or destroyed.

The Committee, during the past year, have thought it desirable to charge a small entrance fee for admission into the Museum, and they have the pleasure to report that, while the number of visitors has greatly increased, the receipts from this source will go far towards providing new cases required for the more suitable classification of the various collections of interest belonging to the Society.

The Council have the pleasure to announce that a

On the motion of F. H. DICKINSON, Esq., seconded by the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH :—"The Report of the Council, and the Treasurers' Report were received and adopted."

The Vice-presidents were re-appointed, with the addition of Sir W. C. Medlycott, Bart.

The Treasurers and General Secretaries were re-elected.

The following gentlemen were elected as Members of the Committee :—Mr. H. Alford, Mr. Edwards Beadon, Capt. Doveton, Mr. Octavius W. Malet, Mr. Cecil Smith, Rev. W. P. Williams.

The Local Secretaries were re-elected, with the addition of Mr. W. B. Sparks for the Crewkerne district.

On the motion of Mr. WILLIAM ARTHUR JONES, seconded by the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH, who both spoke in high terms of the value of his services, Mr. William Bidgood was re-elected as Curator of the Museum.

Mr. JONES read a letter from Mr. John Batten, regretting his being unable to attend the meeting, and proposing that :—"The Council be requested to take under its consideration the expediency of extending the area of its operations to the County of Dorset."

This proposition gave rise to a long discussion, in which the LORD BISHOP, Mr. TROYTE BULLOCK, Mr. DICKINSON, the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH, and the SECRETARY took part. As no member of the Society seconded the resolution the subject dropped.

ON the motion of Mr. DICKINSON, it was resolved :—"That the Committee be empowered to make arrangements for the next Annual General Meeting, and for the appointment of President."