

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
FOR THE YEAR 1873.

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THE Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society was held at WELLS, on Tuesday, August 19th, 1873, in the Town Hall.

The public proceedings began at midday. The Chair was taken by the President, Mr. W. A. SANFORD, F.G.S., who paid a tribute to the memory and services of Mr. W. A. JONES, the late Secretary of the Society. Mr. Jones by his unremitting attention, by his considerable ability, by his genial manners and general kindness, had done very much for the Society, and his death would be a heavy and perhaps an irreparable loss, for it would be difficult to re-

place him. Mr. Sanford congratulated the Society on having gained the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese to succeed him in the office of President, and said that it was a fortunate thing that we had a Church, which was not afraid to look boldly into what might be the truth concerning any subject, and that the Society was fortunate in that the head of the Church in that county and diocese had agreed to take the office of President. Mr. Sanford then vacated the Chair, and upon the motion of Mr. F. H. DICKINSON, seconded by COL. PINNEY, the Bishop was voted into it by acclamation as President for the year.

The Honorary Secretary, the Rev. W. HUNT, then read the

#### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

“In giving a Report of the proceedings of the Society since its last Annual Meeting, the first thing to be noticed is the Resolution mentioned in the first paragraph of last year’s Report, that copies should be made of the Indexes of the three principal Record Books of the Chapter of Wells for publication in the Proceedings of the Society. We are glad to be able to state that the two most important Indexes have been finished, and the third is now more than half gone through. The Society are under much obligation to Mr. Dickinson, and to Mr. Serel and Mr. Fielder for the trouble they have taken in this work.

“The same Committee that attended to the above also took charge of the proceedings of the Society connected with the Bill for the Preservation of Historical Monuments. Only three of such Monuments in Somersetshire have been noted in the schedule, viz.:—The Druidical Circles at Stanton Drew, the Chambered Tumulus at Stoney Littleton, and Cadbury Camp. It is hoped, however, that the

other objects of interest in the county will be left with safety to the good feeling of the owners and occupiers of the land where they are situated. Mr. Dickinson and the late Secretary, Mr. Jones, were kind enough to see Sir John Lubbock, the promoter of the Bill, and the thanks of the Society are due to them for the trouble they took in the matter.

“Many specimens of Natural History and objects of general interest have been added to our collections during the year, though none of sufficient importance to require special mention. An increasing interest in such things is shown by the number of persons who have visited the Museum. Before long it will be absolutely necessary to find a larger space for the display of the collections belonging to the Society, which are already more crowded than they ought to be, and it is only through careful and methodical arrangement by the Curator, Mr. Bidgood, that room is made for them.

“Several new Members have been added to the Society.

“In the month of February last it was brought to the notice of the Committee that the old Castle of Taunton might be purchased at a moderate price, viz., £3,000. The idea was immediately and warmly taken up. A special meeting of the Council to consider the question was held on the 5th of March, under the presidency of W. A. Sanford, Esq., when it was resolved—‘With the view of securing so interesting a monument of antiquity, that the Castle of Taunton and its adjacent grounds (as set forth in the plan laid before the Council by Mr. Maynard), or so much of it as may be found convenient, be purchased by public subscription, under the auspices of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History

‘Society. Should this property be purchased, that the buildings be utilized for the purposes of the Society, and that the grounds be carefully laid out as a public garden. That in furtherance of the above object, subscriptions be invited both from the town and county, and that a letter embodying the above should be circulated with the view of obtaining subscriptions.’ A general circulation of the views of the Council on the subject is now in progress. As has been already stated, more space is urgently wanted for the accommodation of the Society. If this purchase is made it will supply this need, and a most interesting historical monument, which might be made the pride of the county, will be preserved.

“It is our melancholy duty to ask you to place on the records of this meeting the great loss that our Society has sustained in the death of Mr. Wm. Arthur Jones. To a more than ordinary knowledge on general and archæological subjects, and a scientifically cultured mind, which rendered him one of the most valuable officers that this Society ever had, Mr. Jones added a kindness of heart and amenity of manner which endeared him to all who had the pleasure of knowing him, and those who knew him best lament him most.

“We have also to regret the loss of the services of Dr. Pring. The very considerable scientific attainments of this gentleman have been of the greatest value to this Society, and we regret that want of health and leisure will prevent his giving us that assistance which has been so valuable.

“The Rev. Wm. Hunt, of Congresbury, and Mr. O. W. Malet, of Haygrass, near Taunton, have been requested to act as Honorary Secretaries.

“ We beg to recommend that Mr. Bidgood, the Curator of the Society, should in addition to the post which he already holds, be appointed Assistant Secretary of the Society, his salary being at the same time increased by £20 a year, in recognition of his valuable and faithful services.

“ Your Committee recommend that the word ‘three’ be substituted for the word ‘five’ in Rule VI., as the number necessary to form a quorum.”

Mr. SANFORD, in moving the adoption of the Report, said that he hoped that the Society would not neglect the opportunity of buying Taunton Castle: the price named was £3,000, of this £1,000 had been already raised, and he thought that if another £1,000 could be raised, it would be advisable to make the purchase at once, and take up the remainder of the money upon mortgage.

Mr. G. T. CLARK pointed out the archæological value of the Castle. It occupied the site of the fortress of King Ine, which was built in the very earliest years of the eighth century. Most of the building now standing dates from the reign of Henry I., and it was a place of considerable importance during the Civil War of the 17th century. Mr. Clark also remarked on the great inconvenience which arose from the smallness of the space into which the valuable collections of the Society had to be crowded, and earnestly called upon the Members to use strenuous efforts to place in their own safe keeping such an interesting monument of the history of the county, and to secure a suitable place in which their collections might be deposited and re-arranged.

The following FINANCIAL STATEMENT was presented by the Treasurers :—

The Treasurers in Account with the Somersetshire Archaeological and

Dr.	Natural History Society.			Cr.
	1872.	£	s	d
Sept. 9.				
By Balance of former Account	23	6	8	
„ Excursion Tickets and Conversazione ... ..	14	6	0	
„ Entrance Fees ... ..	11	0	0	
„ Subscriptions ... ..	175	0	0	
„ Museum Admission Fees (11 months) .. ..	13	19	5	
		<u>£</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>12</u>
			<u>1</u>	
	1872-3.	£	s	d
To Annual Meeting Expenses, and Advertising ... ..	25	17	8	
„ Repairs, &c. ... ..	1	5	3	
„ Stationery, Printing, &c. ...	13	9	0	
„ Coal, Gas, &c. ... ..	15	9	1	
„ Curator's Salary to August 3, 1873 ... ..	42	10	0	
„ Rent (1 year, to Midsummer 1873 ... ..	30	0	0	
„ Insurance ... ..	7	6	6	
„ Purchase of Books, &c. ..	3	6	0	
„ Balance of account for print- ing Vol. XVII. ... ..	23	1	6	
„ On account of printing Vol. XVIII. ... ..	20	0	0	
„ Illustrations, Photographs, &c. .. ..	16	12	6	
„ Subscription to Ray Society, 1873 .. ..	1	1	0	
„ Ditto, to Palæontographical Society, for 1873 ... ..	1	1	0	
„ Ditto, to Harleian Society, 1873 ... ..	1	1	0	
„ Postage of Volume of Pro- ceedings ... ..	3	9	10	
„ Postage, Carriage, &c. ...	9	15	2	
„ Paid to Conversazione Ac- count .. ..	1	8	0	
„ Sundries ... ..	2	17	3	
„ Balance ... ..	25	0	4	
		<u>£</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>12</u>
			<u>1</u>	

Aug. 12, 1873.

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

Taunton, Aug. 15, 1873. I have examined and audited this Account, compared the particulars with the vouchers and find the Account correct, and that there is in the Treasurers' hands a balance of Twenty-five Pounds and Fourpence to the credit of the Society.

W. P. PINCHARD.

The Report of the Council and the Treasurers' Report were received and adopted.

The Vice-Presidents were re-appointed, with the addition of Mr. W. A. Sanford and Mr. G. T. Clark.

The Treasurers were re-elected.

The Rev. W. Hunt and Mr. O. W. Malet were elected General Secretaries.

The name of Dr. Pring was added to the list of Local Secretaries, and the thanks of the Society were expressed for his kind and efficient services as one of the General Secretaries.

Mr. W. Bidgood was re-elected Curator of the Museum, and the additional office of Assistant Secretary was conferred upon him. Mr. W. A. SANFORD and Mr. F. H. DICKINSON expressed the value which the Society placed upon his laborious and intelligent services.

An animated discussion was raised about the place of meeting for next year. Some of the Members were anxious to fix upon Sherborne, and it was hinted that the Society would be welcomed by that town. On the other hand many considered that it would be premature to pass the bounds of the county until the Society had more thoroughly explored its proper sphere of action.

Mr. J. BATTEN remarked that the Society had already, in 1867, left the county by meeting in Bristol.

The Rev. W. HUNT contended that Bristol stood in a very different relation to the county to that which was held by Sherborne, both as regards history and architecture.

Mr. E. A. FREEMAN, D.C.L., said that he thought that the question had been settled last year in favour of Sherborne.

The Rev. Prebendary SCARTH and Rev. H. H. WINWOOD expressed their hope that the Society would not be in any way rendered less distinctly Somersetshire; and this feeling seemed to meet with very general acceptance.

It was finally agreed, upon the motion of Mr. J. BATTEN, that the place of meeting should be left to the decision of the Committee, with power to fix upon a place beyond the border of the county. But at the same time it was understood that no other place outside the county should be fixed upon for the next year's meeting except Sherborne.

The Revs. I. S. Gale and W. P. Williams, Captain

Doveton, Messrs. Cecil Smith, A. Malet, and H. Alford were elected Members of the Committee.