

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
DURING THE YEAR 1853.

PART I.

THE Fifth Annual Meeting of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society was held at the Town Hall, Yeovil, on Tuesday, September 13th, 1853,—**WM. PINNEY, Esq., M.P.,** in the Chair.

The meeting commenced as usual for the transaction of business, at eleven o'clock. The President, Vice-Presidents, and the District or Local Secretaries and Treasurers were severally re-appointed. **Wm. Pinney, Esq., M.P.,** was elected a Vice-President; the **Rev. W. A. Jones** was elected one of the general Secretaries; **J. Yates, Esq.,** and **J. W. Salter, Esq.,** were elected Honorary Members; **W. F. Elliot, Esq., W. E. Gillett, Esq., Wm. Kelly, Esq., M.D., W. Metford, Esq., M.D., T. Patton, Esq., W. P. Pinchard, Esq.,** and the **Rev. T. A. Voules,** were re-elected, and **J. Batten, junr., Esq., the Rev. W. T. Redfern,** and **F. W. Newton, Esq.,** were elected Members of the Committee.

The **CHAIRMAN** opened the proceedings with a short and 1853*, PART I.

appropriate speech, in which, after referring to the objects of interest visited on former occasions, he mentioned many curious relics of antiquity in the district adjoining Yeovil, particularly calling the attention of the company to the remains of ancient domestic architecture which abound in the neighbourhood of that town.

The following Report of the Committee for the past year was then read by the Rev. F. WARRE, one of the Secretaries of the Society :—

“ On this occasion, being the Fifth Annual Meeting of our members, the Committee have great pleasure in being able to congratulate the Society upon a considerable increase in the number of subscribers. The last published list contained 420 names ; that for the present year contains no less than 499, shewing an addition to the subscriptions of last year amounting to £25 ; which, while it indicates an increase of the Society, gives at the same time hopes of more extensive operations and increased usefulness.

“ Nothing is perhaps more likely to conduce to the permanence of a society such as ours, than the possession of valuable property ; and in addition to the Williams’s Geological collection, the great value of which is undoubted, the Committee have the pleasure of congratulating the Society upon the acquisition of an extensive and very beautiful collection of Oriental Birds, presented by the Hon. E. A. Blundell. The arrangement and display of both these collections have been advanced, during the last year, as far as the funds of the Society would allow. In the arrangement and labelling of the Geological specimens, in addition to the invaluable services of Mr. Baker, the Committee have received great assistance from the kindness of Mr. Salter, one of the curators of the Museum of Practical

Geology, whom, as a slight token of their estimation of his services, they have appointed an honorary member of the Society. Owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding, as to what fossil specimens the Society felt itself justified in parting with, only a small sale of duplicates has as yet taken place ; and the lamented illness of Mr. Baker, to whom the negotiation was committed, has hitherto prevented his making any report as to the probability of any farther sale being eventually effected.

“ Many objects of archæological interest have been deposited and presented since the last annual meeting. Among the most valuable are twelve of the curious Anglo-Saxon coins discovered in Wedmore churchyard. These coins were claimed by the Lords of the Treasury, and of course given up ; but upon a memorial being presented to them, seven were restored, and those which were retained for the British Museum, have been replaced by others of equal rarity and value, of which there were duplicates in that collection. Considering the short time that has elapsed since the establishment of the Society, the rooms at Taunton contain a very respectable collection both of Antiquities and specimens of Natural History, as well as many miscellaneous objects of interest and rarity.

“ The annual volume of Proceedings being now in the hands of the members, its contents must of course speak for themselves ; but the Committee venture to hope that a considerable improvement will be observed in the quality of the illustrations ; no pains, and, as far as the funds would permit, no expense having been spared, to render them worthy of the Society, both in correctness and artistic execution.

“ A complaint having been made by some members, of

difficulty in obtaining their volumes, the Committee take this opportunity of repeating that booksellers have been appointed (as mentioned in the circular letter) in most of the considerable towns of this county, as well as in Bristol, from whom the volumes may be obtained on presentation of the enclosed form, signed by the member who requires the volume. It is particularly requested that members will present these forms, as they are the only vouchers the Publisher has to show that the books have been duly delivered.

“With regard to the payment of subscriptions, the Committee beg to remind the Society that they are payable in advance ; and as the list of names affords the only data by which the Committee can calculate the income of the Society, and consequently the amount of liability they are justified in incurring, all subscriptions, of the withdrawal of which notice has not been given before they became due, must be considered as belonging to the Society.

“The *Conversazione* Meetings have been held as usual during the winter, and still appear to maintain the interest excited in previous years.

“On the whole the Committee feel that they may congratulate the Society on its prospects. Its members and its property are increasing, a fine and extensive field of operations is before it, and there seems to be no want either of ability or good will to work in it. Our funds are as yet equal to our expenditure, but it is much to be wished that some means could be devised of increasing them, as without a larger income we can hardly procure the plans, drawings, books, &c., needed to render us a body really and effectually beneficial to the interests of archæological and natural science.”

Mr. R. BADCOCK presented the Treasurer's Report, an abstract of which is subjoined, viz. :—

The Treasurer in Account with the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.

| Dr. | £ s. d. | Cr. | £ s. d. |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1853. | | 1853. | |
| To Balance of former Account | 33 18 0 | By Curator's Salary | 25 0 0 |
| „ Subscriptions | 316 0 0 | „ Do. commission for collecting | |
| „ Publisher for Surplus Stock | | Arrears of Subscriptions | 5 15 6 |
| of Volume for 1851 .. | 5 0 0 | „ Rent | 29 8 0 |
| | | „ Printing, Drawing, and En- | |
| | | graving, 3rd Vol. of Pro- | |
| | | ceedings (1852) | 172 19 11 |
| | | „ Books | 17 18 6 |
| | | „ Stationery and Printing .. | 9 17 9 |
| | | „ Specimens, Cases, &c. .. | 12 8 10 |
| | | „ Expences at General Meet- | |
| | | ing at Bath | 44 7 11 |
| | | „ Ditto at Worle Hill and | |
| | | Wells | 4 16 6 |
| | | „ Postage and Carriage .. | 6 8 3 |
| | | „ Coals, Candles, and Gas .. | 8 10 0 |
| | | „ Insurance | 1 1 0 |
| | | „ Petty Disbursements .. | 5 15 10 |
| | | „ Balance | 10 10 0 |
| | <u>£ 354 18 0</u> | | <u>£ 354 18 0</u> |

R. G. BADCOCK, Treasurer.

Dr. SHEPPARD, of Frome, read a paper on the Connection between Archæology and Natural Science.

Mr. H. G. TOMKINS read a paper on Anglo-Saxon and German Romanesque Architecture.

The Rev. W. H. TURNER read a paper upon the Churches of Normandy.

The Rev. W. A. JONES, Secretary to the Society, read a paper on the Battle of Llongborth, which is given in Part II.

The meeting then adjourned to the church, the architectural peculiarities of which, as well as of the ancient school-room attached, were ably pointed out by Mr. JOHN BATTEN, jun.