

Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
during the year 1878.

THE Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Society was held at BRUTON on Tuesday, August 27th, in the King's School. Bruton was visited by the Society in 1857, under the presidency of Lord Talbot de Malahide, when Penselwood Church, Penpits, Stourton, and Castle Cary were included in the excursions. Ditchat and Evercreech, which were put down in the programme of this year's Meeting, were also visited during the Meeting of the Society at Shepton Mallet in 1865. The Society was therefore this year to a great extent going over old ground. This did not make the Meeting in any degree less successful. The lapse of twenty-one years materially changes the party which annually assembles at our gatherings, and a second visit not only affords instruction and pleasure to many, who were not present on the earlier occasion, but also brings to light much that was before passed over or misunderstood. The arrangements for the Meeting were chiefly carried out by Messrs. H. Dyne and W. Müller, and its success is really due to their active and able management.

The public proceedings began shortly after 11.30 a.m. The chair was taken by the President, the Hon. and Right Rev. Bishop CLIFFORD.

The PRESIDENT said that he had before him a record of all the Society's proceedings, and an account of what had been done during the past year. He thought that all present would agree with him that the record of those proceedings contained

much matter of considerable interest with reference to the county. The excursions which had been held during the past year had likewise been of great good to the Society. He hoped that the coming year might be as successful as the last. He was exceedingly happy to present to the Society their President for the coming year—the Rev. Canon Meade, who had been so long connected with the Society, and who had such an admirable knowledge of the archæology of the neighbourhood. He had great pleasure in resigning the chair to Canon Meade.

The proposal “that the Rev. Canon Meade be elected President for the ensuing year,” being put from the Chair, was duly seconded and carried with applause.

CANON MEADE briefly expressed his thanks to Bishop Clifford, and the Society generally, and having taken the President's chair, reminded the Meeting of the short time at their disposal, and proceeded to the dispatch of business. He said that Mr. Hunt, who usually conducted their meetings, was obliged to be absent on account of an important parochial engagement, but would join them before the day was past. Neither of the other Secretaries was able to be present, but Mr. Hunt had informed him that Mr. W. E. Surtees, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, would kindly take his place, until he should arrive to do his own work. He therefore called on Mr. Surtees to read the

Report of the Council.

“In presenting their 30th Annual Report your Council are able to congratulate the Society on the prosperity which continues to attend it.

“In the number of its Members an increase of twenty has been made since the last report, making a total of 505—a higher number than has ever previously been attained by this Society.

“Of the state of its finances the balance sheet of the Treasurer will report favourably, presenting a balance of £45 12s. 7d. to the credit of the Society.

“The Castle Purchase Fund has been drawn upon largely

during the past year, for the removal of the ruinous buildings in the courtyard of the Castle, in accordance with the resolution of the last general Meeting, and for other works necessarily involved in that undertaking. But, notwithstanding this, it is not in a worse condition than it was at the time of the last yearly report.

“Your Council have to thank the Local Committee of Bridgewater, who so ably provided for the Meeting of the Society last year in that town, for the liberal donation of twenty guineas to the Castle Purchase Fund.

“In adverting to the direction given to the Committee to remove the ruinous buildings in the courtyard of the Castle at Taunton, they wish to report that an interesting fragment of the ancient Castle, viz., a considerable portion of the original wall, apparently of the thirteenth century, dividing the inner court, has been brought to light.

“Your Council report that a Sub-Committee undertook to bring together and exhibit a Collection of Engravings in the Great Hall of Taunton Castle, illustrating the progress of the art from its beginning. The Exhibition has been attended with great success. The proceeds, after payment of the expenses, will be devoted to the Castle Purchase Fund. The skill and labour with which this plan has been conceived and carried out by three gentlemen—the Rev. I. S. Gale, Mr. Arthur Malet, and Mr. Surtees—deserve the thanks of the Society. It is worthy of remark that this is the first public exhibition of engravings only, which has attempted to illustrate the history of the art in its various branches, and, as such, it has attracted considerable attention throughout the country, and plans are already being made elsewhere to follow the example. This Society, therefore (though not in its corporate capacity), has been the pioneer of a new movement, which will probably have considerable influence in developing artistic taste.

“The Catalogue of the Books in the Society's Library, the compilation of which was undertaken by the late Mr. Chas.

Calvert Eden, a member of the Committee, whose death within the last year we much deplore, has been completed by your able Curator, Mr. Bidgood.

"Your Museum has been enriched during the year by a handsome donation of fossils from Mr. J. D. Pring. Your Committee take the opportunity of saying that your Geological Museum is not so complete as it should be, and contributions of fossils are still much wanted.

"The Council record with deep regret the death of Sir Wm. Miles, of Leigh Court, one of the original Members, and for many years a Vice-President of the Society. The Society has also to regret the loss of the Rev. George Williams, whose ripe and varied scholarship, and genial wit, so often added to the profit and pleasure of our Annual Meetings."

Colonel PINNEY, in moving the adoption of the Report, expressed the obligations of the Society to Mr. Surtees for reading the Report. He was happy to find that the Museum at Taunton was going on in a tolerably flourishing condition. He was there a day or two ago, and saw that some buildings had been taken down, and a small window inserted. He did not know whether this was done under the control of any architect, but it struck him they were going on a little in a patch-work kind of way. It seemed to him that it would be better to proceed upon some plan, instead of putting in a window here and there, as at present, for they might afterwards have to regret the damage done to the old building. He was afraid they had not funds enough for the necessary purposes at present, but, perhaps, some lady present might give them an anonymous donation of a thousand pounds to carry out the work. He merely threw this out as a hint.

Mr. SURTEES said the window had been put in for the purpose of giving light. It was placed in its position with the consent of Mr. G. T. Clark, an authority in these matters, and with the sanction of Mr. Spencer. Mr. Clark was one of the best authorities in the kingdom on Castles.

The PRESIDENT then called on the Rev. F. BROWN to read the Treasurers'

Financial Statement.

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

DR.		CR.	
1877. Aug 3.	£ s d	1877-8.	£ s d
By Balance	57 7 6	To Expenses attending Annual Meeting,	
„ Subscriptions	205 10 6	„ Travelling, &c.	15 2 0
„ Entrance Fees	15 10 0	„ Stationery, Printing, &c.	14 8 6
„ Excursion Tickets	21 15 0	„ Coal, Gas, Water	23 6 7
„ Museum Admission Fees	29 8 8	„ New Cases, Repairs, &c.	8 10 0
„ Sale of Volumes of Proceedings	3 15 6	„ Purchase of Books, Specimens, &c.	6 5 4
		„ Balance of Account for Printing	
		Vol. XXII.	49 5 7
		On Account of Printing Vol. XXIII.	40 0 0
		„ Illustrations	8 14 0
		„ Curator's Salary, 1 year to Midst, 1878	85 0 0
		„ Purchase of Index Volumes	6 8 0
		„ Subscription to Barleian Society, 1878	1 1 0
		„ Ditto to Ray Society, 1878	1 1 0
		„ Ditto to Palaeontographical Society,	
		1878	1 1 0
		„ Insurance	7 6
		„ Rates and Taxes	12 16 0
		„ Postage, Carriage, &c.	7 11 10
		„ Sundries	19 10
		„ Balance	45 12 7
	<u>£ 326 6 9</u>		<u>£ 326 6 9</u>

1878. August 23.

Balance £ 45 12 7

H. & H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurers.

Examined, compared with the vouchers, and found correct, August 23rd, 1878.

WM. P. PINCHARD,

THOS. MEYLER.

Taunton Castle Purchase Fund.

Treasurers' Account to Aug. 23rd, 1878.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
By Donations	£ s d	To Balance, Aug. 2nd, 1877	£ s d
„ Bridgwater Local Committee	12 10 0	„ Pulling down old buildings, sorting	220 3 1
„ Proceeds of Fancy Ball, held	21 0 0	and stacking materials, excavating	
at Taunton, 20th Dec., 1877	38 7 6	and levelling the yard, laying pave-	
„ Sale of old materials	47 14 0	ment and building walls, &c.	117 11 0
„ Rents	111 15 5	„ Repairs to Buildings, &c.	18 11 3
„ Balance	235 19 6	„ Repairs to Exchequer Tower	1 7 0
		„ New stone window, and repairing old	
		oak door	16 4 11
		„ Engraving brass plate for Jones	
		Memorial, and fixing	11 18 3
		„ Castle Hall Expenses:—	
		Attendance, &c.	27 7 3
		Gas	6 0 8
			15 7 11
		„ Insurance	4 0 6
		„ Rates and Taxes	11 18 3
		„ Interest on Borrowed Money	44 1 9
		„ Cheque book	2 0
	<u>£ 467 5 11</u>		<u>£ 467 5 11</u>

1878. Aug. 23rd.

Balance 235 19 0

Loan 700 0 0

Total amount due to Stuckey's Banking

Company £ 935 19 0

H. & H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurers.

23rd Aug., 1878. Examined, compared with the vouchers, and found correct,

WM. P. PINCHARD,
THOS. MEYLER.

On the motion of Mr. J. BUSH, seconded by Mr. E. GREEN, the Treasurers' Reports were adopted.

On the motion of Mr. W. MÜLLER, seconded by Mr. J. BATTEN, the Vice-Presidents of the Society were re-elected, with the addition of Bishop Clifford and Mr. A. Malet.

Mr. H. E. BENNETT, in proposing the re-election of the Treasurers, observed that the financial affairs of the Society could not be in better hands than those of the Messrs. Badcock, who had so long and ably managed them, and who took so deep an interest in the welfare of the Society.

The Rev. Dr. GOODFORD, the Provost of Eton, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bishop CLIFFORD proposed the re-election of the Hon. General Secretaries—Rev. W. Hunt, Mr. O. W. Malet, and Mr. C. J. Turner, observing that the manner in which the *Proceedings* were drawn up, the increase in the numbers and efficiency of the Society, and the general life and energy which were conspicuous in all its doings, were to be ascribed to the exertions and popularity of its Secretaries.

The proposition was seconded by Col. PINNEY, and carried unanimously.

The PRESIDENT proposed the re-election of the Local Secretaries, with the addition of Mr. H. Dyne and Mr. W. Müller, and spoke of the interest and care which these gentlemen had manifested in the preparations they had made for this meeting, and which he believed would be amply repaid by success.

Col. PINNEY seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

The Committee was re-appointed on the motion of Mr. HOBHOUSE, seconded by Mr. HUTCHINGS.

Bishop CLIFFORD proposed the re-appointment of Mr. W. Bidgood as Assistant-Secretary and Curator of the Museum. Every one who had anything to do with the Society knew that Mr. Bidgood did by far the greater part of the work—and it

was no light work—connected with it, and he did it most efficiently and to the satisfaction of every one.

Mr. SURTEES seconded the motion, remarking that the Committee would often be at a great loss without Mr. Bidgood. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Rev. J. COLEMAN moved,—“That the Council be empowered to make arrangements for the next Annual Meeting, and to elect a President.”

Col. PINNEY thought that the Society ought to meet at Dulverton, as had indeed been often proposed. He was aware that Mr. Hunt had each year considered that there was insufficient accommodation. Now he believed that there was a good hotel there. The country was beautiful, and there were plenty of things to see. It was possible that the Earl of Carnarvon might be persuaded to take the office of President, and, if so, they could never have a better one. If it was true that the accommodation was insufficient, or taken up by sportsmen, why should not the visitors camp out? Camping out was in fashion just now, and would be a new feature in the Society's meetings.

Mr. H. DYNE said that he did not think that it would be altogether an agreeable feature, though it would certainly be a new one. He had had some experience of camping out, and did not think that ladies would like it, however well it might suit gentlemen; but, as for that, he could assure the meeting that it was not without serious drawbacks. He seconded the proposition of Mr. Coleman.

Mr. SURTEES considered that camping out would not be a desirable experiment. If the Society visited Glastonbury they might have the great advantage of hearing the rest of Mr. Freeman's exhaustive monograph on King Ine, should that gentleman then be in stronger health than was unfortunately the case at present. He thought that the matter had better be left to the Council.

The motion of Mr. Coleman was, after a little further discussion, put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.