

Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
during the year 1880.

THE Thirty-second Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Glastonbury, on Tuesday, August 17th, 1880, under circumstances which were in every respect favourable to the proceedings. The weather was fine, and there was a large attendance of Members both from a distance and from towns in the vicinity. The Local Committee (of which Mr. J. G. L. Bulleid was the Secretary) did everything in their power to promote the comfort of the visitors; the Mayor (Mr. J. A. Porch) working hard in conjunction with the other Members of the Committee to give the Society a hearty welcome.

Glastonbury was the centre of the Society's Annual Meeting in 1859, under the presidency of F. H. Dickinson, Esq. But very little of the old ground was gone over on the present occasion—Meare, Butleigh, and Street being the only places then visited, which were included in this year's programme. Indeed there is no cause for fear that a second visit to the same locality, after an interval of some years, should have the effect of detracting from the interest of the visit. Much light will have been thrown on many matters of Archæology and Natural History, as affecting the locality, in the interval. Fresh speakers will have been suggested, who may be asked to address the Meeting, and many new Members, it is to be hoped, will have been added to the list.

A Local Museum was opened in the Town Hall for the display of objects of Archæological interest and specimens of Natural History, more especially connected with the town and

its immediate neighbourhood. It was under the management of the Society's Curator (Mr. Wm. Bidgood), who was assisted by Mr. E. B. Sly of Glastonbury, and a list of the more interesting objects exhibited will be found further on. The Museum was opened to the public on Friday and attracted considerable attention among the inhabitants of Glastonbury and the vicinity.

The proceedings commenced at 11 o'clock, when the public Meeting was opened in the Town Hall.

MR. DICKINSON, having been called to the chair, stated that it was usual for the President for the past year to introduce his successor to the Society, but as that could not be so this year, he, as the oldest Vice-President, had been called upon to perform that duty. Canon Meade was the President, but he had died during his term of office, and he could not but say a word in kindly remembrance of him. He was a man whom everybody respected and loved; he managed his parish well, and had also won great respect at Wells, and he was always ready to lend his assistance and ability if they were needed. He was a man of ability, of acquirements, a scholar, and a man of accomplishments very uncommon indeed. Under these circumstances they could not but regret his loss, which was somewhat unexpected, for although he was an old man, he was very vigorous. Mr. Dickinson then proposed that Mr. Freeman be the President of the Society for the ensuing year, which was carried by acclamation.

MR. FREEMAN, on taking the chair, thanked the Meeting for again electing him as their President, after a period of nine years.

MR. C. J. TURNER (Hon. Sec.) then read the following

Report of the Council.

“The Council of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society have the honour to present their 32nd Annual Report.

“Before all other matters they desire to express their deep

sorrow at the loss which the Society has sustained in the death of its late President. Canon Meade was one of the original Members of the Society, and for the last two years presided over it. He constantly attended its Annual Meetings, and his varied knowledge and genial manners made his presence most acceptable. The Society will join in the general feeling of regret for the loss of one whose old age was adorned by all that is good and gracious. The Council regret also to have to record the loss of a distinguished Member of their Committee in the death of General Munro, C.B. He was well known as an eminent botanist, and many contributions from his pen will remain as standard works on his favourite science.

“The Society maintains its position as regards numbers, which are nearly the same as last year.

“Your Council find considerable difficulty in meeting the expenses of the Society, and are forced, from want of funds, to abstain from helping many undertakings, and making many acquisitions, which would be of benefit to the cause of local knowledge. With the view of increasing the income of the Society, a resolution was passed at your last Annual Meeting at Taunton, approving the suggestion contained in the Report of the Council for the year, that the annual subscription should be raised from 10s. to the more usual amount of 10s. 6d. At a Special General Meeting of the Society, convened for the purpose of considering this proposal, it was resolved, ‘That the question of an increase of subscription be adjourned until the next Annual General Meeting; and that in summoning that meeting notice should be given that the question of an increase of the Annual Subscription will be brought forward for consideration.’ Your Council now beg to ask the direction of the Society as to whether the Annual Subscription shall be raised, and if so, by what amount.

“The condition of the buildings of the Society is tolerably satisfactory, and the debt on the Castle Purchase Fund has been reduced by about £90 during the past year.

“Your Council report that the roads and ways over the Castle Green to the Taunton Castle and the adjoining property of the Society have not yet been properly made. As these approaches are constantly blocked up on market days, your Council ask authority from the General Meeting to have proper roads and pathways made, in accordance with the powers and plans contained in the conveyances to the Trustees of this Society.

“Through the kind intervention of one of your Vice-Presidents (Mr. W. Long, of Wrington), the Council had the opportunity of buying, for £100, the interesting and valuable collection of Manuscripts, Books, &c., relating to this county, made by Mr. Serel, of Wells. An appeal for subscriptions for this purchase has produced the sum of £85, and the Society is much indebted to those of its Members who have kindly subscribed this amount. A list of subscribers will be found in the volume of *Proceedings* for the year. The Council advise that the Society should sanction the payment of the balance of £15 out of the bequest of the late Sir W. C. Trevelyan.

“A Committee appointed by the Society has been enabled by private subscriptions, to make extensive excavations at Pen Pits. The result of this investigation is embodied in an able report, which will be found in the volume of *Proceedings* for this year. A small balance of £3 10s. 10d. remains over from the subscriptions raised for this purpose, and the Council, understanding that it is not the desire of the subscribers that it should be returned to them, would be glad to receive instructions as to its disposal.

“During the past year your Museum has been enriched by a collection of Greensand fossils, kindly presented by Mr. C. H. Fox, of Wellington; by some bronze implements found at Taunton, which are now to be seen here in the local Museum; by the presentation of surplus specimens of Indian seeds and manufactures, formerly belonging to the late India Museum; and by other objects of interest.

"Your Council recommend that the annual accounts be in future made up to each 31st December, that being the end of the financial year, instead of, as heretofore, to the time of the Annual Meeting."

Mr. EMANUEL GREEN moved the adoption of the Report, which was seconded by the Rev. F. W. NEVILLE, and carried.

A discussion took place with reference to the proposal contained in the Report, to raise the annual subscription of Members from 10s. to 10s. 6d. The proposal was eventually put and carried on the motion of Mr. BATHURST, seconded by the Rev. H. H. WINWOOD.

Mr. H. J. BADCOCK (Hon. Treasurer) read the following Statements of Accounts. He said the Castle Purchase Fund showed a balance against them of £751, but with regard to this fund they were £90 better off than they were the preceding year.

Treasurers' Account.

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

DR.		CR.	
	£ s d		£ s d
1879.		1879-80.	
Aug. 5, Balance	4 7 8	To Expenses attending Meetings, Travelling, &c.	2 0 5
By Subscriptions	233 13 6	„ Stationery, Printing, &c.	17 13 0
„ Entrance Fees	11 10 0	„ Coal, Gas, Water	30 8 5
„ Museum Admission Fees... ..	29 6 3	„ Repairs to Cases, Glass, &c.	3 3 10½
„ Sale of Volumes of Proceedings	5 17 10	„ Purchase of Specimens, Books, &c.	18 9
„ Donations towards the purchase of the Serel collection of Documents	85 0 0	„ On account of Printing Vol. XXIV.	25 0 0
		„ On account of Printing Vol. XXV.	30 0 0
		„ Illustrations	6 5 0
		„ Curator's Salary, 1 year to Mid. 1880	85 0 0
		„ Subscription to Harleian Society, 1880	1 1 0
		„ Ditto ditto Register Section	1 1 0
		„ Ditto to Ray Society, 1880	1 1 0
		„ Ditto to Palæontographical Society, 1880	1 1 0
		„ Insurance	7 6
		„ Rates and Taxes	12 8 3
		„ Postage, Carriage, &c.	11 5 5
		„ Sundries	1 9 11½
		„ Balance of Expenses for Excavations at Pen Pits	14 2
		„ Mr. Long for the Serel collection of Documents	100 0 0
		„ Balance	38 16 6
	<u>£ 369 15 3</u>		<u>£ 369 15 3</u>

1880. August 6.
Balance £38 16 6

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

Aug. 12, 1880, Examined, compared with the vouchers, and found correct.

WM. P. PINCHARD,
THOS. MEYLER.

Taunton Castle Purchase Fund.

Treasurers' Account to Aug. 6th, 1880.

<i>Receipts.</i>	<i>£ s d</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>£ s d</i>
By Donations	15 0 0	To Balance, Aug. 2nd, 1879	141 12 8
„ Proceeds of Fancy Ball, held at Taunton, Dec., 1879	33 7 9	„ Repairs to Buildings, &c.	19 9 0
„ Rents of premises	60 8 9	„ Insurance	4 0 6
„ Rent of Castle Hall	64 7 0	„ Rates and Taxes	7 8 1
„ Balance	51 1 7	„ Attendance at Castle Hall and sundry Expenses	5 6 0
		„ Gas	6 7 8
		„ Interest on Borrowed Money	40 1 2
	£ 224 5 1		£ 224 5 1
		1880. Aug. 6th.	
		Balance	51 1 7
		Loan	700 0 0
		Total amount due to Stuckey's Banking Company	£ 751 1 7

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

Aug. 12th, 1880. Examined, compared with the vouchers, }
and found correct, } Wm. P. PINCHARD,
Thos. MEYLER.

The reports were adopted, on the motion of the BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS, seconded by the Rev. W. HUNT.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD proposed the re-election of the Vice-Presidents, which was seconded by Dr. PRING, and carried.

Dr. PRING proposed the re-election of the Treasurers, which was agreed to.

Mr. SURTEES said that those who saw the work of the Society going on harmoniously did not know the complicated matters the Secretaries had to contend with, nor the amount of labour and skill required to carry on the work satisfactorily. For all this they were indebted to their Secretaries, and he begged to propose the re-election, as Honorary General Secretaries, of the Rev. W. Hunt, Mr. O. W. Malet, and Mr. C. J. Turner.—Carried unanimously.

Mr. A. MALET proposed the re-election of the Local Secretaries, with the addition of Mr. J. G. L. Bulleid for Glastonbury, to whom they were indebted for the preparations made for the meeting. This proposition was carried.

Mr. TURNER proposed the following gentlemen as Members of the Committee:—Mr. A. Maynard, Mr. Meyler, Mr. W. P. Pinchard, Mr. E. Sloper, Mr. St. David Kemeys Tynte, Rev. J. W. Ward.—Carried.

The Rev. W. HUNT proposed the re-election of their Curator and Assistant-Secretary, Mr. W. Bidgood, who was the most important officer the Society had. He was possessed of a good education, and combined an amount of skill and industry rare in the service of a Society like theirs.

This was seconded by Dr. PRING and agreed to.

Some discussion took place on the question of the place of meeting for next year, and Clevedon was mentioned as a suitable place. Ultimately, on the proposition of the Rev. W. HUNT, it was resolved "That the Council be empowered to select a place for the next Annual Meeting, and to appoint a President."

Eleven new members were elected.

Mr. SURTEES proposed "that the Committee have the authority to act as may appear necessary in the matter of constructing the roadways across the Castle Green to the Castle and the other premises belonging to the Society."

The Rev. W. HUNT seconded the proposition, which was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.