

*Proceedings*  
*of the*  
*Somersetshire Archæological and*  
*Natural History Society,*  
*during the Year 1882.*

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THE Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Town Hall, Chard, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 15th, 16th, 17th August.

Mr. E. H. ELTON, the retiring President, said his period of office having now drawn to a close, nothing remained for him but the pleasing duty of installing his successor, his cousin, Mr. Charles Elton, of Whitestaunton. It was needless for him to introduce to them one who was so well known in the neighbourhood, and also so well known in connection with archæology, but he felt he must congratulate the Society upon having elected Mr. Elton, because he did not know any one who, from his scholarship and the patient study he had given to matters archæological, was so thoroughly well fitted to fill the position. He should detain them no longer, but let his mantle fall gracefully on his cousin.

Mr. CHARLES I. ELTON then took the chair. He said he was extremely gratified for the kind way in which they had received him, and for the exceedingly flattering speech which his cousin had made regarding him. He had for a long time taken the deepest interest in the history, and especially the archæological history, of this county, and in the history of his own country. It would be his duty to say something of their local antiquities at a later stage of the proceedings. At pre-

✓ author of 'Origins of English History' - Quarterly  
1881 - See Rhys's notice of this - Acad?  
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sent he would do nothing more than thank them thus briefly for the honour they had done him in electing him President for the ensuing year.

Mr. E. GREEN, the Hon. Sec., then read the

### Report of the Council.

“Your Council, in making their 34th Annual Report, may congratulate the Society on its continued prosperity, and on the interest taken generally in its work. The number of Members has increased about 20 during the year.

“The Report of the Treasurer now, for the first time, covers the whole year, 1881, from 1st January to 31st December, inclusive, and shows a balance in favour of the Society of £19 11s. This sum is less by £30 than the balance shown last year—a difference accounted for by the heavy cost of the former volume of *Proceedings*. The debt on the Castle Purchase Fund has been reduced by £113 13s. 3d., and now remains at £562 3s. 4d., against £675 16s. 7d. of last year. The Society must thank the family of the late Mr. William Baker, of Bridgwater, for a contribution of £20 towards this fund.

“A new insurance has been effected on the contents of the Museum.

“Amongst the donations the Council would particularly notice the present, by Miss Atherstone, of Burnham, of a large painting in oil, representing the Coronation of Queen Victoria, a fine example of John Martin, who was a frequent visitor to Mr. Atherstone, who then resided in the house (adjoining the Castle) now the property of the Society. The Council, in consideration of the munificent present made by Miss Atherstone to the Society, beg to recommend that that lady be elected an honorary life Member.

“The late Mrs. Hugo, widow of the Rev. Thos. Hugo, an early contributor of valuable papers to our volume of *Proceedings*, by her will proved in December, 1881, left certain

MSS. to the Society, upon condition of their publication, and the question of their acceptance is now under the consideration of the Committee.

“With regard to the publication of a *Bibliotheca Somersetensis*, which has always been an object of the Society, Mr. E. Green, your Hon. Sec., since the subject was mentioned last year, has produced to the Council a manuscript of such a work, on which he has been engaged for the past twenty years, and the Society may therefore hope that soon, without longer delay than may be necessary, their wish in respect to this subject may be gratified.

“Your Committee have considered the question suggested last year of new or additional centres, to be worked by Local Secretaries in various parts of the county, under the head centre at Taunton, but at present no definite scheme has been determined on.

“The Society have to very deeply regret the loss by death of Mr. Charles Moore, F.G.S., a frequent and valuable contributor to the journal, whose great knowledge of geology was so readily at the service of the Members, and whose kindness of manner towards all—the youngest equally with the eldest—made his information and his company always so agreeable.

“Your Council report that in exercising the authority given to them at the Annual Meeting of 1880, to have proper roads and pathways made over the Castle Green to the Castle, in accordance with the title deed, the Committee placed a line of curb stones across the Castle Green, to mark out the road conveyed, and that such stones were taken up by the proprietor of the Green, and that the access of the Society to the Castle has on market days been continually obstructed and interfered with by the proprietor of the Green and the Market Trustees as lessees under him. As this carriage access is of great importance to the Society's property, your Council ask from the General Meeting authority for the Committee to adopt such measures and take such legal proceedings as may

be necessary to secure for the Society the line of road conveyed to them."

The Very Rev. the DEAN OF WELLS, in proposing the adoption of the Report, said the resolution which he had been asked to move was one that required very little argument to support it. He welcomed the opportunity which had been given him for becoming better acquainted with the work of the Society, and he ventured to cherish the ambition that before very long he might be a member of it. He welcomed also the opportunity which it gave him of enlarging his acquaintance with the county, with the diocese of Bath and Wells. He looked forward with much interest to that matter to which reference had been made, the *Bibliography of Somerset*, which would no doubt give some very valuable information. When a stranger came to a county he generally wished to obtain all the information he could with regard to it, and such a book would be of great assistance to him.

Mr. JEROM MURCH, in seconding the Report, said he would congratulate them upon this meeting, which he looked upon as an indication that archæology had not lost its interest in the county. He was glad to hear that the number of members had increased during the past year. The Report had alluded to the loss the Society had sustained by the death of Mr. Charles Moore. He begged to thank the meeting on behalf of the Bath Literary and Scientific Institution for the valuable assistance which they gave to the people of Bath in purchasing the geological collection of Mr. Moore. For 40 years he was employed in making that collection. There was another subject to which he wished to refer, and that was to invite the members of the Archæological Society, when they visited Bath, to view the very important excavations which were being made there, and which he might say had resulted in the most interesting discovery of recent times.

Mr. TURNER, expressing his regret at the absence of Mr. H. G. Badcock, then read the Treasurers' statement.



## Treasurers' Account.

*The Treasurers in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1881.*

DR.	£ s d	CR.	£ s d
1880.		1881.	
By Balance, Dec. 31st. ...	50 10 8	To Expenses attending Annual Meeting,	
„ Members' Entrance Fees... ..	18 18 0	Travelling, &c. ... ..	25 1 10
„ Members' Arrears of Sub-		„ Stationery, Printing, &c. ... ..	7 11 5
scriptions ... ..	9 2 6	„ Coal, Gas, and Water ... ..	29 12 7
„ Members' Subscriptions		„ Cases, Fixtures, Repairs, &c. ....	18 7 4
for the year 1881... ..	221 14 6	„ Purchase of Books, Specimens, &c....	7 2 9
„ Members' Subscriptions in		„ Balance of account for Printing Vol.	
advance ... ..	6 5 6	XXIV. .... ..	11 13 6
„ Excursion Tickets... ..	18 10 0	„ Balance of account for Printing Vol.	
„ Museum Admission Fees... ..	22 10 8	XXV. .... ..	42 14 6
„ Sale of Volumes of Pro-		„ Hammond, on account of Printing	
ceedings ... ..	25 16 0	Vol. XXVI. .... ..	70 0 0
„ Art Exhibition for use of		„ Illustrations for Vol. XXVI. ....	14 15 4
Rooms and Gas ... ..	3 5 0	„ Curator's Salary. 1 year to Christ-	
		mas, 1881 ... ..	85 0 0
		„ Subscription to Harleian Society,	
		1881 ... ..	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Harleian Society,	
		Register Section, 1881 ... ..	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Palæontographical	
		Society, 1881 ... ..	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Ray Society, 1881 ...	1 1 0
		„ Rates and Taxes ... ..	12 3 8
		„ Insurance (new policy) ... ..	3 6 8
		„ Postage of vols. of 1 proceedings ...	7 4 9
		„ Postage, Carriage, &c. ... ..	16 11 6 <sup>1</sup>
		„ Sundries ... ..	1 11 1 <sup>1</sup>
		„ Balance ... ..	19 11 0 <sup>1</sup>
	£ 376 12 10		£ 376 12 10

1881, Dec. 31st.  
Balance ... .. £ 19 11 0

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

1882, March 1, Examined and compared with the vouchers, and found correct.

ALFRED MAYNARD,  
EDWIN SLOPER.

## Taunton Castle Purchase Fund.

*Treasurers' Account from 1st January to 31st December, 1881.*

Receipts.	£ s d	Expenditure.	£ s d
By Donation from Mr. Marshall	5 0 0	To Balance, 31st Dec., 1880, viz:	
„ Legacy from the late Mrs. S.		Loan ... ..	£ 700 0 0
A. Payne ... ..	50 0 0	Less Balance in Bank ... ..	24 3 5
„ Proceeds of Fancy Ball, 22nd			675 16 7
Dec., 1881 ... ..	51 13 6	„ Repairs to Buildings, &c. ... ..	29 5 10
„ Sale of Pump ... ..	3 0 0	„ Insurance ... ..	3 16 6
„ Conversazione Meeting ... ..	9 10	„ Rates and Taxes ... ..	10 9 11.
„ Rents of Premises ... ..	47 3 8	„ Attendance at Castle Hall and sundry	
„ Rent of Castle Hall ... ..	47 8 0	Expenses ... ..	9 0 10
„ Balance ... ..	662 3 4	„ Gas ... ..	4 6 10
		„ Interest on Borrowed Money ... ..	34 1 10
	£ 766 18 4		£ 766 18 4

1881. Dec. 31st.  
Loan ... .. 600 0 0  
Less Balance in Bank ... .. 37 16 8 £ 562 3 4

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

1882, March 1st. Examined and compared with the vouchers }  
and found correct, } EDWIN SLOPER,  
ALFRED MAYNARD.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, the Treasurers' statement was adopted.

The Rev. S. CARTWRIGHT proposed the re-election of the Vice-Presidents, and the motion was seconded, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD proposed the re-election of the Treasurer, and the General and Local Secretaries. He said he should have liked very much to propose that an old friend of his, Mr. Hunt, should be included amongst the Secretaries, but he did not see him present. He supposed he had not returned from that Continental trip which he took last year for the benefit of his health. With regard to the Local Secretaries, he was glad to have to add the name of Mr. Mitchell. It was very important that a town of this description should have a local museum. When he came to Chard he asked for the museum, for he liked to see local curiosities, and he was glad to see some interesting fossils; but he might state that he always looked on the fossils for the names of the localities where they were found. He hoped the gentlemen in the town would pardon him for presuming to mention anything with regard to the arrangement of their Museum, but, having been engaged in the Bath Museum lately among the results of the labours of the late Charles Moore, he found the greatest hindrance in his work when the localities were not marked on the stones. He hoped, therefore, they might carry out this suggestion at Chard. With regard to the General Secretaries, he might say that a motion was made as to the working of the head centre and the small centres. He sent a communication some time ago from his centre to the head centre, but as the matter referred to the neighbourhood of Wiltshire he presumed the head centre at Taunton thought it was unnecessary to take steps to secure the remains to which he referred. He mentioned this to show that the small centres had been doing something, and he hoped they would continue their labours.

Mr. KERSLAKE seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Rev. Mr. GRAFTON proposed the re-election of the Committee.

The Rev. Preb. BULLER seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. TURNER proposed the re-election of Mr. W. Bidgood as Curator.

Mr. BENNETT seconded, observing that it required no remarks from him to commend Mr. Bidgood to them.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The selection of the place of meeting for the next year was left to the Committee, in accordance with the usual practice.

Several new Members were elected, and the business meeting concluded.

## Conversazione Meetings.

November 20th, 1882.

“On the Recent Great Discovery of Royal Mummies at Thebes,” by the Rev. H. G. TOMKINS.

December 18th, 1882.

“On the distinctions existing between certain nearly similar species of Birds, with especial reference to those found in Somerset,” by Mr. CECIL SMITH.

“On the Origin of Gilds, with a notice of the Ancient Gild-hall of Taunton,” by Dr. PRING.

January 15th, 1883.

“Notes on a Visit to Greece,” by Mr. E. B. TYLOR,  
D.C.L.

February 12th, 1883.

“On the Science of Music,” by Mr. C. H. FOX.

March 12th, 1883.

“On the Cistercian Rule, as illustrated by the Abbey of St. Mary the Virgin, at Cleeve,” by the Rev. A. B. PROLE.

“On the distinctions existing between certain nearly similar species of Birds” (second paper), by Mr. CECIL SMITH.