

Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
During the Year 1888.

AFTER a lapse of fifteen years, the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Wells, in the Town Hall, which had been kindly lent to the Society, on Tuesday August 28th, and the following days.

Sir GEORGE EDWARDS, the retiring President, in opening the proceedings said he had great pleasure in having that opportunity of repeating his thanks to the Society for the honour they did him in appointing him their President last year. He could assure them that during the many occupations and pleasures of his office as Mayor of Bristol last year he regarded the week the Society visited Bristol among the most agreeable of his Mayoralty. He was therefore glad to have the opportunity of recording his thanks. He now had a very pleasing duty to perform—that of introducing to them a gentleman with whom they were well acquainted to take the Chair for the ensuing year. Knowing him so well as they did he need say nothing to them respecting him; and, whether as a pastor of the Church, as a member of the aristocracy, or as a man, he would add much to their Society as President. He

was quite sure the proceedings of the Meeting under his presidency would be of interest, and everything that could be desired. He now had the honour of asking his Lordship, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, to take the Chair.

HIS LORDSHIP then took the Presidential Chair, and asked The Rev. J. A. BENNETT, *Hon. Sec.*, to read

The Annual Report.

“Your Council beg to report that the condition of the Society is satisfactory. The number of Members is still increasing and is now about 530. The financial position is also healthy; the balance in hand at the end of last year was £57 0s. 8d.; and the debt on the Castle Purchase Account was reduced from £513 6s. 1d. to £437 17s. 5d.

“Your Committee have circulated new appeals for returns of Church plate, etc., to those of the clergy and churchwardens who have not already responded to former circulars, but the returns are still incomplete and your Committee are of opinion that it will be wiser to defer a general report until another year.

“The names of the new Local Secretaries (who are also entitled to be present at the Committee or Council Meetings of the Society) were given in the Report of last year. A circular has been drawn up and sent to them as a guide for returns of objects of interest to the Society in their several localities. This has brought some interesting information from several quarters, and some of the reports have been printed in the last volume. It is hoped that more will be sent in in time for publication in the report of *Proceedings* for this year.

“The Catalogue of the Library in the Castle at Taunton, upon which the Curator has been engaged for some time, is now completed, and an arrangement has been entered into for its publication at a cost of about £50. The Committee hope that many of the Members of the Society will become

purchasers of this volume, which will be offered to them at a moderate price. Orders will be received by the Curator.

“Your Council welcome the appearance, since the last meeting, of the new publication, *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset*. It promises to meet a want which has been felt for some time, and to be a valuable means of collecting information and diffusing a general interest in the objects of your Society. With the parent Society, the Record Society, and this new serial, the county is now well provided with machinery for gathering the materials for a complete history of the county. In furtherance of this object it seems to your Council desirable that a Calendar of the contents of the Serel Manuscripts, and of any other collections in the Museum which have not yet been catalogued, and a full Index to Collinson’s History should be prepared.”

The Right Rev. Bishop CLIFFORD (Clifton) proposed the adoption of the Report, which, he said, was a very satisfactory one, of the year’s work.

Colonel W. PINNEY seconded the proposition.

The Rev. H. WINWOOD (Bath) spoke of the importance and desirability of having accurate details of Church plate.

The Report was unanimously carried.

The Rev. Preb. COLEMAN, Vicar of Cheddar, moved, “That this Meeting recommends the Council of the Society to restore a volume of *The Accounts of the Churchwardens of Cheddar*, of the date 1612 to 1674, now wrongfully deposited in the Museum at Taunton.”

Mr. H. D. SKRINE seconded the motion.

Bishop CLIFFORD submitted an amendment, “That the matter be referred to the Council to report, with power to act according to their judgment.”

Sir GEORGE EDWARDS seconded the amendment. He thought it was but reasonable the matter should be first referred to the Committee.

The amendment was adopted.

Treasurers' Account.

The Treasurers in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1887.

DR.			CR.		
1886, Dec. 31st.	£	s d	1887.		£ s d
By Balance of former Account	63	11 4	To Expenses attending Annual Meeting	15	7 6
„ Members' Entrance Fees ...	9	9 0	„ Stationery, Printing, etc. ...	13	17 0
„ Members' Arrears of Subscriptions ...	9	8 6	„ Purchase of Books, Binding, etc. ...	22	1 10
„ Members' Subscriptions for the Year 1887 ...	253	10 0	„ Coal and Gas ...	21	8 4
„ Members' Subscriptions in Advance ...	4	3 6	„ Cases, Repairs, etc. ...	19	8 0
„ Two Life Members ...	21	0 0	„ Printing and Binding, vol. xxxii. ...	94	12 2
„ Excursion Tickets ...	5	17 6	„ Illustrations for ditto ...	19	9 4
„ Museum Admission Fees ...	23	18 6	„ Postage and Carriage of volumes ...	8	5 10
„ Sale of Vols. of <i>Proceedings</i>	1	10 6	„ Curator's Salary, 1 year to Christmas, 1887 ...	85	0 0
			„ Subscription to Harleian Society, 1887 ...	1	1 0
			„ Subscription to Harleian Society, Registers ...	1	1 0
			„ Subscription to Palæontographical Society ...	1	1 0
			„ Subscription to Ray Society ...	1	1 0
			„ Subscription to Early English Text Society ...	1	1 0
			„ Subscription to Pipe Roll Society ...	1	1 0
			„ Subscription to Somerset Record Society ...	1	1 0
			„ Insurance ...	4	10 6
			„ Rates and Taxes ...	12	13 3
			„ Postage, Carriage, etc. ...	7	16 9
			„ Sundries ...	3	10 8
			„ Balance ...	57	0 8
	£	392 8 10			£ 392 8 10

1887, Dec. 31st.
Balance £57 0 8

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

1888, March 29th. Examined and compared with the }
vouchers, and found correct, } ALFRED MAYNARD.
EDWIN SLOPER.

Taunton Castle Purchase Fund.

Treasurers' Account, from January 1st to December 31st, 1887.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
By Donation from Mr. Goodland ...	£	s d	1887, Dec. 31st.		£ s d
„ Rents of Premises ...	58	14 8	To Balance ...	255	15 6
„ Rent of Castle Hall ...	75	0 0	„ Repairs to Buildings, etc. ...	34	13 7
„ Proceeds of Fancy Ball, held at Taunton, 22nd Dec., 1887 ...	41	12 0	„ Rates and Taxes ...	7	9 5
„ Balance ...	431	17 5	„ Castle Hall Expenses and Sundries ...	5	4 6
			„ Gas ...	8	1 0
			„ Insurance ...	3	16 6
			„ Interest on Loan ...	12	3 8
			„ Balance transferred from Restoration Fund ...	280	10 5
	£	607 14 7			£ 607 14 7

1887, Dec. 31st.
Balance £431 17 5

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

1888, March 29th. Examined and compared with the }
vouchers, and found correct, } ALFRED MAYNARD.
EDWIN SLOPER.

The Rev. T. S. HOLMES proposed, and Dr. NORRIS seconded, the adoption of the Treasurers' statement. The proposition was agreed to.

The Committee was re-elected, with the addition of the Rev. J. Seal. Sir George Edwards's name was added to the list of Vice-Presidents, a number of new Members were elected, and the Meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Officers of the Society for their past Services.

The Rev. J. A. BENNETT read the following

Report of the Somerset Record Society.

“According to the constitution of the Somerset Record Society, it is the duty of the Hon. Secretary to make an Annual Report at the General Meeting of its parent the Somerset Archæological Society. This is the second time I have thus to make a report, and I am happy to say that again this year it will be a favourable one. Our number of subscribers has increased from 110 to 121. The state of our finances is also so far satisfactory, that (as you will see by the balance sheet, published in our volume ii) during our first year of life we kept our expenses within our income, and did not trench at all upon our donation fund. From the estimates I believe that the same will be the case this year; but I ought to point out that this favourable state of things is due to the fact that we have had no expenses, except those connected with printing and postage. The whole of the labour expended in the preparation of our two volumes has been the free gift of the editors; and if the labour and skill thus bestowed upon our Society were estimated at its money value, it would amount to a very large sum indeed. The third volume, now in the press, will be *Kirby's Quest*, by Mr. Dickinson.”

MR. H. HOBHOUSE, M.P., proposed, “That the Somerset Record Society has heard with pleasure the Report of the Hon Secretary, and begs to record its gratitude to him for his assistance and services, and also tenders its thanks to all those who are giving their gratuitous labours to the editorial depart-

ment.” The work of the Somerset Record Society was, Mr. Hobhouse said, an important step towards collecting the past history of the county, and they were much indebted to those gentlemen who had carried its labours to such a successful issue.

The Rev. Preb. SCARTH seconded the proposition, which was adopted.

In answer to a circular from the Antiquarian Society in London, addressed to the Somersetshire Society, to appoint delegates to attend a Congress in London, the Meeting decided to ask the Rev. Prebendary Scarth and the Rev. W. Hunt to represent the Society at the Congress.

The PRESIDENT then delivered his