

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

DURING THE YEAR 1858.

PART I.

THE Tenth Annual Meeting was held at Bridgwater, on Tuesday, the 17th of August, 1858, the Hon. P. P. BOUVERIE, M.P., Vice-President, in the chair.

On the motion of F. H. DICKINSON, Esq., it was unanimously resolved that the words "elected for three years" be left out after the word President, in Rule II.

The Hon. P. P. Bouverie was then elected President for the current year. The Vice-Presidents were re-elected, with the addition of Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., Arthur Mills, Esq., M.P., and W. E. Surtees, Esq. The general and local Secretaries, and Treasurers, were severally re-elected, W. F. Elliot, Esq., being elected as general Secretary, in the room of the Rev. W. R. Crotch; and G. S. Poole, Esq., local Secretary for Bridgwater. John Roy Allen, W. Metford, M.D., W. E. Gillett, W. W. Coker, J. F. Norman, W. M. Kelly, M.D., Esqrs., were elected as members of Committee.

The Rev. F. WARRE read the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE :

"Your Committee, in presenting their Tenth Annual
VOL. VIII., 1858, PART I.

Report, while congratulating you upon the continued prosperity and favourable prospects of the Society, desire before entering upon any other subject, to call your attention to the fact, that the usefulness of the Society is in a great degree diminished, and its exertions much impeded, by the comparatively small amount of funds at its disposal. In consequence of this the Committee have been unable to make much progress towards the attainment of some of the chief objects for which the Society was established, as might have been expected from the number of its members and the learning, talent and zeal, displayed by many of them. More particularly is this deficiency felt with regard to that great desideratum—the eventual production of a County History worthy of Somersetshire. The investigation and collection of materials for this purpose, to be of much real service, must necessarily require a great expenditure of time and money; and though our Museum is gradually becoming rich in relics of antiquity, natural curiosities, and valuable documents, still much might be done, if the Society were richer, to render it a depository of materials for a County History, and superintend its publication, which, under present circumstances, cannot be attempted.

“Again, it frequently happens that a small pecuniary grant, as in the case of the British sepulchre at Wellow, may be the means of preserving an invaluable relic, but at present, while they have not overlooked any pressing claims, the Society is compelled to be very sparing of such grants. An additional outlay on our publications, particularly on the illustrations, would certainly render them far more worthy of a Society such as our own. The Finance Committee, with the Treasurers, have been requested to direct their attention to this matter, and their suggestions as to the best means of increasing the income

of the Society will shortly be laid before you. The Committee is happy to report that the accession of new members continues to replace the diminution occasioned by death, removal, and other causes. And the Committee confidently hope that the appeal made last year, which they now venture to repeat, will be answered by the increased exertions of individual members to carry out the objects of the Society.

“It has been suggested to your Committee that the publication of documents of local or historical interest, as well as sketches of parochial and family history, would add much to the value of our annual volume, and with this suggestion the opinion of your Committee perfectly coincides; they therefore wish to impress upon those persons who may be possessed of such documents or information, the great advantage which would accrue to the Society from their communicating them to the Committee, who have made arrangements for their safe custody and systematic classification.

“During the last year many valuable presents and deposits have been added to our Museum. Of these deposits by far the most important is the invaluable collection of drawings made by the late Mr. Pigott, and by him presented to the county, and entrusted under certain conditions, by the Lord-Lieutenant and the other trustees, to the care of our Society. A catalogue of these drawings will appear with our next volume of *Proceedings*.*

“The volume for 1856-7 is in the hands of the members, and it is hoped is not inferior to those which have preceded it. The Rev. W. R. Crotch, in consequence of his removal from the neighbourhood, having tendered his resignation of the office of general Secretary, it was accepted, with thanks

* Given at the end of the present Volume.

for his services. The appointment of his successor, together with some other changes in the officers of the Society, awaits the confirmation of the present meeting. During the winter months *Conversazione Meetings* have been held with success quite equal to that of former years. None of the expenses of these meetings fall upon the funds of the Society.

“On the whole, your Committee have reason to believe that the circumstances of the Society are in a prosperous state, and confidently expect that it will become more and more useful, and conduce more and more to the objects for which it was more particularly established, as well as to the interests of archæological and natural science in general.”

ROBT. G. BADCOCK, Esq., then read the

REPORT OF THE TREASURERS :

The Treasurer in account with the Somersetshire Archæological and
 Dr. Natural History Society. Cr.

1858.	£ s. d.	1858.	£ s. d.
To Balance of former account	47 9 9	By Balance of expenses of VIth Vol. of <i>Proceedings</i>	50 18 0
„ Subscriptions	210 10 0	„ Expenses of VIIth Vol. do.	84 14 8
		„ Coal, candles, and gas	5 5 6
		„ Insurance	1 2 6
		„ Postage and Carriage	8 19 3
		„ Stationery, printing, &c.	14 1 2
		„ Commission on subscrip- tions in arrear	3 0 0
		„ Sundries	2 10 0
		„ Colouring wall, glazing, &c.	2 4 6
		„ Third and last instalment for Wells casts	18 6 6
		And Solicitor's charges	1 1 0
		„ Bahin for Plan of Pen Pits	2 2 0
		„ Subscription and purchase from Photographic Socy.	2 1 0
		„ Books	1 12 0
		„ Curator's salary to Aug. 15	25 0 0
		„ Expenses of Annual Meet- ing at Bruton	9 13 8
		„ Rent to Midsummer, 1858	25 0 0
		„ Balance	9 10
	<u>£ 257 19 9</u>		<u>£ 257 19 9</u>

H. and R. BADCOCK, Treasurers.

The above accounts examined and found correct, August 14th, 1858—

{ T. A. VOULES,
 WM. P. PINCHARD, } Auditors.

Mr. DICKINSON, in moving the adoption of the report, referred especially to the munificence of the late Mr. Pigott, in the presentation to the county of so valuable a collection of views of the architectural monuments of Somersetshire ; and at the suggestion of T. B. Uttermare, Esq., of Langport, submitted a scheme by which funds might be raised for their publication.

After some discussion, the subject was left for the consideration of the Committee, it being understood that the Society, with their present resources, could not undertake the work.

JAMES YATES, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., etc., read a paper on "The Mining Operations of the Romans."

The Rev. F. WARRE, on the "Different Types of Primeval Camps."

W. F. ELLIOT, Esq., on the "Builder and Designer of St. Mary's Tower, Taunton ;"—all which are printed in Part II of this volume.

The meeting then adjourned, and the members visited the churches of St. Mary and St. John, and other buildings of interest in the town.

The Evening Meeting.

The Rev. T. HUGO, M.A., F.R.S., etc., read a paper on "Muchelney Abbey," which is given in Part II.

The Rev. W. A. JONES read a paper communicated by W. STRADLING, Esq., on the "Design and Inscription of a Dog-collar of the date 1563."

The Rev. F. WARRE read a paper by the Rev. H. M. SCARTH, M.A., on "Sepulchral Tumuli in the County," which is printed in Part II.

H. B. CARSLAKE, Esq., as Town Clerk, exhibited a very valuable and interesting series of Churchwardens' Accounts belonging to the Corporation of Bridgwater, some of which were as early as the time of Rich. II, and a Taxation Roll of the County temp. Edw. III.

The Rev. W. A. JONES stated that the Corporation had kindly permitted the Secretaries to examine the valuable collection of Documents in their muniment-room, which were of a most interesting character, not only supplying ample materials for the history of Bridgwater, but also many facts relating to the County. He trusted the Corporation would allow them to have access to the papers again, and allow a selection of them to be published by the Society.
