

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
DURING THE YEAR 1859.

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PART I.

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THE Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Town Hall, Glastonbury, on Monday, August 29, 1859. W. E. SURTEES, Esq., Vice-President, having taken the chair, it was proposed by Mr. SURTEES and seconded by W. A. SANFORD, Esq., and carried unanimously, that F. H. Dickinson, Esq., be the President for the ensuing year.

Mr. DICKINSON, on taking the chair, expressed his high sense of the honour conferred upon him by the members of the Society, and assured them of the lively interest he took in the Society, and in all the objects to which it was devoted.

The Vice-Presidents and other officers of the Society were then re-elected; the Hon. P. P. Bouverie, M.P., and E. A. Sanford, Esq., were added to the list of Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Alford was chosen on the Committee. Mr. Edward Parfitt was elected as Curator.

On the motion of the Rev. F. WARRE, seconded by the Rev. W. F. NEVILLE, J. H. Parker, Esq., of Oxford, was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Society.

The Rev. F. WARRE, Secretary, read the

ANNUAL REPORT :

“The Committee in this their Eleventh Annual Report have the satisfaction to record that the operations of the Society during the past year, while presenting no new feature of special interest, have continued to further the objects for which the Society was established.

“They would refer to the volume of *Proceedings* recently issued as an indication of the progress which is being made towards collecting materials for a County History, and they feel assured that the periodical issue of these volumes will be the means of creating and sustaining more generally an interest in the objects and pursuits to which the Society is devoted. The outlay, however, which the production of such a volume involves, without any of those special donations from individual members which other societies of a similar nature frequently obtain, necessarily absorbs so large a proportion of the annual income, as to leave a very small balance for carrying out other purposes equally important.

“The Library and Museum of the Society have been enriched during the past year by donations of valuable books and of various objects of interest. Among these they would particularly refer to Stothard’s *Monumental Effigies* and Hoare’s *Wiltshire*, presented by the Rev. F. Warre. The Committee are anxious to enlarge and improve this department, from a conviction that a good County Museum is one of the best aids towards a good County History.

“Some progress has been made towards a more orderly and systematic arrangement of the varied and valuable collection now belonging to the Society, and it is hoped that during the coming year every department of the Museum will be so arranged as to be made readily available for reference or for study. In connection with these improvements the Committee deem it their duty to acknowledge the valuable help rendered by Mr. Wm. A. Sanford, in the arrangement and classification of the Geological Collection.

“Arrangements have been made, in accordance with a scheme suggested by Mr. Sanford, for systematizing the observations made by members and others in various parts of the county. The details of that scheme have been given in the recent volume of *Proceedings*, and the Committee earnestly solicit the help and co-operation of all who have it in their power, in however small a degree, to contribute to these objects. The Portfolios are ready for the reception and classification of all such notices as may be sent. Donations of Geological and Botanical Specimens from various localities in the county are much needed in order to complete the illustrations which the Museum supplies of the Natural History of the County. In like manner, objects of antiquarian interest, with notices of the locality and circumstances in which they were found, would be much valued as additions to the Archæological portion of the Museum.

“The Committee are likewise engaged in preparing portions of Collinson’s *History of Somerset* according to the suggestions of R. W. Falconer, Esq., M.D., of Bath, to be used as the basis of a more complete and correct history of the districts to which the sections respectively relate. When these are completed, with a general outline of the

enquiries most desired, they will be placed in the hands of such members as have the time and the inclination to devote themselves to the work; and it is hoped that the Society may, at no distant period, be able to use collectively the materials thus obtained by the labours and investigations of individual members in the districts with which they are best acquainted.

“During the past year the Committee have provided a fitting case in which to deposit the Pigott collection of Drawings, the cost of which was defrayed in part by local contributions in Taunton and the neighbourhood. Schemes for the publication of this collection, in part or as a whole, submitted to the Committee by some of the Trustees, have been under consideration; but the great outlay which such a scheme would involve, and the inability of the Society to undertake such a responsibility, with other reasons, have caused these plans to remain in abeyance.

“It is with great regret the Committee have to report that on the sudden disappearance of the late Curator it was found that a considerable amount of subscriptions had been collected by him, but not paid in to the Treasurer. The exact amount of the defalcation has not yet been ascertained, but it is partly covered by the value of the collection of objects of Natural History, &c., belonging to him, which remain in the Museum as the property of the Society.

“In conclusion, the Committee desire to express their growing conviction of the usefulness of the Society, and would again urge upon the members, and on the county at large, the claims which the Society has for more general and liberal pecuniary support, and a more active and systematized literary and scientific co-operation.”

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT :

The Treasurers in account with the Somersetshire Archaeological and  
 DR. Natural History Society. CR.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance of former account		9	10	By expenses of VIIIth vol. of <i>Proceedings</i> , 1858	114	15	3
„ Subscriptions .. ..	208	10	0	„ Coal, candles, gas, &c. ..	2	18	2
„ Donation .. ..		10	0	„ Postage and carriage ..	10	15	0
„ Subscriptions .. ..	2	10	0	„ Insurance .. ..	1	2	6
				„ Stationery, &c. .. ..	2	11	11
				„ Commission on collecting Subscriptions .. ..	3	10	0
				„ Sundries .. ..	10	8	7
				„ Photographic Socy. ..	1	1	
				„ Palæontological „ ..	3	3	
				„ British Armorial ..	1	1	
				„ Arundel Socy. 3 yrs. ..	3	3	
					8	8	0
				„ Curator's Salary and Assistants .. ..	21	9	1
				„ Rent to January, 1859 ..	12	10	0
				„ Collinson's Somerset ..	3	10	0
				„ Ruding's Coinage.. ..	4	4	0
				„ Expenses at Annual Meet- ing at Bridgwater ..	13	11	6
August 25, 1859.				„ Balance .. ..	2	5	10
					211	19	10
					211	19	10

Examined and found correct, August 27, 1859.

WM. P. PINCHARD,  
T. ARTHUR VOULÉS.

In moving the adoption of the report, the President referred to the plan for the collection of materials for a better History of the County, and strongly recommended that a more full and complete Index to Collinson's *History of Somerset* be compiled, with the view of furthering this object.

Mr. WM. AYSHFORD SANFORD then read an elaborate paper on the Natural History Department of the Museum of the Society, an abstract of which is given in Part II.