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P R O C E E D I N G S
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

DURING THE YEAR 1860.

P A R T I.

THE Twelfth Annual General Meeting was held at the Public Hall, Clevedon, on the 24th September, 1860. F. H. DICKINSON, Esq., President, having taken the chair, it was proposed by Mr. DICKINSON, seconded by Mr. SURTEES, and resolved, that Ralph Neville Grenville, Esq., be appointed President for the ensuing year, and that he continue in office to the close of the proceedings of the next Annual General Meeting.

Mr. GRENVILLE having taken the chair said that in opening the 12th meeting of this prosperous society, he had to thank them very sincerely for the honour they had done him in placing him in the President's chair. He hoped it would be a successful meeting. He had been able, through the kindness of one of the hon. secretaries (Rev. F. Warre), to look over the Report, which was of a most satisfactory nature. Of course the Society wanted money; every Society that he ever heard of did. He was glad to see some gleams of hope of that great desideratum being realised, which had occupied the attention of the Society for so many years, and had been so often mentioned by different Presidents and in

different reports—the obtaining materials for a County History worthy of Somersetshire. He trusted that as Hutchinson's "Dorsetshire" was being brought out in an improved and valuable form, so Collinson's "Somersetshire" would be brought out in a greatly improved and much more valuable form. In order to assist in obtaining a history, it was most important that accounts of old families in the county with heraldic devices should be sent to the Museum at Taunton, for nothing was more interesting than the history of the people who lived in those venerable houses of which Mr. Parker would give a description. Mr. Parker could tell nearly everything about the designs, conceits, and wishes of the architects and builders of those ancient houses; but when he came to the successive occupiers of them, there he stopped. Very little was known about the old families of the county; and it had often struck him that Somerset was a sort of standing evidence of the vanity of those who "think that their houses shall continue for ever: that their dwelling-places shall endure from generation to generation: and who call the lands after their own names." Where were Rodneys, of Rodney Stoke? Where were the Lytes, of Lyte's Cary? Where were the Fitzpaines, of Cary Fitzpaine? And where, he must also ask, were the Ralphs of Brompton Ralph, and the Nevilles, of Fifehead Neville? But though so many families were swept from the face of the earth, there were a few men of the county who could give a good account, not only of themselves, but of their ancestors. The Warres of Hestercombe must have been men of valour and renown, and their descendant had earned for himself no little distinction. He was the Garibaldi of their excursions, and as he trusted, would take the present excursionists safely into the heart of the country, and,

without shedding any blood in the conflict, lead them into every stronghold of antiquarian interest. Mr. Elliot, one of their secretaries, had kindly lent his magnificent illustrations of Somerset, which went a great way to promote a good county history, for when people saw views of the places and relics that existed, it made them inclined to hear something about them. He should be wanting in his duty as President if he did not allude to the loss which they all felt in the absence of the Rev. W. A. Jones, and their deep sympathy with him in the affliction that kept him away. It was not for him to enter into the excursions that would be taken; but he could not help reminding the company that there existed in the town an interesting link which united the past ages with the present, for the church contained the honoured ashes of the venerable Hallam. In conclusion he could only regret, as they had elected him as their President, that he could not, as the President did last year, invite them to his home. Butleigh was not within reach of the excursionists; otherwise it would have given him great pleasure to have followed the example of his worthy predecessor.

The Rev. F. WARRE then read the report, which was as follows :

ANNUAL REPORT.

“Your Committee have again, at this twelfth annual meeting, the satisfaction of reporting favourably on the state and prospects of the Society. The financial difficulties under which it laboured, owing to the defalcations of the late curator, have in great measure been relieved, and the committee have felt themselves justified in publishing a volume of *Proceedings* which, it is confidently hoped, will be found in no degree inferior, either in matter or illustration, to those which have preceded it. It must not,

however, be forgotten that it has been by the voluntary exertions of the members that this has been effected; and your committee again repeat that the only effectual means of increasing the usefulness of the Society is to increase as much as possible the funds at its disposal for carrying out the purposes for which it was established.

“These objects have not been lost sight of during the present year; and though, owing to a variety of circumstances, particularly the financial difficulties before alluded to, no great advance has been made towards the attainment of our chief desideratum—a good County History; still that object has been kept steadily in view, and it is confidently hoped will eventually be obtained.

“The Society appears certainly not to have lost ground in the public favour. The number of members is very regularly kept up, the loss by death and change of residence being fairly supplied by the accession of new members.

“Many valuable additions have been made to the Museum in both departments, and the arrangement of the specimens of Natural History very much improved. For this the Society is in great measure indebted to the exertions of Mr. W. A. Sanford, and Mr. Parfitt, the curator.

“Conversazione meetings have been held during the winter at the Shire Hall, Taunton, and appear still to possess interest with the educated public.

“On the whole, your committee feel that they may safely congratulate the Society upon the progress it has made in increasing the feeling in favour of archæological and natural science, in its prospects of stability and increased usefulness, as well as upon the generally evinced desire of its members to assist in producing all those good results to literature generally, and particularly to the

history of our own county, which can only be hoped for from the co-operation of members.

“It has been considered expedient that, from the present time, the President elected at one annual meeting shall continue in office till the end of the next annual meeting; and also that the commission heretofore paid to the curator on subscriptions or arrears collected by him shall cease, and that in lieu of that commission an addition of £10 shall be made to his salary.”

The CHAIRMAN moved, and Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE seconded, the adoption of the Report, which was carried unanimously.

R. G. BADCOCK, Esq., Treasurer, read the following Statement of Account, which was received and adopted :

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

DR.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.
To Balance of former account	2 5 10	By Expenses at Annual Meeting at Glastonbury	3 7 2
„ Entrance fees	10 0 0	„ Advertising	3 11 3
„ Sale of Baker's effects	4 0 0	„ Coals	7 15 0
„ Donations	43 11 0	„ Glass Case	4 4 0
„ Ditto., as per Ven. Archdeacon Moysey for County History	10 0 0	„ Carpenter, glaziers and petty sundries	7 7 0
„ Arrears of Subscriptions	18 0 0	„ Gas and Candles	1 14 2
„ Annual ditto	141 0 0	„ Postage and Carriage	6 11 3
		„ Stationery	5 6 1
		„ Illustrations of Vol. IX.	29 3 6
		„ May for Printing, &c., Vol. IX.	90 14 9
		„ Curator's Salary 1 year to August 4, 1860	25 0 0
		„ Palæontographical Society	1 1 0
		„ Insurance	1 2 6
		„ One year's rent to January, 1860	25 0 0
		„ Taunton Institution, being their share of Baker's effects	7 6 0
		„ Ford for Illustrations	3 5 0
		„ Clarke, (A. A.) for Anastatic drawings	4 4 0
		„ Large Oak Table	2 2 0
		„ Balance	2 2
	<u>£ 228 16 10</u>		<u>£ 228 16 10</u>
ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Subscriptions and Arrears unpaid	90 10 0	Half year's rent	12 10 0
	<u>£ 90 10 0</u>	Balance	78 0 0
			<u>£ 90 10 0</u>

Mr. SURTEES moved a vote of thanks to the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company for the facilities afforded by them to members of the Society in connection with the meeting.

Mr. R. BADCOCK seconded the proposition, which was unanimously adopted.

The Vice-Presidents of the preceding year were then severally re-elected with the addition of F. H. Dickinson, Esq., ex-president, Sir Wm. Miles, Bart., M.P., and R. Wilbraham Falconer, Esq., M.D.

The Treasurers, Secretaries, Local Secretaries, and the Curator were also re-elected, and the name of the Rev. Frederick Brown, of Nailsea was added to the list of Local Secretaries.

The following gentlemen were re-elected on the Committee:—J. R. Allen, Esq., W. W. Coker, Esq., W. E. Gillett, Esq., M.D., W. M. Kelly, Esq., M.D., W. Metford, Esq., M.D., J. F. Norman, Esq.

The following gentlemen (proposed at a Committee Meeting) were balloted for and duly elected Members of the Society: Mr. Lewis H. Rugg, Clement Bush, Esq., Rev. W. Jackson, Rees Mogg, Esq., the Rev. H. H. Greenwood, and E. A. Freeman, Esq.

A paper was then read by the Rev. THOS. HUGO, M.A., on "Mynchin Buckland Priory and Preceptory," which is printed in Part II.