

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
DURING THE YEARS 1863-4.

PART I.

THE Fifteenth Annual General Meeting was held at WELLS, September 9th, 1863, the President, F. H. DICKINSON, ESQ., in the Chair.

The Rev. F. WARRE read the following Report of the Committee for the past year :

ANNUAL REPORT.

“Your Committee in presenting their Fifteenth Annual Report, have great satisfaction in repeating their conviction that the Society continues to prosper, and, to all appearances, maintains its position in the confidence and favour of the educated classes of the County ; and that its great objects have been pursued with vigour, and not without success, during the past year. That its proceedings have not been altogether unprofitable to the general cause of Archæological and Natural Science may be inferred from the fact that our Society is at the present time in communication and exchanging publications with no less than fifteen British and four Foreign Societies, while the many interesting investigations in Geology, and other

branches of Natural History, as well as the many communications on Archæological subjects, and presents of antiquities which have been received during the late year prove that in this County the interest taken in those pursuits has certainly not decreased. It must, however, not be lost sight of that its usefulness must in great measure depend upon the amount of its funds, and as they increase or decrease, so must the services of the Society to those branches of knowledge increase or be diminished in value.

“The number of members is well kept up; but in order to make the income of the Society equal to its requirements a continual addition to the list of members is absolutely necessary.

“It having been considered advisable to suspend the publication of a volume for one year, on account of economical considerations, your Committee have made great efforts to send out this year a volume which will fully make up for the unavoidable omission; and they doubt not that by the value of its illustrations and the interest of its contents, it will give satisfaction to the members of the Society.

“The only point in which there has been any apparent falling off is in the attendance at the *Conversazione* Meetings, held during the winter months in the Museum of the Society. On the whole, the prosperity of the Society during the past year, as well as those which have preceded it, is such as to enable your Committee to congratulate the Society upon its present state, and on its prospects of future success and usefulness.

“The very extensive and interesting collection of Mendip Cave Bones, made by Mr. Beard, of Banwell, having been offered for sale, your Committee feel that this is an

opportunity which ought not to be lost. By securing this collection, the value of that which the Society already possesses, would be greatly enhanced, and a collection formed illustrative of the Natural History of the county, which would be equal to, if not exceed in value, any other of the same kind in the kingdom. In order to provide funds for this purchase, a special subscription will be required. For this your Committee confidently appeal, on the ground that apart from the interests of this Society, the cause of science and the credit of the County, demand that a collection of such rare value and peculiar local interest should be secured for the County Museum."

MR. H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurer, presented the following Financial Statement:—

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

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
1862.		1862-3.	
To Balance of former account	19 10 1	By Expenses at Wellington	
„ Subscriptions - -	137 10 0	Annual Meeting - -	5 10 5
„ ditto to Illustration		„ Advertising - -	4 2 0
Fund - - - -	4 3 0	„ Stationery, Printing, &c.	3 15 4
„ Entrance Fees - -	3 0 0	„ Coal, Wood, &c. - -	15 18 1
		„ Curator's Salary, 1 year to	
		August 3, 1863 - -	25 0 0
		„ Repairs, &c. - -	1 15 0
		„ Postage, Carriage - -	7 19 3
		„ Rent (1½ years) to Mid-	
		summer, 1863 - -	37 10 0
		„ Insurance - - - -	1 2 6
		„ Gas Stove - - - -	1 10 0
		„ Subscriptions to Papworth's	
		Ordinary of British	
		Armoriais - - - -	2 2 0
		„ Fac-simile of Domesday	
		Book, Somerset, Wilts.,	
		Gloucester - - - -	1 9 6
		„ Mr. May, (On Account of	
		Vol. XI. of <i>Proceedings</i>)	40 0 0
		„ Mr. Crump (drawings) -	2 0 0
		„ Mr. Tucker ditto - -	5 0 0
		„ Mr. Ford (Printing illus-	
		trations) - - - -	4 10 0
		„ Sundries - - - -	1 3 4
			<u>160 7 5</u>
		„ Balance - - - -	3 15 8
			<u>£ 164 3 1</u>
	<u>£ 164 3 1</u>		

September 7th, 1863.

Audited and found Correct,
W. E. GILLET.

The Report of the Committee and the Treasurers' Account were unanimously received and adopted.

On the motion of the Rev. F. WARRE, seconded by R. N. GRENVILLE, ESQ., it was resolved: "That the Committee be empowered to make arrangements for the next Meeting, and for the appointment of President."

"Resolved that F. H. Dickinson, Esq., continue to act as the President for the current year, and that E. A. Sanford, Esq., be elected as Vice-President."

The Treasurers, General and Local Secretaries, were re-elected.

The following gentlemen were elected Members of Committee, to succeed those going out by rotation: Rev. W. R. Clark, Rev. W. T. Redfern, Messrs. Edwards Beadon, T. Meyler, W. P. Pinchard, and W. G. Rawlinson.