

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

DURING THE YEARS 1856-7.

PART I.

Eighth Annual Meeting.

THE Eighth Annual Meeting was held at Bridgwater, on Monday, the 25th of August, 1856, WILLIAM STRADLING, Esq., in the Chair.

The Vice-Presidents, and General and Local Secretaries, were severally re-appointed. Messrs. Elliot, Gillett, J. Woodland, T. S. Baynes, and Drs. Metford and Kelly, were elected members of the Committee.

The following Report of the Committee was read by the Rev. W. A. JONES:—

“In presenting their Eighth Annual Report, your Committee have again the pleasure of informing you that the number of members is well sustained, and consequently that there is every reason to hope that as the Society took root rapidly, so it may grow steadily, and become permanently useful to the cause of Archæology and Natural History. Still the limited amount of its income presents a serious obstacle to its exertions; and many an opportunity of profitable investigation and of obtaining valuable additions to our Museum has been, and will be, lost, if no

means can be devised to increase our funds. The Committee have not thought the funds of the Society sufficiently prosperous to justify any considerable purchases; but numerous additions, many of them of much interest, have been made to our Collection, by the kindness of individual contributors.

“The Casts from the Wells Sculptures, purchased last year, have been carefully and judiciously arranged, in such a manner as to be at once highly ornamental to the Museum, and to afford a most interesting study to the lovers of Mediæval Art.

“The *Conversazione* Meetings, held at Taunton during the winter months, have been well attended, and the Papers read on those occasions have served materially to promote the interests and objects of the Society. The expenses on account of these meetings, however, do not fall upon the general funds of the Society, but are defrayed exclusively, as heretofore, by those members who attend them.

“The Committee confidently hope that the volume of Proceedings due this year, the publication of which has been unavoidably delayed, will not be deemed inferior to any which the Society has as yet published, either in matter or illustration.

“It was originally intended that the Annual Meeting of the Society should have been held at Bridgwater in the course of the present month for the dispatch of business, and, as usual, for reading Papers and making Excursions; but, the British Archæological Association having fixed upon the same time and place for their Annual Congress, the Committee determined to cede the ground to them this year, and to recommend the Members of this Society to attend their Meeting as visitors. Our present Annual

Meeting will, therefore, be held solely for the purpose of transacting the ordinary business of the Society. This arrangement, however, will not prevent the issue of a Volume of Proceedings to our Members for the current year, materials for which of an interesting character are already in hand.

“ In conclusion, your Committee feel themselves justified in congratulating the Society both on what it has already done for the benefit of Archæological and Natural Science in the County, and on the prospect before it of increasing and permanent usefulness.”

The Treasurer's Report, of which the following is an abstract, was likewise presented.

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

1856.	£ s. d.	1856,	£ s. d.
To Subscriptions -	218 0 0	By Balance of former Account -	5 18 7
		„ Expenses of Vol. of “ Proceedings ” -	79 17 0
		„ Coal, Gas, and Candles -	4 7 10
		„ Postage and Carriage -	3 0 2
		„ Insurance -	1 2 6
		„ Commission -	4 10 0
		„ Stationery, Printing, &c. -	16 16 1
		„ Sundries -	8 11 11
		„ Wells Casts -	17 14 6
		„ Book Cases -	5 0 0
		„ Curator's Salary -	25 0 0
		„ Rent -	25 0 0
		„ Expenses of Annual Meeting -	9 10 0
		„ Balance -	11 11 5
	£ 218 0 0		£ 218 0 0
	£ 218 0 0		£ 218 0 0

These reports having been adopted, the proceedings of the Society, in accordance with the suggestion of the Committee, were formally closed, and the Members present joined the Congress of the British Archæological Association

in their meetings and excursions. By this arrangement many of the Officers and Members of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society, had the pleasure of making the personal acquaintance of their fellow-labourers from other parts of the kingdom, and of showing their sympathy and respect for the officers of a kindred Society. As the proceedings of the Congress of the Association have been recorded in their own Transactions, it is unnecessary to give an account of them here. The observations made by Mr. Planche on the Statues on the West Front of Wells Cathedral, and the examination of the records and various documents among the Archives of the Corporation of Bridgwater, by Mr. Black, were of such value and great local interest as to demand a special notice and acknowledgment on the part of this Society.
