

Evening Meeting

the PRESIDENT took the chair and briefly announced the order of proceedings.

Mr. ELWORTHY read part of a paper, called "Notes on Wellington." (See Part II.)

Mr. C. H. FOX next read a paper, entitled, "Notes on the Woollen Manufacture of Wellington, Somerset."

The PRESIDENT said Mr. FOX had forgotten one thing. He remembered in one exhibition in London seeing a little case six or seven feet long, containing some blankets. He enquired what they were and was told they were the best blankets in the exhibition, and that they came from Messrs. FOX's factory at Wellington.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS said Mr. FOX had told them that in all probability the spinning of wool was introduced into this country by the Romans, but it was an undoubted fact that a knowledge of the art of spinning wool in this country dated from a period infinitely further back than the Norman Conquest.



From discoveries made in Yorkshire and elsewhere it was absolutely demonstrated that the art of spinning wool had arrived at such perfection, even in those early times, that in some cases they were able to bury their dead in coats made of frieze, or, perhaps, he ought to use the term Inverness coat, for it was more like that than anything else. So it was not at all improbable that those very inhabitants of the district of Wellington who left the bronze implements and ornaments, now to be seen in the museum in that room, and which were found, he believed, not far from Nynehead Court, were in the habit of carrying on this business of spinning wool on that very spot. It was not at all improbable that the spinning of wool was of even higher antiquity than that. In Switzerland wool was certainly spun in the period known as the polished stone axe age. He did not know of any discoveries in this country which indicated that the art was practised here for certain; but articles used for spinning—the combs used for the weft or for the warp—were extremely common among all the collections of household implements which were found in the old habitations of this country, belonging to the neolithic age. So when he put these facts together he could not help believing that the art of spinning and of weaving woollen articles dated back in this very district certainly as far as the bronze and probably as far back as the neolithic age.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER read a paper, entitled, “What became of the dispossessed Monks and Nuns of Somerset.” (*See Part II.*)

Mr. A. L. HUMPHREYS read a paper, entitled, “Some Sources of History for the Monmouth Rebellion, and the Bloody Assize.” (*See Part II.*)

The PRESIDENT said the paper showed that Mr. Humphreys was industriously engaged in the preparation of other papers quite as interesting and valuable as the History of Wellington, which he had already published, and which was one of the most valuable books of local history of which he knew.