

## John Batten, F.S.A.

ON November 8th, 1900, a very respected member, Mr. John Batten, of Aldon, Yeovil, F.S.A., died at the ripe age of 85. He joined our Society at its commencement in 1850, and it is a matter for remark that up to his decease no less than three generations were at the same time members—Mr. Batten, his three sons (and a daughter-in-law), and a grandson. He ably filled the office of President at the Meeting at Yeovil in 1886, and was up to the time of his decease a V.P., and one of the Trustees of the Society's property. He was also a J.P. and D.L. for Somerset. Many valuable papers from his pen, displaying special and extensive erudition, appear in our volumes. Mr. Batten's last appearance at our Annual Meetings was at Sherborne in 1896, when those who heard his paper (vol. xlii, pt. ii, p. 1) read in the open air in the churchyard of Poyntington, upon the Descent of that Manor, will not readily forget his vigorous and "smart" appearance, and manner, and his clear enunciation, which would have done credit to a man 20 years his junior.

Perhaps the most valuable of his works is the "Historical and Topographical Collections relating to the Early History of Parts of South Somerset," which was published in 1894.

It contains notices of Barwick, Chilton Cantelo, Sutton Bingham, Brympton, Houndston, Preston, East and West Coker, Hardington, Mandeville, and Limington, and is full of original research, and on that account it is a real help to an accurate knowledge of the history of the county.

His death will leave a blank in the public life of the district, which cannot fail to make itself felt.

J. R. B.

## George Streynsham Master.

THE late Rev. George Streynsham Master, of the Grange, Flax Bourton, who joined the Society in 1870, and was for some years and up to the time of his decease Chairman of its Northern Branch, died on November 8th, 1900, in his 78th year, and was buried at Flax Bourton. Mr. Master was the eldest son of the Ven. Robert Mosley Master, Archdeacon of Manchester and Rector of Crosley, Lancashire. He was educated at Eton and Brazenose College, graduating B.A. in 1845, and proceeding M.A. in 1848. He was P.C. of Welsh-Hampton, Salop, 1847—1859, and V. of Twickenham 1859—1865. His last preferment was the Rectory of West Dean, Wilts, which he held for upwards of twenty years (1865—1886). His wife and only son pre-deceased him.

Mr. Master was much interested in antiquarian pursuits, and an active member of several societies, in connection with which he had done most useful work. Since his settlement at Flax Bourton, in 1885, he had greatly interested himself in the valuable series of Parochial Histories which are being issued by the Northern branch, some of which are from his own pen, and all owe much to his information and collaboration. The current volume—Wraxall—was passing through the press at the time of his death, and within a few days he had corrected the proofs.

Mr. Master was emphatically “a gentleman of the old school,” and his apt manner of illustrating subjects, courtesy, and hospitality, greatly endeared him to the members of the Branch and neighbours generally. His loss will be severely felt.

J. R. B.