

Glastonbury Abbey Excavations.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOMERSETSHIRE
ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, 1912.

IT is well known to all members of the Society that the Abbey Trustees have for some years past been spending a considerable sum of money on the preservation of the existing walls, etc., of this ancient building, and that side by side with that work Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A., has been making excavations, more especially at the extreme ends of the Abbey buildings, uncovering many hidden features of the ground plan, and clearing up disputed points.

Among the structural features which he has brought to light are:—The foundations of the Edgar and Dunstan Chapels; the great North Porch foundation; the foundations of the two Western Towers; the Western Aisle to the North Transept; the remains of the Cloisters; the Chapter House; the Sub-Vault of the Refectory, etc.

This work makes it necessary that a large sum of money should be raised annually if the excavations are to be brought to a successful issue. The efforts of the Society up to the present, have mainly been that of helping Mr. Bond in this part of his work.

In 1910, at the suggestion of the Society, a few local gentlemen who were interested in the Abbey Excavations associated themselves with Mr. Bligh Bond and assisted him in various ways. It was found that the contributions from all sources did not cover the expenditure, and that an overdraft at the bank was increasing. In the meanwhile the Rev. Preb. Barnwell

and Mr. Bligh Bond made themselves responsible to the bank for the overdraft, which, at Mr. Barnwell's death, amounted to about £120. As it was thought that his estate should not be held liable for his kindness in making himself responsible for the debt, the Society asked the Rev. W. T. Reeder, Mr. E. Swanwick and Mr. H. St. George Gray to see what could be done. These gentlemen energetically set to work, and in a fortnight after "the Appeal" was sent out, were able to announce, that, mainly through Mr. Gray's exertions, enough money was raised to pay off the liability at the bank and other bills owing for labour. Towards the deficiency the Abbey Trustees generously paid £35 for work which they considered had been done to the advantage of the Trust. A list of subscribers, as well as a balance sheet, is given at the end of this report.

At the Society's Council Meeting held on December 13th, 1912, a communication was read from the Trustees of Glastonbury Abbey, asking the Society to appoint a Committee to deal with the Abbey Excavations, and suggesting the following as a part of their duties :—

1. To furnish the Trustees annually with a detailed statement of the proposed excavations for the year, together with a plan, estimate of expenditure, etc.
2. To submit these to the Trustees for their approval before the work is commenced.

To this request the Council agreed, and appointed the following gentlemen to serve on the Committee, as well as to undertake the duties suggested by the Trustees :—The Rev. Preb. J. Hamlet, the Revs. A. J. Hook, C. H. Heale (Conventer), W. T. Reeder and F. W. Weaver ; Messrs. Roger Clark, H. St. George Gray, John Morland and E. Swanwick, all of whom have consented to serve.

The Excavations suggested to be carried out during the year 1913 are the completion of the Cloister area, walks, etc.

DONATIONS RECEIVED TOWARDS THE

Glastonbury Abbey Excavation Fund,

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER, 1912.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Trustees, Glastonbury				Langman, A. L., Esq. ...	1	9	0
Abbey	35	0	0	Lawrence, F. W., Esq. ...	1	1	0
Bath & Wells, Bishop of ...	5	0	0	Lecture (Rev. C. L. Marson)	1	1	0
Bouverie, H. H. P., Esq....	5	0	0	Lecture Do. ...	1	1	0
Box, Glastonbury Abbey,				Liddon, Dr. E. ...	1	1	0
(Oct. 7--Dec. 1, 1912) ...	1	10	0	Moore, F. S., Esq. ...	0	10	6
Bramble, Miss	0	5	0	Morland, John, Esq. ...	2	0	0
Caldey, Abbot of	2	0	0	Moysey, C. F., Esq. ...	0	5	0
Chichester, Mrs. C.	1	1	0	Paynter, J. B., Esq. ...	1	1	0
Church, Rev. Canon	1	0	0	Penny, T. S., Esq. ...	0	10	6
Clark, W. S., Esq.	5	0	0	Pollock, Capt. J. M. ...	0	5	0
Clark, J. B., Esq.	1	0	0	Pope, Alfred, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Copleston, F. S., Esq. ...	0	10	6	Prideaux, W. de C., Esq.	0	5	0
Cowan, T. W., Esq.	2	0	0	Reeder, Rev. W. T. ...	1	1	0
Dinham, Mrs. H.	0	10	6	Rocke, Mrs.	5	0	0
Dyson, John, Esq.	1	1	0	Rocke, Miss	5	0	0
Fox, Mrs. C. H.	1	0	0	Ruck, Capt. G. A. ...	0	10	0
Fry, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. ...	1	1	0	St. Audries, Rt. Hon. Lord	1	0	0
Garnett, Wm., Esq.	2	0	0	Stawell, Col. G. D. ...	0	10	0
Gibbs, H. Martin, Esq. ...	5	0	0	Stewart, Dr. Wm. ...	0	5	0
Graham, A. R., Esq.	1	0	0	Sully, T. N., Esq. ...	1	1	0
Grubb, John, Esq.	0	10	6	Swanwick, Ernest, Esq.	0	10	6
Hamlet, Rev. Preb. J. ...	0	10	6	Taunton Field Club ...	0	10	6
Harbin, Rev. E. H. Bates	1	1	0	Taylor, Rev. C. S. ...	0	10	6
Hobhouse, Mrs. E.	2	0	0	Taylor, Theo., Esq. ...	1	0	0
Hobhouse, Rt. Hon. H. ...	2	0	0	Thompson, Miss Archer	2	0	0
Hodgkinson, W. S., Esq.	5	0	0	Tuckett, F. Fox, Esq. ...	1	0	0
Hook, Mrs.	1	0	0	Were, Francis, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Hughes, Rev. F. L.	0	5	0	Wills, Geo. A., Esq. ...	2	0	0
Hughes, Mrs. F. L.	0	5	0	Wills, H. H., Esq. ...	2	0	0
Hunt, W. A., Esq.	1	0	0	Worthington, Rev. J. ...	0	10	6
Hurle, J. Cooke, Esq. ...	1	0	0				
James, E. H., Esq.	1	1	0				
Jardine, Ernest, Esq. ...	1	1	0				
Jenner, Lady	1	0	0				
				Total Receipts	£126	15	0

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT,
Glastonbury Abbey Excavation Fund,
 DECEMBER 31st, 1912.

1912.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Nov. 20-26.	Wilts and Dorset Bank, Glastonbury, to meet the Overdraft	40 7 0
Dec. 13.	Ditto, balance of Overdraft	70 3 5
Dec. 13.	Ditto, Bank Charges	2 3 10
Dec. 18.	F. Bligh Bond, Labour one man, Oct. 7 to Nov. 22	8 13 0
Dec. 13.	Barnicott & Pearce, Printing "Appeal" and Envelopes	1 19 0
Dec. 13.	Cheque and Receipt Books	0 2 0
Dec. 13.	Postage of "Appeal" and Receipts	1 9 3
		£124 17 6
	Balance in hand	1 17 6
	Total Receipts	£126 15 0

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Hon. Treasurer.*