

Thomas Henry Bethuen Bailward, V.P.

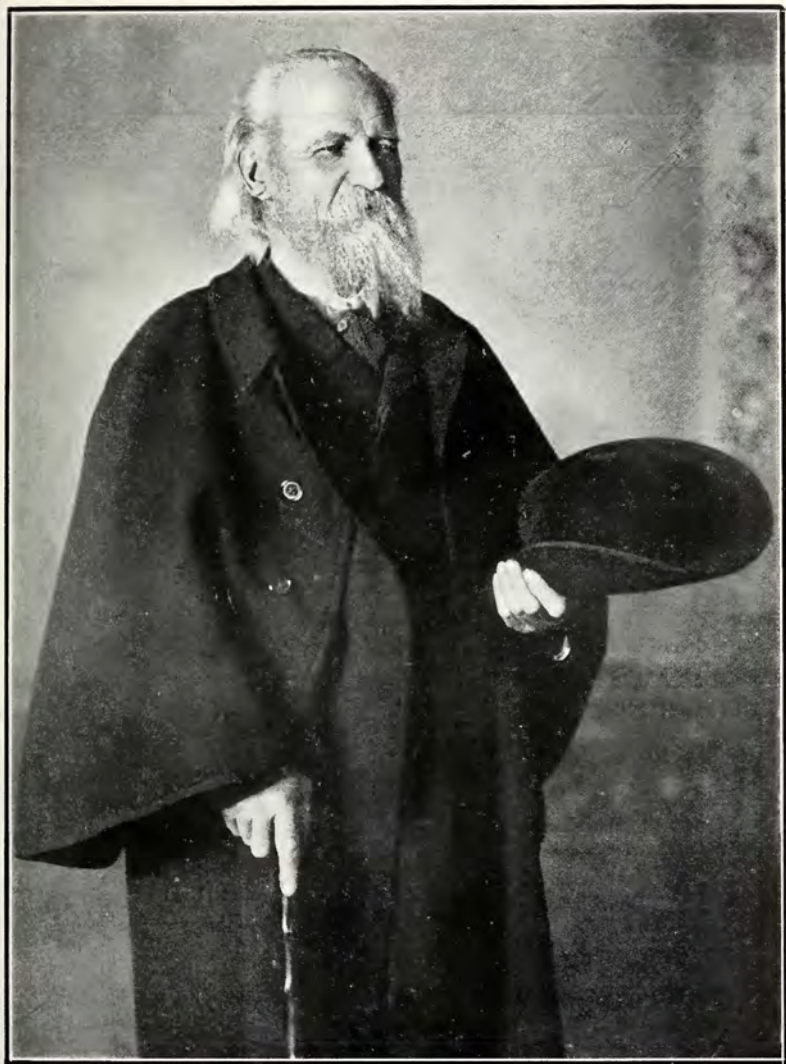
MR. BAILWARD was in many ways a remarkable man. Educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, he succeeded his father in 1868, in the ownership of the family estate at Horsington, and settled down to the life of a country gentleman. As landowner, churchman, and magistrate, to which was added later a seat on the County Council, he gave unstinted time and labour to the duties connected with these responsibilities; and even the calamity of loss of sight did not lessen his powers of work. When the Society met at Gillingham in 1904, he was unanimously chosen as President for the year; and his address on the early wars carried on in that part of the country where the three shires of Wilts, Dorset and Somerset meet, was an excellent and enlightening summary of a very dark and confused page of history. For some time he had been in a failing state of health, and the end came on the 23rd November, 1913, in his sixty-ninth year.

Alfred Alexander Clarke.

THE last of the original members of our Society, Mr. ALFRED ALEXANDER CLARKE, passed peacefully away at his residence in the Vicars' Close, Wells, on March 13th, 1913, in his 88th year.

Mr. Clarke was a native of Taunton, and, on his mother's side, came of an old Huguenot family who fled from France in the time of persecution; while his father was connected with the Clarkes of Chipley and of Wookey, one of whom (Edward Clarke, the intimate friend of John Locke) represented Taunton in Parliament, 1690-1710.

Mr. A. A. Clarke was an artist by profession, and practised as such in his native town in his early years. After the loss



ALFRED A. CLARKE.

Dawkes & Partridge, Photographers, Wells.



of his wife, he removed to Wells with his only child, a daughter, and secured a house in the Vicars' Close, where he resided more than sixty years. His daughter died in early womanhood, and he continued to live alone, for he had a haven of peace quite after his own heart. He spent a considerable sum in carefully repairing and restoring the house, under the advice of his friend, Mr. J. H. Parker, of Oxford, and revelled in the place and its surroundings, especially as he had kind friends on every hand. He was keenly interested in art, archæology, architecture, and local history, and was a devout lover of nature. Few men knew the beauty spots of Somerset better than he did; and few were more keenly anxious for the preservation of its most interesting historic and architectural features. He had sketched scores of the famous churches and other ancient buildings of the county, and was intimately acquainted with their points of special interest. He provided illustrations for many of the early volumes of our *Proceedings*, and some of his larger drawings are hung on the walls of the County Museum. Many of his best Somerset sketches were secured by the late Mr. W. Adlam, of Chew Magna, and some of them are preserved in "The Adlam Collection," which that gentleman gave to the Society of Antiquaries. He also did good work for several of the local books issued by the Rev. Thomas Hugo, for Pooley's "Old Stone Crosses of Somerset," and for the Anastatic Drawing Society.

In 1896, Mr. Clarke published a "Monograph on the Cathedral Church of Wells," a delightful little book, charmingly illustrated by a series of his own drawings. This, he tells us, was originally written for the guidance of a former vergier of the Cathedral, but had been in part re-written with additional notes. It was dedicated "To the members of the Wells Theological College, past and present, in memory of pleasant hours spent with many of them during the past thirty years in going over the Cathedral."

The subjects of nearly all Mr. Clarke's paintings and drawings were connected with Somerset—its scenery, its churches, its old buildings ; interesting, quaint, and curious architectural features ; and so on. Hundreds of these are scattered about the county, and some of them have found their way to public buildings and local institutions.

Mr. Clarke conducted considerable correspondence with many well-known men, on artistic, literary and antiquarian matters, and won a host of friends by his gentle, genial old-world courtesy, and by his readiness to impart or to receive information. He regularly attended the annual meetings of our Society for many years, and was in the habit of jotting down his thoughts and recollections in connection therewith. These duly appeared in the columns of one of the county papers. The articles were most pleasantly written, and contained a considerable store of history, architectural detail, local lore, and poetic fancy. His last attendance was at the Diamond Jubilee of the Society, at Taunton, in 1908. Subsequently he had a long illness, and was confined to his bed many months before his death. A fitting resting-place was found for him in the burial ground of Wells Cathedral, for he had loved and studied that grand old building during the greater part of his life, and some of his kindest and dearest friends were closely connected with it. Several of them lovingly ministered to him to the end, and were present at the grave-side.

C. T.

Henry Franklin Parsons, M.D., F.G.S.

DR. PARSONS, a member of this Society from 1875, was a medical officer who was distinguished for his extensive knowledge and wide experience of sanitary science. He was an expert botanist, and his name appears repeatedly in Murray's *Flora of Somerset*, and in Watson's *Mosses of Somerset*. He

was also an enthusiastic worker in geology, and wrote a paper on the "Geology of the District around Bruton" (*Proceedings*, xxiv, i, 38-42).

To our *Proceedings* he also contributed a paper on "The Flora of the Eastern Border of Somerset," Vol. xxi (1875), ii, 53-61; and for the *Botanical Record Club Reports*, 1873-9, he compiled a "Preliminary List of Somerset Mosses." He bequeathed the Somerset portion of his collections—botanical and geological—to the Taunton Museum.

Dr. Parsons was born at Beckington, 27 February, 1846, and died at Croydon, 29 October, 1913. He was the eldest son of Joshua Parsons, a surgeon, who took much interest in the natural history of S.E. Somerset. The geological features are extremely varied, as within a walking distance of Beckington there can be studied the Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous rocks, the Trias, Lias, most of the Oolitic rocks, and Upper Cretaceous strata.

In 1879, H. F. Parsons was appointed a medical inspector on the Local Government Board, and being engaged on sanitary questions his knowledge of geology was of great practical service. The year 1900 found him second in command on the Medical Staff of the Local Government Board. The *Lancet* of November 8, 1913, said that "he probably influenced the sanitary development of this country more than anyone else."

To the Geological Survey he gave much assistance in regard to water supply. He became a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1877, and a member of the Geologists' Association in 1911.

H. ST. G. G.

The Rev. C. W. Whistler, M.R.C.S.

THE REV. CHARLES WATTS WHISTLER, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., who passed away on June 10, 1913, at the comparatively early age of 56, was a Local Secretary of the Society from 1907. Though his connection with the county began somewhat late in life, he had done much good and valuable work upon its early history and folk-lore, and his death will be felt as a heavy loss.

The eldest son of the late Rev. R. F. Whistler, Rector of Elton, Peterborough, who married Miss Watts, of Battle, he was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, whence he took a scholarship for St. Thomas's Hospital. He qualified in 1881 as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and Licentiate of the Surgical Association, and after holding the posts of house surgeon at St. Thomas's Hospital, and at the Leicester Infirmary, practised at Bures, in Suffolk. He subsequently graduated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, with a view to taking Holy Orders, and was ordained in 1884. His first curacy was at Woolton (Liverpool), and he subsequently became Chaplain of the Fishermen's Church at Hastings, rector of Theddlethorpe All Saints (Lincs.), and rector of Elton (Hunts.) In 1895, he accepted the living of Stockland Bristol, Somerset, where he remained for fourteen years. In 1909, he became Rector of Cheselbourne, Dorset, resigning on account of ill-health in 1912.

Mr. Whistler's literary and historical work owed much to the practical experience he had gained in various fields of open-air life, as a yachtsman, angler and shot. He had also served as a surgeon in the Volunteers, and had acquired a wide store of local knowledge during his medical and clerical work in various parts of the country. Yet it was not till he settled in Somerset that his acquired experience found a literary outlet, and his talents were devoted very largely to Somerset themes.



REV. C. W. WHISTLER, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Squibbs & Carey, Photographers, Bridgwater.



It was in 1896 that he published the first of a long line of stories, ostensibly written for boys, dealing chiefly with the pre-Norman period of English History. In spite of their modest aim these books are of considerable historical value, being the fruit of a profound knowledge of the period they deal with, and written with a vivid sense of historical truth by a story-teller of the best. The book referred to, "A Thane of Wessex," centres round Bishop Ealhstan's victory over the Danes in 845 at Parrett mouth. Two others of the series, "A Prince of Cornwall" and "King Alfred's Viking," deal mainly with Somerset history, while the action of "Gerald the Sheriff," and "For King or Empress," takes place partly in the county.

Still more important in their bearing on the history of the county were the reports which he contributed to the *Saga-Book of the Viking Club* as Hon. District Secretary for Somerset, showing reasons for believing in the existence of a Scandinavian colony in North Somerset even before the Saxon conquest of the district. Papers on "Traditions and Folklore of the Quantocks," which he read at a joint meeting of the Viking Club with the Somerset Men in London, and before the Folklore Society, dealt largely with the same subject. Another Somerset subject to which he devoted much attention was the vindication of Bishop Clifford's theory of the Ethandune Campaign propounded in the *Proceedings Somerset Arch. and Nat. Hist. Society*, Vol. XXIII. His first paper on the subject, "Ethandune, A.D. 878; King Alfred's Campaign from Athelney," was read to the Viking Club on November 25th, 1898, in anticipation of the approaching Millenary of King Alfred, and was printed in the *Saga-Book* for the year. He followed this up with a paper on "The Battlefield of Ethandune" in *The Antiquary* for June and July, 1901, and in the chapter he wrote for the *Memorials of Old Somerset* on "King Alfred and the Danes." In collaboration with the writer of this notice, he also contributed a paper on

“The Saxon Conquest of Somerset” to *The Antiquary*, October-December, 1911. Other papers in the *Saga-Book* are on “The Saga of Havelok the Dane” and “Brunanburh and Vinheid in Ingulf’s Chronicle and Egil’s Saga.” The sketch for the King Alfred scene in the London Pageant was also virtually his work.

His studies on the early history of Somerset in a revised and altered form are now embodied in “Early Wars of Wessex,” published since his death. It is true that by his express desire his name only appears on the title-page of that work as “Editor.” But, as clearly indicated both in the introduction and in the dedication to his memory, author and editor were virtually collaborators.

Conspicuous among his services to the Society was the part he played at the excavation of Wick Mound carried out in conjunction with the Viking Club, under the direction of Mr. H. St. George Gray. Besides his chapter on the Folk-lore of the mound in the Report of the excavations, the model which he made and presented to the museum is an enduring memorial of him. Many gifts of his to the museum besides have from time to time been recorded in the *Proceedings*.

Space fails us to speak of the many qualities which won him the admiration and love of a wide circle of friends. Besides his literary and scientific abilities he was a clever craftsman and an artist of no little skill. But beyond and above all his gifts was the charm of personality which impressed itself on all who came within its range.

ALBANY F. MAJOR.