

Alfred C. Fryer, Ph.D., F.S.A.

DR. ALFRED COOPER FRYER, who died suddenly at Bristol on 1 September 1937, at the age of 82 years, devoted much of his time in leisure hours to archæological and architectural studies, and developed a keen interest especially in those appertaining to church furniture and to monumental effigies, and in other sculpture of medieval and later times of which so many of our English churches possess examples. In his later years he became a member of the advisory committee for the care of churches in the dioceses of Bristol and Bath and Wells.

Born in Manchester in 1855 Alfred Fryer was educated at Queenwood College, Owen's College, Manchester, and Leipzig University, where he graduated as doctor of philosophy in 1882. On his return to England he received the appointment of Government assistant to Dr. Angus Smith, F.R.S., Chief Inspector of Alkali Works under the Rivers Pollution Acts. Dr. Smith died in 1884, and Dr. Fryer was then sent by the Local Government Board to Bristol to take charge of the South-west of England and South Wales district as Inspector of Alkali Works, and he carried out these duties until his retirement in 1920. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry and the Chemical Society.

In 1901 Fryer was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and he became a member of the Somerset Archæological Society in 1914. From that time until 1930 he published a long series of papers on the Monumental Effigies in Somerset Churches in the *Proceedings*, vols. lxi-lxxvi. These papers were illustrated by about 190 photographs taken, sometimes under great difficulties of position and light, by the author (very few of them were borrowed from other sources). Dr. Fryer not only provided the photographs but paid for the whole of the blocks required for these plates. This work culminated in his preparation of an exhaustive Index to this series of papers: it was printed at the cost of the author in 1932, and a copy was presented by him to every member of the Society. His generosity and painstaking diligence will long be remembered.

At the same period and before, Dr. Fryer was doing similar work for other societies, and in 1925 he produced a well-illustrated paper on the 'Monumental Effigies made by Bristol Craftsmen (1240-

1550) ' in *Archæologia*, vol. lxxiv. Elsewhere he published reports on monuments with special reference to those sculptured by Nicholas Stone. In 1924 he issued a quarto work on ' The Wooden Effigies in England and Wales '.

Fryer was also much interested in Fonts, and his series of papers for Gloucestershire was published in the *Transactions, Bristol and Glos. Arch. Society*, vols. xxxi-1. (The library at Taunton Castle has the set of these papers bound up as a separate volume). He also published papers on Cornish fonts, leaden fonts, those sculptured by Nicholas Stone, fonts with representations of the Seven Sacraments, and others with representations of Baptism and the Holy Eucharist, in the publications of various societies.

Furthermore Dr. Fryer wrote on Llantwit Major, a fifth-century university, and lives of St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne and St. Aidan the apostle of the North-country, a collection of English fairy tales from the North-country, and others from the Hartz Mountains.

His animal studies (' Toots ' and ' Punch '), running through many editions, were popular with children of the eighties and nineties, and his story of ' Harold and the Months ' had a large sale. He published ' The Vision of St. Christopher ' in 1912, ' The Babe of Bethlehem ', further poems set to music by Cedric Bucknall, and ' Dartmoor and other Sonnets ' (1925).

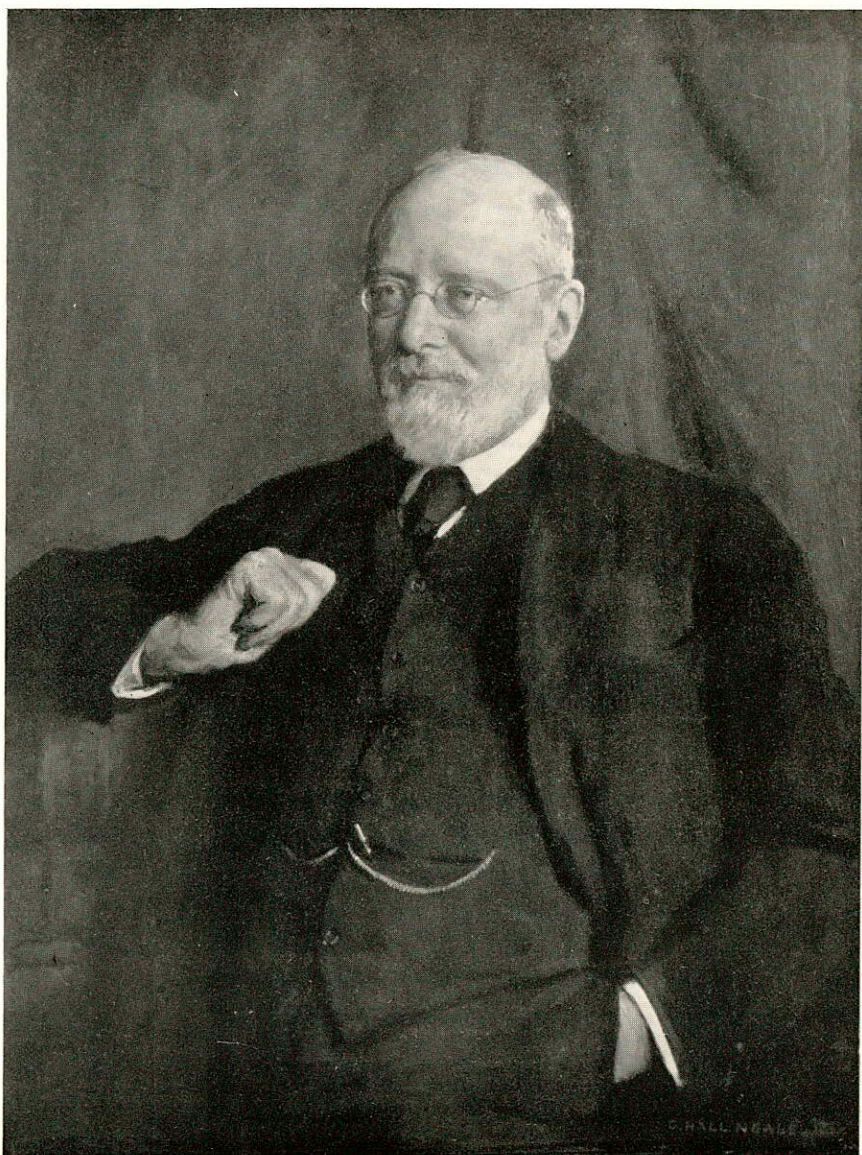
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The Rt. Hon. Henry Hobhouse, P.C.

(Plate XXXIV)

HENRY HOBHOUSE of Hadspen House, Somerset, died on 25 June 1937 at the age of eighty-three. He was a member of the family in this county which has, perhaps, produced more distinguished sons than any other in the course of the last one hundred and fifty years, and he was esteemed by all who knew him for his profound learning, his acute intellect and his great administrative ability. He succeeded his father at Hadspen when he was only eight years old. Having been at Eton from 1865 until 1872, he went up to Balliol. He took a second class in classical moderations and a first in *Literae Humaniores* at Oxford, and was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1880. Later he practised as a Parliamentary draughtsman and counsel.

The list of his public services and honours can only be set out here



THE RT. HON. HENRY HOBHOUSE, P.C.

From a Painting by C. Hall Neale

W. H. GROVE & SON, PHOTOGRAPHERS, KENSINGTON, W.

very shortly. In 1885 he was elected as Liberal member for East Somerset, and he held the seat as Liberal Unionist from 1886 until 1906. From 1880 he was a county magistrate for Somerset, and for twenty years he was chairman of the Somerset County Council. In 1890 he had been appointed an Ecclesiastical Commissioner—and at the time of his death he was the senior Ecclesiastical Commissioner—and he had been a member of the Church Assembly since 1920. He was sworn of the Privy Council in 1902, and in this he followed his grandfather, also Henry Hobhouse, and his uncle, Lord Hobhouse.

Mr. Hobhouse was keenly interested in educational matters and was a member of the Royal Commission on Secondary Education : he had taken an active part in the development of Bristol University and was one of the three original Prochancellors and an honorary LL.D. of that foundation.

To the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society, of which he had been a member for fifty years, his services had been of great value. He had been president of the Society in 1890 and again in 1913, and he was a vice-president for many years and also a trustee of the Castle property. His remarkable capacity for assimilating all facts concerning the past as well as the present of the county that he loved made him one of the best authorities on her history, and his knowledge was always at the service of the Society. The breadth of this knowledge is well illustrated in his two presidential addresses.

He did valuable work for the history of Somerset on the council of the Somerset Record Society. As an archæologist and historian he had followed in the steps of his uncle, Bishop Hobhouse, the eminent medievalist, and also in those of his grandfather who was Keeper of the State Papers and a celebrated archivist.

In 1880 Mr. Hobhouse married Margaret Heyworth, one of the nine daughters of Richard Potter of Standish House, Gloucester : perhaps Mrs. Sidney Webb (Lady Passfield) has been the most widely known of that brilliant family. His first wife died in 1921, and in 1923 Mr. Hobhouse married secondly, Anne Mackessack, daughter of William Grant of Forres ; she survives him.

It has been said that Henry Hobhouse possessed a mind of the rare type to which nothing of human interest is foreign, a type which becomes increasingly more rare with the narrowing tendency of modern specialization. *Nihil humani alienum* was the key-note of the whole of his long life of devoted public service.

Richard Liddon Meade-King, M.D.

(Plate XXXV)

DR. MEADE-KING, the eldest son of Walter Meade-King and grandson of Richard Meade-King of Walford House, was born at Taunton in 1869 and died there on 25 February 1938. He was educated at Exeter School and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and was in private practice in Taunton for many years. After the Great War his health gave way and he retired, but he was able to continue and develop many of his local activities. In 1928 he became a member of the Taunton Bench. Latterly he had lived at Powlett House in High Street.

In many forms of sport, especially in shooting, cricket and swimming, and in all matters of natural history, Dr. Meade-King was keenly interested; and he enjoyed watching birds in his woodland at Adcombe in the parish of Pitminster until some five years ago, when he found that he was unable any longer to walk on the rough and hilly ground there.

Those who worked with him will remember his kindness and sound judgement, and above all his generosity. He gave freely of his time and of his possessions to help any cause in which he was interested, and he gave always without thought of ulterior advantage to himself. To the Archæological and Natural History Society of which he had been a member since 1898 and an Honorary Secretary since 1928, he was particularly generous. His last gift to the Society was a considerable sum to be used for reflooring the Great Hall of Taunton Castle.

In connection with the Society's work, Dr. Meade-King's chief interests, apart from the actual administration of the Castle property and of the museum and library, in which his judgement was of great value, were the heraldry of west country families—his knowledge of heraldry was unusually thorough—and the ornithology of the county. For some time past he had given lectures at the Castle on the preservation of rare birds to the recruits of the Somerset Constabulary. He possessed a unique knowledge of local history, and a portion of his paper, 'Sidelights on the History of Taunton', appears in this volume.

It was after nearly twenty years of ill-health that the end came,



DR. R. LIDDON MEADE-KING
(in 1916)

very suddenly as he had known that it might come. The following quotation, which could be applied with justice to few men, has seemed to express the loss sustained by the Society in the death of Richard Liddon Meade-King better than any other words that could be chosen—‘ chiefly, perhaps, we shall remember him as a man whom many of the principles of behaviour and of feeling we most admire, ruled spontaneously, without there being required any choice or decision in the matter ’.

A. W. V-N.