

## Laura Metford Badcock

LAURA METFORD BADCOCK who died on 21 April 1935 was a connoisseur and a benefactor to the collections of the Society. She and her elder sister, Mary Metford Badcock, who died in 1932, aged 76, were daughters of Robert Gibson Badcock, the well-known banker, by his second wife who was before her marriage a Miss Metford of Flook House, Taunton.

The two sisters had lived at Fons George House, near Wilton Church, for the greater part of their lives, and cherished there a remarkable collection of early Georgian furniture and *objects d'art* inherited from the Metford family. The bureau-cabinet made for their ancestor Thomas Nickleson in the reign of George II was left by them to the Victoria and Albert Museum with contemporary portraits of Thomas Nickleson and his wife, Elizabeth Growdon, a Quakeress from Pennsylvania. He is painted standing by a window of his house at Poole in Dorset, his new bureau at his side. Nickleson was a Quaker merchant who had held formerly a colonel's commission in the army.<sup>1</sup> To the South Kensington Museum was also left a flowerpiece in sea-shells which, according to family tradition, had been carried by Mrs. Nickleson on her knee as she sat in her coach, throughout the long journey from Poole to Taunton, when the family left Dorset. To the same museum were left a George II side-table with an English marble top, a very large silver tea-table and many smaller treasures. To the Somerset Archaeological Society a very valuable bequest of glass and of English china was made; this bequest included a pair of Chelsea figures, a Plymouth figure, a delft wine jug dated 1648, and a glass goblet probably of the Restoration period.

It was to Laura Badcock that the Society owed the greater number of the specimens of lace and needlework, now in the Castle Museum. Some thirty years ago she set herself the task of persuading her friends to collaborate in providing this representative collection.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An illustrated article appeared in *Country Life*, 12 October 1935, lxxviii, no. 2021, xlii, entitled 'Mr. Thomas Nickleson's Bureau-Cabinet'.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, liv, i, 123.

Both Laura and Mary Badcock possessed an unusual gift of intense and sympathetic interest which endeared them to their friends of different generations and varied ages. Laura Badcock was perhaps the last survivor in the neighbourhood of Taunton of those who had known the authoress, Juliana Horatia Ewing, at all intimately.

A. W. VIVIAN-NEAL

## Charles E. Clayton

It is with sincere regret we record the death of Mr. Charles Eustace Clayton, which took place at Glastonbury on 28 February 1936. He was Custodian of Glastonbury Abbey from the year 1926, and superintended the Excavations from the same year. In the former position he had charge of the Abbey grounds and ruins, and those who remember the state of the place before he began its reformation will know what an excellent work he has done there. In the latter capacity, as stated in the 1934 Report, it would have been found difficult to carry out the excavations, without his constant care and supervision.

Mr. Clayton was capable of delineating excellent plans of the structural discoveries made, and his fine series of drawings of the numerous encaustic tiles found from time to time indicated very clearly that he was an authority on this subject, and one regrets that none of these drawings were published during his lifetime.

Mr. Clayton was the third son of the late Colonel V. G. Clayton, R.E., and was born at Rochester on 12 December 1872. He had therefore just completed his sixty-third year. He was educated at St. Mark's School, Windsor, and subsequently became an electrical engineer at Cape Town. When the Boer War broke out he enlisted in the Railway Pioneers, and served through the campaign. Later on he engaged in fruit farming in Cape Colony, and subsequently farmed in British Columbia. He offered himself for enlistment at the beginning of the Great War, but was rejected owing to the state of his heart; this trouble was the cause of his lamented death.

No one could be kinder and more considerate than Mr. Clayton to those who were engaged in connection with Glastonbury Abbey in any capacity, and by those to whom he was responsible down to the men engaged in work there, he was alike esteemed and loved.

## Hurly Pring Palmer, M.A.

HURLY PRING PALMER, well-known in Taunton as the principal of 'Palmer's School', on the Wellington Road, the President for many years of the Taunton Literary and Philosophical Society, and a regular attendant at the meetings of the Archæological Society's Council, was born on 2 December 1856, at Elmfield, on the South Road, where his father, William Palmer, then resided. His family had a long connection with Taunton—on his mother's side. She was the grand-daughter of William Pring, youngest son of John Pring, Esq., of the Manor of Ivedon Penn, in the county of Devon. This William Pring settled in Taunton about 1780, having previously lived for a time in Sherborne, where he met and subsequently married, Jane, the daughter of the Rev. James Hurly, master of the Grammar School and incumbent of St. James' Church, Taunton.

From his early years Hurly Palmer evinced a keen propensity for reading and learning. As most boys are fond of games, so was he of books. He early obtained a scholarship at Taunton Grammar School, then under the Rev. William Tuckwell, a brilliant master, but in advance of his times. Palmer's bent was distinctively literary and classical, but like most of Tuckwell's boys he acquired an interest in natural science which he always retained.

In 1875, at the age of eighteen, he matriculated as a member of St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, but a little later he became a Goodridge Exhibitioner of Wadham College, to which institution he therefore migrated, and where he completed his course, taking a second class in Litt.Hum. and obtaining his B.A. degree in 1879. He took his M.A. in 1885, and then removed his name from the books, but replaced it in 1930, with the idea of proceeding to the degree of doctor of Literature. This however he did not do.

After taking his B.A. he was appointed to a mastership at Bedford School, under Dr. Philpotts. Subsequently he was induced to accept the head-ship of a private school in the north of England, which however did not prove a satisfactory venture. Mr. Palmer therefore returned to Taunton where for many years he successfully carried on the school in Wellington Terrace, which has since come to be known by his name.

Hurly Palmer possessed a great store of information, and a fund

of quiet humour, but was of so shy and retiring a disposition that he was constantly inclined to hide his light under a bushel. He could seldom be persuaded to take any prominent part in public functions or allow his considerable abilities the scope they deserved, but, as already noted, he was president for some years of the Taunton Literary and Philosophical Society, and he was the prime mover in the action taken with regard to the erection of a memorial tablet to the late Rev. Thos. Hugo, antiquarian and historian, in St. James' Church, Taunton. Hurly Palmer was a sound classical scholar, had a good working knowledge of French, and a wide acquaintance with English literature. He was fond of writing, and in his early days produced some light stories, like 'A School-master's Chat', and 'Mr. Trueman's Secret'. Later on many useful articles from his pen appeared in the local press, in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, and other publications. He was exceedingly keen in all matters of local interest, as shown by his connection with the Archaeological Society and the Taunton Field Club.

In 1925 he produced a volume in the Somerset Folk Series, entitled 'Old Somerset'. A few years later a collection of his writings from various sources was published by Blackwell, of Oxford, under the general title of 'The Bad Abbot of Evesham'.

Towards the end of his life Mr. Palmer was persuaded to undertake the compilation of a Life of Joseph Wolff, the intrepid explorer and missionary, who afterwards became Vicar of Ile Brewers in this county. This work published by Messrs. Heath Cranton, Ltd., at the beginning of 1935, forms a somewhat impressive volume giving a full account of Wolff's exceedingly romantic and versatile career. But for the writer, who was in failing health at the time, it imposed a continued effort, and greater strain than he was fairly able to bear. He lived to see the book issued from the press, and to know that it was well received, and likely to be accepted as the standard source of information on the life and work of Joseph Wolff, whose extraordinary wanderings and adventures it records. But it will also remain as a lasting memorial of the admirable literary style and assiduous industry of the author, who all his life was apt to forget a due consideration for himself, in the keenness of his interest for the work he had in hand.

Hurly Pring Palmer died on the 25 April 1935 and was laid to rest in the churchyard at Wilton, where the Rev. James Hurly—his great-great-grandfather—was 'Curate' in 1746.

D. J. PRING

## Roland Wilmot Paul, F.S.A.

THERE are very few members remaining who joined the Society before Roland W. Paul, whose death took place at Clifton on 23 October 1935 at the age of 72 years. Having been elected in 1880, his membership must have begun at the early age of 17 years, when he was preparing a work entitled 'An Account of some of the Incised and Sepulchral Slabs of N.W. Somerset'. This was published in 1882, folio size, with lithographic plates drawn by the author. In the following year he published a paper on Woodspring Priory, with plan, in vol. v of the *Proceedings of the Bath Field Club*, and he gave further information on the same subject in our own *Proceedings*, vol. xxxi (1885).

In 1894 Mr. Paul issued a work on 'Vanishing London', with forty plates of his beautiful architectural line-drawings.

Roland Paul carried out some excavations at Abbey Dore Church, Herefordshire, which enabled him to ascertain the limits of the nave and other portions of the buildings. His paper to the Society of Antiquaries, read on 28 November 1895, was illustrated by a number of his drawings. This enquiry culminated in a paper entitled 'The Church and Monastery of Abbey Dore', published in the *Transactions, Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, xxvii (1904), 117-126; and another, shorter paper on the subject appeared in *Archæologia Cambrensis*, lxxxii (1927), 269-275.<sup>1</sup> Well these papers indicate how painstaking and conservative Mr. Paul was in his 'restoration' of churches.

For *Archæologia* (vol. lvii, 353-8) he wrote a paper entitled 'Some Notes on the Heraldic Glass of Great Malvern Priory Church', with three coloured plates. At this time (1900) he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Later he published another paper in *Archæologia* (vol. lxiii, 231-50) on 'The Plan of the Church and Monastery of St. Augustine, Bristol (now the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity)', with a large coloured plan. For many years Mr. Paul was architect to Bristol

<sup>1</sup> See also *The Builder*, vol. cxli, no. 4625 (1931). *The Builder*, 1 January 1910, contained an article on 'Churches of the Somerset Coast-line', by R. W. Paul, with illustrations.

Cathedral, and for a time he was a member of the Bristol Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches.

Mr. Paul was a skilled draughtsman and water-colour painter, and he never sacrificed accurate detail at the expense of artistic effect. His illustrations of armorial bearings and his coloured measured drawings of ancient glass are of the first order.

Owing to his retiring disposition it is feared that Mr. Paul's attainments were not known as well as they should have been, but the Somerset portion of his collections, including his own beautiful work, has fortunately found a permanent home at Taunton Castle, while other parts of his collections have been bequeathed to the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Roland Paul was born at Weston-super-Mare where his father, Henry Thomas, was at the time manager of the Weston Branch of Stuckey's Bank. Henry Thomas was the youngest son of Thomas Paul and was born at Langport in 1827. The latter, born at Curry Rivel in 1787, was one of the original partners in Stuckey's Bank (Saunders, *Stuckey's Bank*, 21). His relation, Joseph, came from Hatch Beauchamp and his name, as a churchwarden, is inscribed on one of the church bells, dated 1804 (see Ellacombe, *Church Bells of Somerset*, 53). Several tombs of members of the family are to be seen in Hatch churchyard.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY

## Archdale Palmer Wickham, D.A., F.R.E.S.

(Plate XXIII)

ON 13 October, within a month of his eightieth birthday, Prebendary Archdale Palmer Wickham died peacefully in his sleep at East Brent Vicarage, two days after returning from the Church Congress at Bournemouth.

He was born on 9 November 1855 at Holmwood, Surrey, where his father, the Rev. Edmund Dawe Wickham, was Vicar, educated at Temple Grove, Marlborough and New College, Oxford, and ordained in 1880. His mother was the only child of Archdale Palmer of Cheam Park, Surrey. After holding several curacies in the diocese of Norwich, he became Vicar of Martock in 1889, thus returning to his own county, for his father was born in Somerset and his ancestors had lived at Frome and Horsington. The Wickham family portraits were bequeathed to him by his cousin, the Rev. James Douglas Clephane Wickham, who died in 1931. In 1911 Archdale Wickham became Vicar of East Brent, the parish rendered famous by the long incumbency of Archdeacon Denison, and in particular by the Harvest Home which he instituted, and which Mr. Wickham and the people of East Brent have continued in its full vigour.

He was a notable figure in Somerset, devoted to the work of the Church, taking his full share in diocesan activities, especially the Police Court Mission, the C.E.T.S. and the Church Schools, and he was Rural Dean of Burnham from 1912 until within a few weeks of his death. His kindly and generous nature made him universally beloved by all with whom he came into contact.

He married in 1883 Miss Emily Baldwin, who died in 1890, and secondly in 1896 Miss Amy Strong, who survives him, as do also two sons, two daughters and four grandchildren.

His particular hobbies were cricket and entomology, and in the former his exploits as wicket-keeper in his University days and afterwards for Somerset and in other first-class cricket are for ever enshrined in the history of the game. He kept wicket for Oxford in 1878, played for the South of England *v.* the Australians in 1893



THE REV. PREBENDARY A. P. WICKHAM

*From a Photograph by S. Wyatt, Burnham-on-Sea*

and for Gentlemen *v.* Players in 1894, 1897 and 1903, his last appearance in County cricket being in 1907. His characteristic stance, legs far apart, hands resting on his knees, will be within the memory of many. One of his favourite stories was of the easy time he had during "W.G.'s" great innings of 288 for Gloucestershire *v.* Somerset in 1895, the doctor only allowing four balls to pass him in his innings.

Such spare time as he had was devoted to the Lepidoptera, of which he was an ardently indefatigable collector, and he was never more happy than when breaking fresh ground with a few like-minded enthusiasts. He was a charming companion, and his reminiscences of early collecting days were always a delight to listen to. A note in one of his diaries, to which he was fond of referring, shows that in 1879 he took a few specimens of *Aporia crataegi* in the New Forest, and so claimed to be the last collector to take the species in that locality. In his later years he took up the Micro-lepidoptera with intense interest, and was with the writer of this memoir when together they re-discovered *Nephopteryx similella* in the New Forest on a soaking wet night in 1928. He also possessed a very fine collection of Exotic Lepidoptera, sent him by his sons and friends from all over the world, some of which, being recognized for the first time, bear his name. It is good to know that some 700 specimens from this collection have found a permanent home in South Kensington Museum.

He retained his enthusiasm to the end, and though in the last two or three years his physical powers began to show signs of failure, yet his heart remained young and he was always ready for any suggested expedition at any time and anywhere.

He will be greatly missed and always remembered with the deepest affection.

A. R. HAYWARD