

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

A General Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 22nd, in the large room of the White Hart Hotel. Ven. Archdeacon Bickersteth in the chair.

The following new Members were elected; Mrs. Richardson Curren, Eshton Hall, Gargrave; H. Gough, Esq., 4, Serle-street, Lincoln's Inn; Rev. H. C. Hart, Eastbourne; W. H. Reynolds, Esq., Thame; Rev. W. Uthwatt, Maidsmorton; Rev. R. Loxam, Great Lever, Bolton; Rev. N. T. Garry, Aylesbury; Rev. E. Bonus, Buckland; J. O. Cuffe, Esq., Little Misenden; Mr. R. Greaves, Tingewick; Rev. A. W. Howell, Aylesbury.

The Rev. C. Lowndes reported that the following presentations had been made to the Society:—Peter Martyr's Treatise (black letter), Excise on Salt, 1699; Excise on Beer, 1722; Secret History of Queen Elizabeth, 1702; Two Almanacks, 1747, 1702, by the Rev. J. C. Wharton; Pamphlet on early British Coins, by J. Evans, Esq.; Four Prints by J. Lee, Esq.; Rubbing of Brass from Constantine Church, Cornwall, by the Rev. J. Boodle; Analysis of Gothic Architecture, by the Rev. G. R. Ferris; Seven large Photographs, by J. James, Esq.; Rubbing of a Brass of Abbot Eastney, in Westminster Abbey, by Mr. J. C. May.

The thanks of the Society were voted to the donors.

The Rev. N. T. Garry read a paper on "Two original Licenses, one granted by George Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury, to Richard Cartwright, to eat flesh; the other by Queen Elizabeth, to William Izard, to convey Tithes of Wheatley, &c., to Anthony Mullins, with translations and notes, by G. H. Sawtell, Esq."

The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Sawtell, who was also elected an Honorary Member.

The Rev. C. Lowndes read a paper, by G. R. Corner, Esq., illustrative of "Four Illuminations of the Courts of Westminster, in the possession of W. Selby Lowndes, Esq., of Whaddon Hall," These remarkable Illuminations, which were exhibited, are fixed to the date of 1464 from the circumstance that the Chief Justice is represented as a layman, and the only layman who held that office, at the period indicated was Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury.

A discussion took place on the subject of the party-coloured dresses in the Illuminations. A letter from Vice-Admiral Smyth mentioned that at an execution which he witnessed in Sicily, in 1815, the executioners wore such dresses; and G. Pigott, Esq., mentioned that he had himself witnessed the same thing. Dr. Lee said that he considered that originally these dresses were tokens of honour, and produced two splendid dresses which he had brought, one from Damascus, and the other from Beyrout, worn by the Sheiks.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Corner, and also to Mr. Selby Lowndes, for the loan of the Illuminations.

Archdeacon Bickersteth gave "A brief historical sketch of the Town of Aylesbury." The Rev. A. Isham read a paper on "The Stone Coffins recently found in Weston Turville Church."

The Rev. G. R. Ferris read a paper on "Colour, how far admissible in Architecture?"

The Rev. H. Roundell gave a brief account of some Roman remains recently found at Tingewick, which were exhibited.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Archdeacon.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

of the Bucks Archæological and Architectural Association, was held on Thursday, Oct. 10, at Amersham, it being the wish of the Committee to extend the interest felt in their operations by holding their Meetings at the principal towns in the county in rotation. The weather being fine—a matter of no small importance to amateur antiquaries—the proceedings appeared to excite considerable interest among the ladies of the neighbourhood, and the names of the Local Committee afforded a sufficient guarantee that every effort would be made to afford the Society a hearty reception.

The proceedings commenced with an excursion to the Old Manor House, Chenies, now the residence of F. Rickards, Esq. The party, consisting of about twelve, were hospitably welcomed by the owner, and proceeded to inspect the Mansion. Of the quadrangle, of which it originally consisted, only one side now remains; the west side is in ruins, and of the north the foundations only can now be discerned. The excursionists were hospitably entertained at lunch at the residence of the Rev. Lord Wriothealey Russell. His Lordship was from home, but his son supplied his place with the greatest courtesy. The party paid a short visit to Chenies Church, and then returned to Amersham, where the more formal business of the day commenced.

A museum had been formed, and was exhibited in the Town Hall, comprising a great number of interesting objects. Among the articles exhibited, was a valuable collection of ancient deeds, selected by the Rev. W. Drake, from the family archives, at Shardeloes. These included the great seal of Henry VI., (affixed to a pardon of the outlawry of Sir James Stradling), and the signets of Queen Elizabeth, of Charles I., and of William and Mary, and a very perfect great seal of Henry VIII., affixed to a grant of land, the heading of which is remarkably well executed in pen and ink. On a deed of Charles II., is an excellent mezzotint portrait of Charles I., which must have been executed within a year or two of the invention of the art by Prince Rupert. There was also a bull of Pope Alexander III., referring to some lands granted to the Church in Lincolnshire, and a grant of arms to William Smythe, A.D. 1108. There was also a fine collection of gold and other coins, a large silver box with a Dutch inscription, a large drawing of the old house at Shardeloes, and a curious lock from Little Shardeloes exhibited by Mrs. John Drake. Also a splendid collection of stuffed birds, all shot within the county, exhibited by the Rev. Bryant Burgess; three fine helmets, exhibited by Lord Wriothesly Russell, one, a baron's, supposed to have

belonged to the first Earl of Bedford, the other two being knights' helmets; several pieces of ancient armour; an old Chinese compass; a photographic copy of a portion of Domesday Book, relating to the County of Cornwall, executed by the new process invented by Sir H. James. some curious old missals exhibited by the Rev. W. E. Partridge; four inventory rolls, shewn by Dr. Lee, relating to property of members of the Lee and Hampden families; Roman remains from Tingewick, Kingsey, Terrick, and from Plaxtol, Kent; a very perfect Roman jar, found on Wycombe Heath; Roman remains from Latimer and Weston Turville; a model, in chalk, of the font in Clifton Reynes Church; oak carving of the Nativity; a curious M.S. containing the judges' original notes on the celebrated Ship-money Trial; specimens of a new and beautiful method of lithographing Brass Rubbings, by Mr. Williams, &c. &c.

The meeting was held in the Town Hall at three o'clock, and was well attended.

The Bishop of Oxford, who was loudly cheered on taking the chair said, I have been requested to open the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Archæological Society. First, there is some business to be transacted, certain Officers, and, we hope, some Members, to be elected, and certain Rules which even among us, lovers of antiquity, require to be altered. I regret that I had not the advantage of joining the excursion of this morning, because this naturally tends to raise the mind of every one who joins it to the proper archæological level. That has not been my good fortune to day, so that you will expect but few words from me in opening this Meeting. But the general subject of archæology, the connexion of the past with the present, must have a deep interest to every thinking man. Just in proportion as society is civilized, in proportion as man is educated, he learns to live not only in the present, with which his senses are conversant, but with the past and the future, which he deals with in memory or in anticipation. There is no greater mark of the civilization of a man, or of a Society than this. The animal lives solely for the present. Probably he has no recollection of the past, and anything which may seem to be such is only a dim and uncertain approximation to memory. I mean to say that no animal ever thinks. "I think thus under such and such circumstances, and all cows, or hares, or dogs, under similar circumstances, will think the same, and therefore my progenitorial horse or dog thought thus and thus." We feel sure they are bounded by the present. And as man approximates to the brute he loses the faculties of memory and anticipation; as he rises above the brute level, he grows in these faculties. If we follow back any race to its earliest barbarism, we find absolutely no record of what went before—man had gone down to the brute level. This barbarism indeed can hardly support itself long, for every race of thorough barbarians has been a dwindling race, shewing that the moral, the spiritual, the intellectual powers are the salt of man, that without these comes corruption and decay. But in proportion as a people has emerged out of barbarism, and something like civilization is developed, here comes a looking back for something like a history until you come

at last, as it were to the black edge of a forest, where all is dark and you can see nothing beyond. Now there are people who look through their wondering glasses and tell you there is nothing in this old inscription or that rusty record, and say what is the worth of all this? and who turn up their noses in simpering scorn. Now I ask, what does this mean? It means "I am simply a savage, living solely in the present, perfectly unable to understand the past. Give me a little snuff—a little sugarcandy, that will tickle the palate—I can understand *that*." I think we, on our part, may comfort ourselves with a little Pecksniffian contempt, and reflect that it is we who stand on the pedestal, and may claim some superiority above those who flatter themselves on their superiority over us. Now in this lies the wisdom and the greatness of antiquarian research. Of course these researches may be pursued in a *dilettante* and frivolous spirit. A man may collect antiquarian objects merely because they are rare or odd, just as a man may follow natural history, collecting specimens only because they are queer and strange. It would be just as well to present such a man with a newly made Birmingham beast, or a new Birmingham coin, properly rusted over. But a true antiquary, such as every one of you my dear friends, is, cares for such things for this reason, that they are an indication of what the life of a past time was; he is enabled to see what the struggles of humanity were in that old time, and compare them with the struggles of the present time. He learns that procession and not stagnation is God's law for the race; he learns how we lose truths, unless we are very vigilant, which our fathers had, and how, instead of looking back with contempt on those before us, we should look to them with reverence as the developers of mighty truths, as our predecessors in the march of civilization, who have handed down to us that which we shall never keep unless we honour alike those who gave it to us and the gift they have transmitted to us, and which we would fain keep, looking forward to those who are to succeed us. We are to look upon them as the holders of a torch which burnt brightly for the little season that they had it, which they have handed to us, to hold, not as if we ourselves had kindled it, but remembering that it has come to us to be kept alive, and by us transmitted to our successors. That, I am sure, is the spirit in which every one of us desires to enter on our work, and I will, therefore, without any further remarks, invite you to proceed with the business of the day.—[*Extracted from the "Bucks Advertiser and Aylesbury News," October 12th, 1861.*]

The Rev. C. Lowndes read the Treasurer's Account, which shewed a balance of £5 11s. against the Society.

Mr. Lowndes also gave notice of a proposal to raise the subscription from 5s. to 6s. annually, or £1 5s. for five years.

The whole of the officers and committee were re-elected, and the following gentlemen, having been duly proposed and seconded in committee, were elected members of the Society:—Rev. H. H. Crewe, Drayton Beauchamp; Mr. J. Clarke, Haddenham; J. D. Francis, Esq.,

Chesham; Mr. G. De Fraine, jun., Aylesbury; Rev. W. Drake, Great Grimsby, Yorkshire; W. Beauchamp, Esq., Monks Risborough; F. Charsley, Esq., Great Missenden; W. Penn, Esq., Stone; George Simon Harcourt, Esq., 71, St. George's Square, Pimlico, London, S. W.; W. Lowndes, jun., Esq., Chesham; J. Marshall, Esq., Amersham; Rev. F. Pember, Coleshill, Amersham; T. Parker, Esq., White House, Chenies; T. Gurney, Esq., Newbury, Berks; Mr. J. Verney, Aylesbury; Mr. W. H. Baker, Aylesbury; Mr. T. Horwood, Aylesbury; J. Burnham Safford, Esq., Long Croft, Tring; Honourable William G. Cavendish, Latimer; Rev. Edward Ryley, Sarratt, Herts; G. Isaacson, Esq., Amersham; Mr. Goodman, Chalfont St. Giles; Rev. E. J. Luce, Amersham; Rev. A. C. Richings, Hawridge.

The Rev. W. Drake then pointed out some of the objects exhibited, especially those connected with Shardeloes.

The Rev. B. Burges then read a paper by W. H. H. Kelke, Esq., on Amersham; which will be published in the Records of the Society.

The Rev. W. H. Kelke then read a paper on "The Sculptured Monuments of the County;" which will also be printed in the forthcoming number of the Records.

The Rev. C. Lowndes read a letter from Vice-Admiral Smyth, on a double-faced brass in Stone Church, for which the thanks, of the Society were tendered to the Admiral.

There was another paper to be read, but on account of the lateness of the hour it was postponed.

The Hon. W. G. Cavendish, M. P., proposed and W. Lowndes, Esq., seconded a vote of thanks to the Bishop, which having been duly acknowledged, the meeting broke up.

A GENERAL MEETING.

Was held the following day, Oct. 11th, at Seven o'clock in the evening under the Presidency of the Rev. T. Evetts, Rural Dean. The notice given at the Annual Meeting relating to the increase of the annual Subscription, was considered and carried unanimously.

The Rev. C. Lowndes read a paper on Chesham.

Mr. Goodman read a paper on Chalfont St. Giles.

A letter from the Rev. H. Roundell giving an account of the Roman Antiquities discovered at Tingewick, was read by the Rev. G. Kingdon.

The Rev. C. Lowndes read "some notes, by G. H. Sawtell, Esq., on four Inventory Rolls, exhibited by J. Lee, Esq.," the reading of which was postponed the day previous on account of the lateness of the hour.

A vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, which having been duly acknowledged, the meeting broke up.

