

THE JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF THE BUCKS ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The Jubilee of the Society was celebrated on the 5th and 6th of July last. The reason for selecting this year for marking an important event in the history of the Society has been explained in the preface to this volume. The Loan Exhibition held in the Town Hall of Aylesbury was the feature of the celebration. The carefully-prepared handbook to it gives the names of the Committee, the Honorary Secretaries, and the Sectional Secretaries, to whose exertions the Society is indebted for so successfully carrying out the details of the Exhibition, which will long be remembered as furnishing the means for promoting a striking unity of intellectual aims among many of those who assembled at the County Town from all parts of Buckinghamshire. And here we may briefly call to mind the nature of the Exhibition and the objects which it was intended to promote by referring to the classification of the exhibits. They were classified as follows:—(1) Historical; (2) Old Silver and Metal Work (including Church Plate); (3) Antiquities; (4) Industrial and Applied Art; (5) Geological; (6) Fauna and Flora; (7) Pictorial. In the Historical Section, on glancing over the Handbook it will be seen that there were exhibited relics of John Hampden from Hampden House; of Oliver Cromwell from Chequers Court and Dinton Hall; memorials of Louis XVIII.'s residence in England, from Hartwell House; colours borne through Paris in 1815 by and valued presentations made to the Regiment which some of us still remember as "The Royal Bucks (King's Own) Militia;" the beautiful silver-gilt mace, temp. William and Mary, belonging to the Mayor and Corporation of Wycombe; these are only selections from among the objects exhibited, and which will explain how the Historical Section was treated in its organization. In the Old

Silver and Metal Work Section were some excellent specimens of plate, both of ecclesiastical and domestic use. The collection of Church Plate attracted special attention. The Antiquities Section was, as it should have been, well represented. Perhaps that which is most striking to remark upon in this section is the evidence afforded by the objects exhibited from districts of the County wide apart that the Roman occupation extended over the length and breadth of Buckinghamshire. In the Industrial and Applied Art Section special efforts were made—as might be expected—to display the industry of lace-making, an industry which it is said had its origin in the County early in the 16th century, and the revival of which at the present is much encouraged. It seems, however, that pillow lace was invented in Saxony, but not till about the middle of the century referred to. Specimens of printing, paper-making, and chair-making, well-known industries in the County, were also displayed. The Handbook contains a paper by Mr. A. Morley Davies, F.G.S., on *Bucks Geology*, at once appropriate and useful. As the writer says, the County “includes within its limits a large number of formations ranging from the Lias to the Eocene,” and he proceeds to call attention to the fossils exhibited, chiefly from the Oxford, the Amphill, the Kimeridge, and the Hartwell Clays, from the Lower Greensand, Gault, and the Upper Greensand, and from the chalk which forms the escarpment of the Chiltern Hills and the plateau to the south-west of them. With reference to fossils in this formation, Mr. Davies remarks that an accurate division of the formation into a series of zones, “characterised by special assemblages of fossils,” as accomplished in other parts of England, has yet to be carried out in Bucks. In the Fauna Section Mr. A. H. Cocks and Dr. J. C. Baker give very interesting information as to the mammals and birds that may be found in the County at the present time, as an introduction to the collection exhibited, and Mr. G. Claridge Druce introduces us to the Flora Section in a brief but able notice, and announces the welcome assurance that a complete general Flora of the County is in preparation by him. The Pictorial Section represented

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an extensive collection, including paintings, engravings, and photographs, evidently brought together from far and near with great discrimination and care. It would be very difficult from the numerous exhibits to make a selection of any for special observation, but the Society is to be congratulated, from an historical point of view, for having been the means of bringing to light through this section the portraits of prominent men in the County who have passed away, and pictures of old buildings and old-world scenes in town or country so well worth the preserving. Perhaps, however, the most striking feature of this section was the unique collection of photographs, which in the future will be invaluable, either archæologically or architecturally. The Exhibition was opened by the Earl of Rosebery, the President of the Society, whose speech on the occasion, published in the following pages, on "The Political Aspect of Buckinghamshire," is an appropriate as well as gratifying memento of the Jubilee Celebration.—ED.