

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CAMDEN SOCIETY,

READ AT THE GENERAL MEETING

ON THE 1st MAY 1869.

THE obituary of the Camden Society for the past year contains several names which the Council cannot enumerate without an expression of deep regret. In the present state of the Society no loss can be greater than that of members of literary ability able and willing to render to the Society the benefit of their labours on its Council, and their services as Editors of its publications. Among persons of this class whose departure we have now to deplore there are four whom it is our duty on the present occasion especially to commemorate, although the Council feel it the less necessary to enter into any considerable detail respecting them, as they are all men of mark and eminence in literature, and their merits are therefore sure to be borne in mind in many quarters. In some places they will be dwelt upon at far greater length than can be devoted to such a purpose in a brief Report such as the Council of this Society is accustomed to present to the General Meeting.

The gentlemen to whom we have alluded are, the Rev. LAMBERT B. LARKING, ARTHUR ASHPITEL, Esq., both members of the Council, the Rev. JOHN WEBB, who was on the Council last year, and SIR HENRY ELLIS, who had frequently served the Society in that capacity.

Of all these gentlemen valuable notices have already appeared.* Of

* Especially in that excellent magazine, *The Register*, which supplies a literary and public want severely felt before the commencement of its publication. If any circumstance should unhappily prevent its attaining a permanent position in our literature (*quod absit!*) the loss both to our literary and general history would be extremely great.

Mr. Larking the memoir which is the most complete is that just published in the seventh volume of the *Archæologia Cantiana*,—the Proceedings of the Society instituted by himself. The writer commemorates Mr. Larking's "sterling worth, his unimpeachable integrity, his nice sense of honour, his unfailling courtesy, his active benevolence, and unobtrusive kindness," and justly remarks that it is scarcely possible that they who knew him will ever find in any other person "the same genial greeting, the same bright smile, and the same hearty and affectionate manner" which so pre-eminently distinguished our admirable friend. "None have surpassed him," the same writer continues, "in those winning and amiable qualities which attract at first sight, and often lead on to indissoluble friendships, and none knew better than he how to cement friendship once gained by the exercise of every excellence." Mr. Larking's works, including of course those edited for this Society, are enumerated in the several biographical notices to which we have alluded.

Mr. Ashpitel was less known among us than Mr. Larking. His frequent illnesses prevented his punctual attendance at the meetings of the Council, but his acquaintance with antiquarian literature, and indeed with literature in general, was very extensive, and his nature most friendly and generous. Very favourable expectations were entertained of a work which he had in hand for the Camden Society, a *Consuetudinarium* of Westminster Abbey. He had bestowed great pains upon the elucidation of this curious document. An essay upon its contents which he some time since communicated to the Council set forth all the leading peculiarities of town monastic life, and proved both the value of the original document and Mr. Ashpitel's competency to deal with it as editor.

The Rev. John Webb held an acknowledged station in the highest rank of antiquarian scholars. His works published in the *Archæologia*, and the *Household Roll of Bishop Swinfield*, published by this Society, are among the best books of their class in our literature. Mr. Webb has left nearly ready for the press a work of a different but very attractive character, intended to be sent forth by this Society, entitled *A Military*

Memoir of Colonel Birch, a distinguished officer during our Great Civil War. This work will be completed and seen through the press, with an affectionate anxiety for Mr. Webb's literary reputation, by his son, the Rev. Thomas William Webb.

Of Sir Henry Ellis, and his services to the world of letters, we cannot in any degree adequately treat. His eminent position for many years in the British Museum, his Secretaryship to the Society of Antiquaries, and his many publications, all useful and many of them highly important and meritorious, and comprising a great variety of subjects, topographical, antiquarian, and historical, have given him a name which inquirers into English history and its literature during the present century can never overlook. His contributions to this Society—Norden's Essex, the Letters of Literary Men, the Translation of Polydore Vergil, Camden's Visitation of Huntingdonshire, Smith's Obituary, and the Pilgrimage of Sir Richard Guildford, exemplify and attest the variety of the subjects to which Sir Henry gave his attention.

The Obituary of the year also contains the names of the following other Members of this Society, amongst them persons of the very highest importance, but, except in the instance of Mr. Hopper, not distinguished as having taken any special interest in the affairs of the Society:—

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD BROUGHAM.
 THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD CRANWORTH.
 THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD FARNHAM.
 LEONARD SHELFORD BIDWELL, ESQ. F.S.A.
 THE REV. JOHN LOUIS PETIT, M.A., F.S.A.
 ROBERT PORRETT, ESQ., F.R.S. and F.S.A.
 HENRY ROBINSON, ESQ.
 MR. CLARENCE HOPPER.
 MISS BOWER.

The following Works have during the past year been added to the list of suggested publications:—

I. Letters and Papers of John Shillingford, Mayor of Exeter A.D. 1447-1450. To be edited by STEWART A. MOORE, Esq.

II. Henry Elsynge's Notes of Proceedings in the House of Lords during several Parliaments in the reign of James I. from the original MSS. in the possession of Colonel Carew, of Crowcombe Court, Somerset. To be edited by SAMUEL R. GARDINER, Esq.

III. The Account of the Executors of Richard de Gravesend, Bishop of London, A.D. 1281. To be edited by the Venerable Archdeacon HALE.

IV. The Cheque Book of the Chapel Royal from the Reign of Elizabeth to the Accession of the House of Hanover. To be edited by Dr. RIMBAULT.

V. Accounts of the expenditure in Building Bodmin Church. To be edited by the Rev. J. J. WILKINSON.

The two latter will form portions of the next Volume of the Camden Miscellany.

The Books issued during the past Year have been—

I. History from Marble, being Ancient and Modern Funerall Monuments, &c. in England and Wales, by Thomas Dingley, Gentleman. Photo-Lithographed in fac-simile by Vincent Brooks, from the original MS. belonging to Sir Thomas E. Winnington, Bart. With an Introduction and Descriptive Contents by JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, Esq., F.S.A. Volume the Second.

II. The Second Volume of Documents connected with James the First's Relations with Germany. Edited by SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER, Esq.

III. Diary of John Manningham of the Middle Temple, and of Bradbourn, Kent, Barrister-at-Law, 1602-3. Edited by JOHN BRUCE, Esq., and presented to the Camden Society by WILLIAM TITE, Esq. M.P., F.R.S., V.P.S.A. President of the Camden Society.

The delivery of the second volume of Dingley was considerably interfered with by the occurrence of a disastrous fire on the premises of Messrs. Nichols, just after the delivery had commenced. This accident destroyed the whole undelivered portion of the volume. It also did considerable damage to other portions of our stock. The loss was covered by our insurance and that of Messrs. Nichols. The second volume of Dingley has been reproduced in photo-lithography, and the Society has received a compensation from the insurance office for the loss of its stock.

The third book in this list, Manningham's Diary, is well known to be a gift made to the Society by our excellent President, Mr. Tite. The circumstances are stated in a letter from Mr. Tite, prefixed to the book

itself. When appointed President of this Society, he felt anxious to express his sense of that honour by some appropriate acknowledgment. He at first thought of printing a MS. from his own library; but, not finding one that seemed exactly suitable, he took counsel of our Director, which led to the selection of the work ultimately published. It is unnecessary for the Council to make any comment upon this valuable and most appropriate gift. Other Presidents have left behind them in this Society a pleasant remembrance of their many excellent personal qualities, but Mr. Tite, over and above a similar remembrance, will by this gift have bound not only ourselves, but all who come after us in this Society, and even all who feel the value of the materials for English history which Manningham's Diary contains, to remember and to thank our President for the effective way in which he has promoted the purposes for which this Society was instituted.

Shortly before Christmas last, the Council were informed that it was in contemplation to make new arrangements at the Court of Probate, whereby the free access given to literary inquirers to make searches and copies of Wills proved before 1700 would be seriously interfered with, one general daily fee being about to be imposed upon all searchers. Considering that such an alteration would be a serious bar to literary inquiry, and that it was through the long and persevering exertions of this Society that the present freedom was obtained, the Council invited the Society of Antiquaries to unite with our Society in an appeal to the Lords of the Treasury upon the subject of the contemplated change. The following joint Memorial was in consequence presented:—

To the Right Honorable the LORDS COMMISSIONERS of HER MAJESTY'S
TREASURY.

The humble Memorial of THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF
LONDON and THE CAMDEN SOCIETY for the Publication of
Historical Remains,

Sheweth,

That by an arrangement effected by the late Sir Creswell Creswell, Chief Judge of the Court of Probate, with the sanction of your Lordships, literary inquirers have for some time past been permitted to make searches and copies for literary purposes

in respect of all Wills proved at Doctors' Commons anterior to the year 1700 without payment of fees, being the same liberty which such persons possess in reference to all the other Public Records, State Papers, and National Muniments.

The beneficial effects of free access to the sources of our history are traceable in the present state of our literature, in which, as compared with what used to be the case, there is a more careful inquiry into facts, a far wider search after historical authorities, greater accuracy in their quotation, and more candour in the judgments formed upon their contents.

Your Memorialists have been informed that a scheme is now about to be carried out at Doctors' Commons whereby the arrangement made by Sir Creswell Creswell will be departed from, and one general fee, to be paid daily, will be imposed upon all searchers, literary and others.

The imposition of such a fee, however small the amount, would be fatal to the prosecution of literary inquiries, and would be a check and bar to the growing improvement in our historical literature, a great branch of our national education.

Your Memorialists pray your Lordships not to give your sanction to any arrangement for the imposition upon literary searchers at Doctors' Commons of a daily fee, nor to any modification of such an arrangement which would place literary inquirers under new restrictions; and if your Lordships should entertain any doubt upon the subject, or desire further information, your Memorialists pray to be permitted to state more at length the reasons against the adoption of any such course.

And your Memorialists, &c.

STANHOPE,
President of the Society of Antiquaries.

WILLIAM TITE,
President of the Camden Society.

The receipt of this memorial was duly acknowledged, with a promise of inquiry, and the following answer has been lately received:—

Treasury Chambers, 14th April, 1869.

MY LORD AND SIR,

I am desired by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that they are informed that the Judge of the Court of Probate has not perfected any such scheme as that referred to in your recent memorial for imposing a general fee on all searchers at Doctors' Commons, nor is any definite scheme at present under his consideration, but whenever any plan is proposed it will be fully considered by this Board.

I am, my Lord and Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) GEO. A. HAMILTON.

The President of the Society of Antiquaries and
the President of the Camden Society.

The subject is one of great importance to all historical inquirers. The Council cannot believe that any endeavour will be made to recur even in degree to the illiberality which so long distinguished Doctors' Commons, but if any movement be made in that direction the Council will do everything in their power to oppose it. The kindly feeling of the present Chief Judge towards literary inquirers may be relied upon. He has lately given them the same right of access to country registers which was granted in the principal registry by Sir Creswell Creswell. But it is perfectly possible that some of the old leaven of disregard to literature which distinguished Doctors' Commons may yet remain among the officials by whom the Judge is surrounded.

The General Index to the First Hundred Volumes published by this Society, which was ordered to be undertaken at the last General Meeting, is making rapid progress. The number of volumes now completed is 15, including some of those, such as Dingley and Machyn, which furnish the most material for the Index-maker, and 12 other volumes are in various stages of progress, some of them nearly complete. The work is one of enormous labour; but Mr. Henry Gough, who is compiling it, devotes himself very energetically to his task, and the Council trust that it will proceed as quickly as possible to completion. They are confident that it will form a volume of continual use and reference far beyond the immediate range of this Society, and be a clear evidence to all future time of the amount of good and useful historical work which this Society has accomplished.

The pecuniary condition of the Society will be satisfactorily explained by the Report of the Auditors, to which the Council beg leave to refer. The cost of Dingley's History from Marble has of course considerably affected the balance with which we began the year, and which had been reserved with a view to that expenditure. But the value and curiosity of the publication have been so amply recognised that this application of our funds may well be regarded, not merely with satisfaction, but as adding a new and most important attraction to the long series of our publications.

Without debt, and with a reserved fund sufficient to discharge at any moment our existing liabilities, the situation of the Society is as secure as can be desired; but our obituary of the last and some previous years has told upon our list of Members and our list of Editors, crippling and retarding our operations and disabling us from doing many things which with a larger income and more literary help it would be in our power to accomplish. Among unpublished materials for our history there is known to be a mass of valuable matter yet undealt with. Every person who has made himself acquainted, even ever so slightly, with the manuscripts which exist in repositories either public or private is well aware of very many papers which it would be a great gain to our literature to print. And we cannot doubt that there exist stores of manuscripts in many private families, the importance of which—what historical questions they would settle—what historical characters they would vindicate—has never yet been accurately ascertained.

Under these circumstances the Council has heard with great satisfaction that Her Majesty has issued a Commission, directed to Lord Romilly and other competent gentlemen (among them, *facile princeps* in inquiries of such a character, Mr. Duffus Hardy), for the inspection of historical manuscripts in private hands. We congratulate the Members of this Society on a step which will probably give an impetus to the cause in which they have now for some years been working. The issuing of this Commission will cause greater attention to be henceforth paid to manuscripts in private hands, and in the possession of municipalities and other public bodies; and every discovery of historical truth which the Commissioners may make will be a subject of rejoicing in this Society.

The fourth Publication of this Society for the present year aptly illustrates the advantage to be derived from such a Commission. It will be a volume, now in active preparation, entitled "Notes taken by Sir John Borough, Garter King of Arms, of the Treaty carried on at Ripon between King Charles I. and the Covenanters of Scotland, A.D. 1640." The circumstances under which these Notes were brought to light are of a kind which deserve to be commemorated.

Crowcombe Court, in Somersetshire, situated under the range of the Quantock Hills, about half-way between Taunton and Watchet, is the seat of a branch of the ancient and eminent family of the Carews. It has long been known as containing a collection of paintings of very high value. Many works of art in various schools, and especially portraits by Holbein, Zuccherò, Vandyck, and Cornelius Jansen, derived from this collection, attracted attention at our great Exhibitions, both in London and elsewhere, and have spread far and wide a knowledge of some of the chief pictures in this collection. But it had not been known to historical students, and was scarcely remembered by the proprietors themselves, that there existed in the same house a considerable number of old manuscripts. About twelve months ago the family at Crowcombe Court became desirous that their manuscripts should be inspected, and, upon their invitation, our Director visited Somersetshire for that purpose. The manuscripts were carefully preserved in a recess converted into a closet in a room occupied as a museum. No damp and but little dust had reached them, but they had not been inspected by any competent person within the memory of any living witness. They were found to consist of about 200 volumes, of a very varied character, but, with the exception of a copy of the French Romance of the Rose, were principally historical. We will name a few of them. Among those which relate to Ireland, there is what is apparently the author's own draft of a continuation of the Chronicle of Ireland published in Holinshed; original Minutes of the Proceedings of the Irish Parliament 1613-15, with petitions and other papers inserted; and an original Entry Book of Secretary Walsingham's Letters to Ireland 1578 and 1579. There are, besides,—an Entry Book of Letters of Cardinal Wolsey relating to foreign negotiations; a brief Diary of Secretary Walsingham, from 1571 to 1583, principally relating to letters received and sent; various volumes of Entry Books of Petitions addressed to Charles I., in continuation of similar Books preserved among the State Papers; six volumes of what is termed "the scribble" of the House of Lords, that is, the rough notes of the pro-

ceedings of the House in the times of James I. and Charles I., taken during the sitting of the House, by Henry Elsynge, the Clerk at the Table; these are much fuller than the Journals, and contain some original reports and other papers inserted; and, finally (to bring this selection to an end), the volume before-mentioned of Sir John Borough's notes, which is the second volume of a series of three relating to different parts of the same subject, the first and the third being in the British Museum, among the Harleian MSS. and the earlier of those two published in the second volume of Lord Hardwicke's Collection of State Papers.

Colonel and Mrs. Carew took the strongest interest in the discovery of the papers thus brought to light, and with the greatest liberality authorised our Director to state the circumstances to the Master of the Rolls, and to offer the use of certain of their Manuscripts to his Lordship for the editors of some of his calendars, and to propose certain others to this Society for publication. Lord Romilly accepted the offer with thanks, and the Calendar of the Carew Papers, that of Henry VIII. and that of Charles I., will thus obtain new and important matter of which no trace has been found elsewhere. The Council of this Society has in like manner accepted the volumes offered to us, and Sir John Borough's Notes will be, as we have already remarked, only the first of several publications which we shall owe to the opening of the closet at Crowcombe Court, and to the kind liberality of the owner. So long as such closets remain to be opened, and English gentlemen continue to be of the opinion of Colonel Carew, that the History of our Country ought not to be locked up among any man's private papers, neither the Royal Commission nor the Camden Society will find themselves without occupation.

Dated the 19th April 1869.

Signed, by order of the Council,

JOHN BRUCE, Director.

WILLIAM J. THOMS, Hon. Sec.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS.

WE, the Auditors appointed to audit the Accounts of the Camden Society, report to the Society, that the Treasurer has exhibited to us an Account of the Receipts and Expenditure from the 1st of April 1868, to the 31st of March 1869, and that we have examined the said accounts, with the vouchers relating thereto, and find the same to be correct and satisfactory.

And we further report that the following is an Abstract of the Receipts and Expenditure during the period we have mentioned.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To Balance of last year's account . . .	320	19	5	Paid for binding 500 copies Vol. 96, Voyage of Sir Kenelm Digby	17	0	0
Received on account of Members whose Subscriptions were in arrear at last Audit	39	0	0	Paid Mr. V. Brooks for facsimile of Dingley, Part II. Vol. 97	225	12	0
The like on account of Subscriptions due on the 1st of May, 1868	203	0	0	Paid for binding 500 copies Vol. 97, History from Marble, Vol. II.	18	0	0
The like on account of Subscriptions due on the 1st of May, 1869	13	0	0	Paid for printing Introduction and Description of ditto	43	15	6
One year's dividend on £1016 3 1 3 per Cent. Consols, standing in the names of the Trustees of the Society, deducting Income Tax	29	14	6	Paid for re-binding original MS. of Dingley	7	0	0
To Sale of the Publications of past years	40	13	8	Paid for printing 600 copies Vol. 98, Relations between England and Germany	54	1	6
To Sale of Promptorium Parvulorum (3 vols. in 1)	1	10	0	Paid for binding 600 copies of ditto	18	0	0
To amount received from Westminster Fire Office for Stock damaged and destroyed by Fire, August 4, 1868	98	5	0	Paid for Miscellaneous Printing	6	0	6
				Paid for delivery and transmission of Books, with paper for wrappers, warehousing expenses, &c. (including Insurance)	28	1	2
				Paid for re-binding books injured by Fire	8	4	0
				Paid for Advertisements	8	2	6
				Paid for Paper	54	17	6
				Paid for Transcripts	32	8	10
				Paid for postages, carriage of parcels, and other petty cash expenses	5	4	1
				Paid Mr. H. Gough on account of General Index	100	0	0
				By Balance	119	15	0
	£746	2	7		£746	2	7

And we, the Auditors, further state, that the Treasurer has reported to us, that over and above the present balance of £119 15s. 0d. there are outstanding various subscriptions of Foreign Members, and of Members resident at a distance from London, which the Treasurer sees no reason to doubt will shortly be received.

HEN. HILL.
WM. F. DE LA RUE.

30th April, 1869.

Camden



Society,

FOR THE

PUBLICATION OF

Early Historical and Literary Remains.

President.

WILLIAM TITE, Esq. M.P., F.R.S., V.P.S.A.

Council.

ELECTED MAY 1, 1869.

JOHN BRUCE, Esq. F.S.A., *Director*.
WILLIAM CHAPPELL, Esq. F.S.A., *Treasurer*.
WILLIAM DURRANT COOPER, Esq. F.S.A.
JOHN FORSTER, Esq. D.C.L.
EDWARD FOSS, Esq. F.S.A.
SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER, Esq.
THE VEN. ARCHDEACON HALE, D.D.

JOHN MACLEAN, Esq. F.S.A.
SIR FREDERIC MADDEN, F.R.S.
FREDERIC OUVRY, Esq. Treas. S.A.
EVELYN PHILIP SHIRLEY, Esq. M.A., F.S.A.
WILLIAM J. THOMS, Esq. F.S.A., *Secretary*.
HIS EXCELLENCY M. VAN DE WEYER, F.S.A.
SIR THOMAS E. WINNINGTON, BART.

Auditors.

W. F. COSENS, Esq. | EDWARD HAILSTONE, Esq. F.S.A. | HENRY HILL, Esq. F.S.A.

Trustees.

C. P. COOPER, Esq. Q.C. | J. P. COLLIER, Esq. F.S.A. | JOHN BRUCE, Esq. F.S.A.

Bankers.

MESSRS. HERRIES, FARQUHAR, and Co. 16, St. James's Street.

THE CAMDEN SOCIETY

is instituted to perpetuate, and render accessible, whatever is valuable, but hitherto little known, amongst the materials for the Civil, Ecclesiastical, or Literary History of the United Kingdom; and it accomplishes that object by the publication of Historical Documents, Letters, Ancient Poems, and whatever else lies within the compass of its design, in the most convenient form, and at the least possible expense consistent with the production of useful volumes.

The Subscription to the Society is £1 per annum, which becomes due in advance on the first day of May in every year, and is received by MESSRS. NICHOLS, 25, PARLIAMENT STREET, or by the several LOCAL SECRETARIES. No Books for the year are delivered until the Subscription has been paid. Members may compound for their future Annual Subscriptions by the payment of £10 over and above the Subscription for the current year. The compositions received have been funded in the Three per Cent. Consols to an amount exceeding £1,000.

New Members are admitted at the Meetings of the Council held on the first Wednesday in every month.

W. J. THOMS, Honorary Secretary.

A General Index to the First Hundred Volumes of the Camden Society's Publications is preparing.