MR. ALBERT WAY.

SINCE the publication of our last number the Archæological Institute has sustained the loss of one of its earliest, most industrious, and most valuable members, in the person of Mr. Albert Way, who died at Cannes on the 22nd of March at the ripe age of sixty-eight years. Mr. Way was, it may fairly be said, the founder of our Society. He was the leader of those by whose exertions it was formed, the "Introduction" to the first volume of its Journal bears his signature, and to it he contributed from time to time a large number of valuable memoirs, a list of which is subjoined, and materially aided in the completion of many to which his name is not affixed. Under his care as its Editor the Journal grew up and took form and position, and his labours in that capacity have contributed largely to the accuracy of the various papers that passed under his notice, and for the contents of which he considered himself in some sense responsible. There must be but very few of our principal contributors who have not experienced the value of his suggestions and corrections, or who have not discovered that while corresponding with an editor they have gained a friend.

The annual field-meeting of the Institute, its very popular and most important observance, and which has contributed so largely to its life and vigour, was originally projected, and for many years arranged wholly by Mr. Way, and at it he was, so long as his health permitted, a constant attendant. His very considerable social influence was largely employed in securing the presence and support of men of both local and general eminence, and much as he enjoyed the actual field work of the excursions, which were an important part of each Annual Meeting, he was wont very commonly to deprive himself of that pleasure, and to attend to the less attractive

but most necessary duties of what may be called the office work of the Institute, and to the labours consequent upon the formation of the temporary museums. In this work he was greatly assisted by a chosen band of able men, who seemed to gather round him as the centre of the system. Some of these have preceded him in the conclusion of their labours, and some have withdrawn from their more active avocations in connection with the Institute. All cordially recognized the energy, industry, and tact with which these very various duties voluntarily undertaken by Mr. Way were carried on, and none could be insensible to the charm of manner and courtesy of demeanour with which the simplest of such duties was performed.

As his strength failed he no longer attended the Annual Meetings, and he retired from the active editorship of the Journal, but he contributed a memoir to its pages as late as last year, and his assistance and advice in carrying it on was often sought and always afforded. His archæological knowledge was both extensive and accurate, and his sound good sense enabled him, and through him the Journal, to steer clear of the baseless theories and inaccurate descriptions which, at the commencement of his career, had made the name of Antiquary a laughing-stock, and had not long before led the parent society to avoid a ludicrous suggestion by changing from Latin to English the initial letters declaring

its membership.

Mr. Way's natural character, his education, means, and position, gave him advantages of which he fully availed himself in the pursuit of his favourite study. He was educated at Trinity College Cambridge, inherited a considerable fortune, lived within a convenient distance from London, and had many relations and connections. Soon after taking his degree in 1829 he became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and was an early contributor to their Transac-In 1843 he accepted the office of their Director, in which capacity he promoted the Catalogue of the Museum. He resigned in 1846, becoming occupied rather fully in the conduct of the Archæological Institute, which was established in 1845. Besides his contributions to these and other societies, he arranged and edited an edition of Sir S. Meyrick's book on Ancient Armour, and contributed one of the most valuable to the long and interesting series of the publications of the Camden Society, the "Promptorium Par-vulorum."

Mr. Way's desire to unravel the past did not lead him to neglect the future. He held with another eminent Archæologist, that it is "the business of a good antiquary to be also a good man, and to set death always before him," and a strong religious principle, alike removed from either extreme of the opinions held within the Church of England, underlay his whole life and guided his conduct. He was a man of remarkable modesty and freedom from assumption—by no means seeking his own—very kind and affable, and a good specimen of the breeding of an old and excellent school of manners. No man did more than he to soften the asperities to which even antiquaries are liable, and to keep or restore harmony in the councils of the Institute. He was emphatically a lover and a maker of peace.

His qualities were not of a striking or commanding character, nor was his power of a rough or unbending character; its secret lay in his sound sense and moderation, in the sunny and genial influence which he exerted on those among whom he lived or with whom he had to do. It was an influence apparent mainly in its effects, which showed itself in a thousand little acts of kindness and humanity, and which caused him to be as much respected and beloved in life as he is lamented in death. It is to be hoped that the members of the Institute which he served so long, so faithfully, and so well, will in some permanent form place on record their sense of those services.

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