

Obituary.

WILLIAM OLIVER ROPER, F.S.A.

Mr. Roper was born in Lancaster (of which his father was once mayor) in August, 1855, and was educated at the Lancaster Grammar School. After being admitted a solicitor, he became Deputy Town Clerk of Lancaster, in 1883. On the retirement of Mr. Thomas Swainson, in 1892, he was appointed Town Clerk, and held that position until his retirement in 1896. His death occurred on September 16th, 1908, at Yealand Conyers, Carnforth.

Mr. Roper was always a student of antiquarian subjects, and his mind was saturated with the history of his native town and district. He was an officer of all the local societies, was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries on March 4th, 1897.

His publications include :—

- 1880. Harington Monument in Cartmel Church.
- 1883. The Charters of Lancaster.
- 1885-90. Lancaster and English History.
- 1886. Cockersand Abbey.
- 1886. The Missing History of Warton.
- 1887. Notes on an Inscribed Stone at Caton.
- 1889. Hornby Castle and Church.
- 1890. The Churches, Castles and Halls of North Lancashire.
- 1890. The Daltons of Thurnham.
- 1890. Warton Church.
- 1892-1907. Materials for the History of the Church of Lancaster.
- 1894. Cartmel Church.
- 1894. On the Value of Archaeology in Legal Matters.
- 1895. Borwick Hall.
- 1896. Lancaster School.
- 1898. The Manors of Halton.
- 1903. Abbeystead in Wyresdale and its endowed School.
- 1907. Materials for the History of Lancaster.

In 1898, when the Institute visited Lancaster, Mr. Roper acted as local secretary, published a special guide to Lancaster and the district, and read a most interesting paper on "The Charters of Lancaster," which was subsequently printed in the *Journal*. The archaeological world is much the poorer by his death.

T. CANN HUGHES.

GEORGE EDWARD FOX, HON. M.A. OXON., F.S.A.

Mr. George Edward Fox was born in Norwich in 1833, and there educated. Leaving his native city he spent some time in London, and then travelled extensively in Italy, studying for his future career as an artist architect. In this capacity he subsequently carried out extensive schemes for decoration at Eastnor Castle for Earl Somers, at Warwick Castle for the earl of Warwick, at Longleat for the marquess of Bath, at Meaford for Lady Forester, at Dorchester House for Mr. Holford, and at many other places. The grand pianoforte and seat designed by Mr. Fox for Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema is well known, having been frequently illustrated and described. Mr. Fox also designed and executed some of the tombs to the Russells, dukes of Bedford, in their mortuary chapel at Chenies. After his retirement from active professional life, Mr. Fox devoted much of his leisure time to antiquarian work. In 1883 he joined the Royal Archaeological Institute and contributed many papers to the *Journal*, mostly relating to the period of the Roman occupation of Britain. His principal papers on this subject include—

The Roman Villa at Chedworth.
 Roman Remains Found at Leicester.
 Roman Norfolk.
 Silchester.
 Roman Coast Fortresses of Kent.
 Uriconium, and
 Roman Suffolk.

On medieval subjects his most noteworthy paper was one on the painted screens and roofs of Norfolk churches. In 1886 Mr. Fox was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and frequently contributed to that body papers on his favourite subjects, which are printed in *Archaeologia* and *Proceedings*. In 1889 Mr. Fox, in conjunction with Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, brought before the Society a scheme for the complete and systematic excavation of the Roman city at Silchester. This was warmly taken up by the Society with the result that the work within the walls is now

finished, although, alas! Mr. Fox died without seeing its final accomplishment. In 1894 the University of Oxford marked its sense of Mr. Fox's work by conferring upon him the honorary degree of a Master of Arts, an honour which he greatly valued and appreciated, and the town of Reading appointed him an honorary curator of the Silchester section of its museum. Although failing health compelled him to retire from active field work at Silchester, he never lost his interest in the excavations, and to the last was always ready with advice and direction as to the conduct of the work. Almost one of his last appearances was a visit to the Silchester exhibition in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries in June last. Although of a quiet and retiring nature Mr. Fox was an ideal companion, and readily placed his vast knowledge, not only of Roman and medieval antiquities, but also of art, at the service of anyone working on such subjects. All who were associated with him profited from his great experience and knowledge. Mr. Fox passed quietly away on the morning of October 7th last. Peace to his ashes.

M. S.

THOMAS HENRY BAYLIS, V.D., K.C., M.A., F.S.A.

The Institute has recently lost some of its oldest veterans. It is assuredly a proof of the rejuvenating influence of archaeological studies that two of our members should have been able to attend our meetings till they were over ninety years old. A short time ago we gave an account in these pages of one of them, our late treasurer, Mr. Hilton. I now propose to say a few words about another one, Judge Baylis. Thomas Henry Baylis was born on the 22nd of June, 1817. He went to Harrow in 1825, and was there with Cardinal Manning and Anthony Trollope, and to Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1837, where he had won an open scholarship, and where he took his M.A. degree in 1841. He joined the Inner Temple in June, 1834, but remained a special pleader for fifteen years, and was not called to the Bar

till 1856. He then joined the Northern Circuit, where he had a large practice in commercial cases, and took silk in 1875, was elected a Bencher of the Inner Temple two years later, and became Treasurer in 1899. From 1876 until 1903 he was judge of the Passage Court at Liverpool.

His versatility and alertness were remarkable, and he was interested in many fields. Thus he took part in the suppression of the Chartist riots in 1848, and when the Volunteer movement was started he joined it, and presently became the colonel of the Paddington regiment: with his father he was one of the founders of the Fire Brigade. Among his publications the best known was an interesting account of the Temple Church, which saw several editions. He knew every corner of it, and was a most regular attendant at its services. His acquaintance with John Pascoe, the signal officer of the victory at Trafalgar, led him to write a small polemical book on Nelson's famous signal, a subject on which he was always prepared to have a discussion. He also wrote a well-known handbook on the law of domestic servants.

He was widely interested in archaeology, and had been an intelligent traveller in eastern lands, and used to boast that he had bathed both in the Red Sea and the Jordan. He had been a member of the Archaeological Institute for many years, and no face was more familiar or welcome at our meetings both in London and in the country, where he often took part in discussions, which he illuminated by odd and unexpected information. His sharp alert eye and his restless activity were not more remarkable than the urbanity and gentleness with which he treated all whom he met, young and old, gentle and simple. He had a great many friends who well remember his fine handsome face, and who will miss his evergreen temperament and his gentle personality, and none more so than his old pupil and friend the President.

H. H. H.