

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

OCTOBER 20, 1890, TO MAY 27, 1891,

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXXIII.

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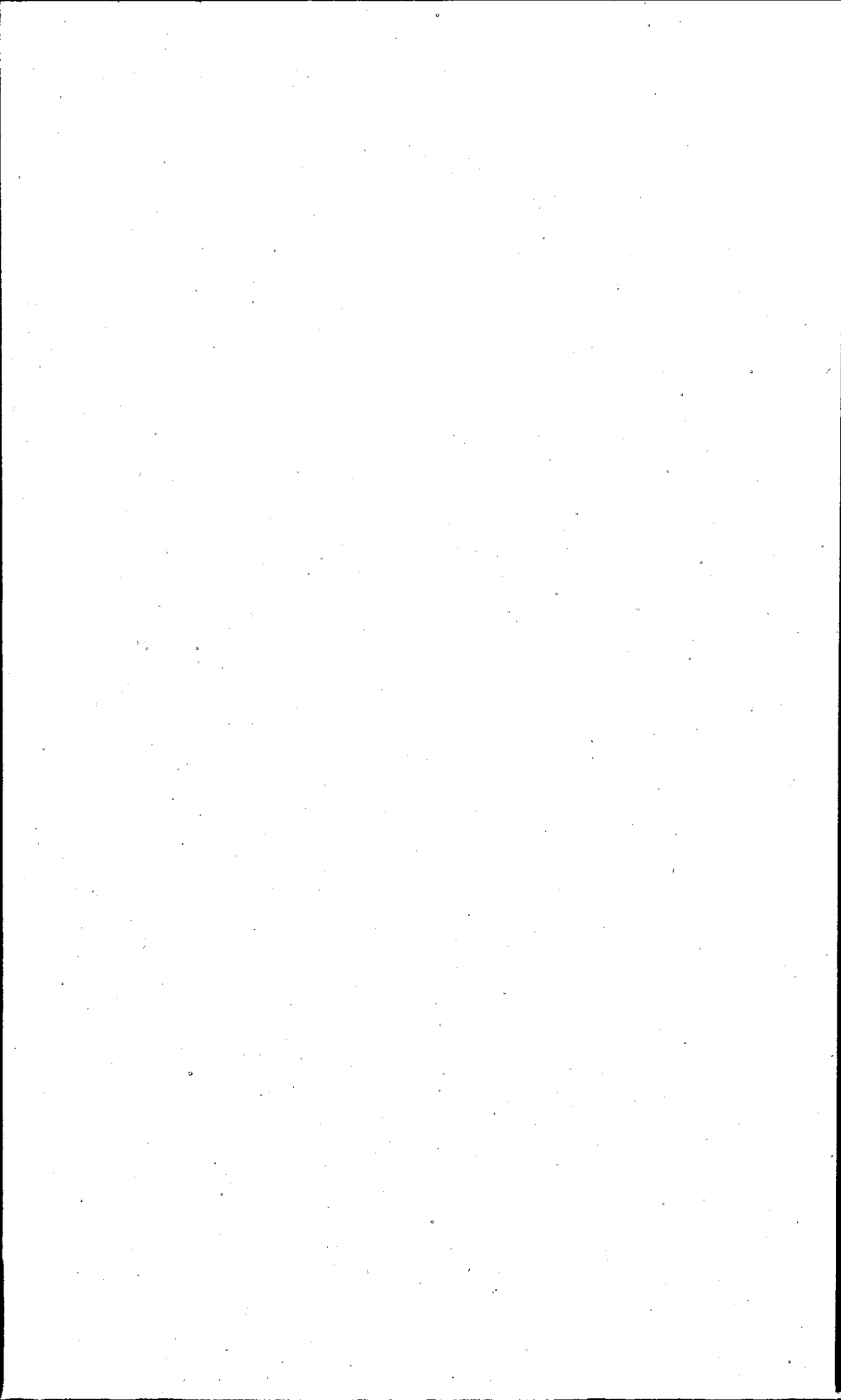
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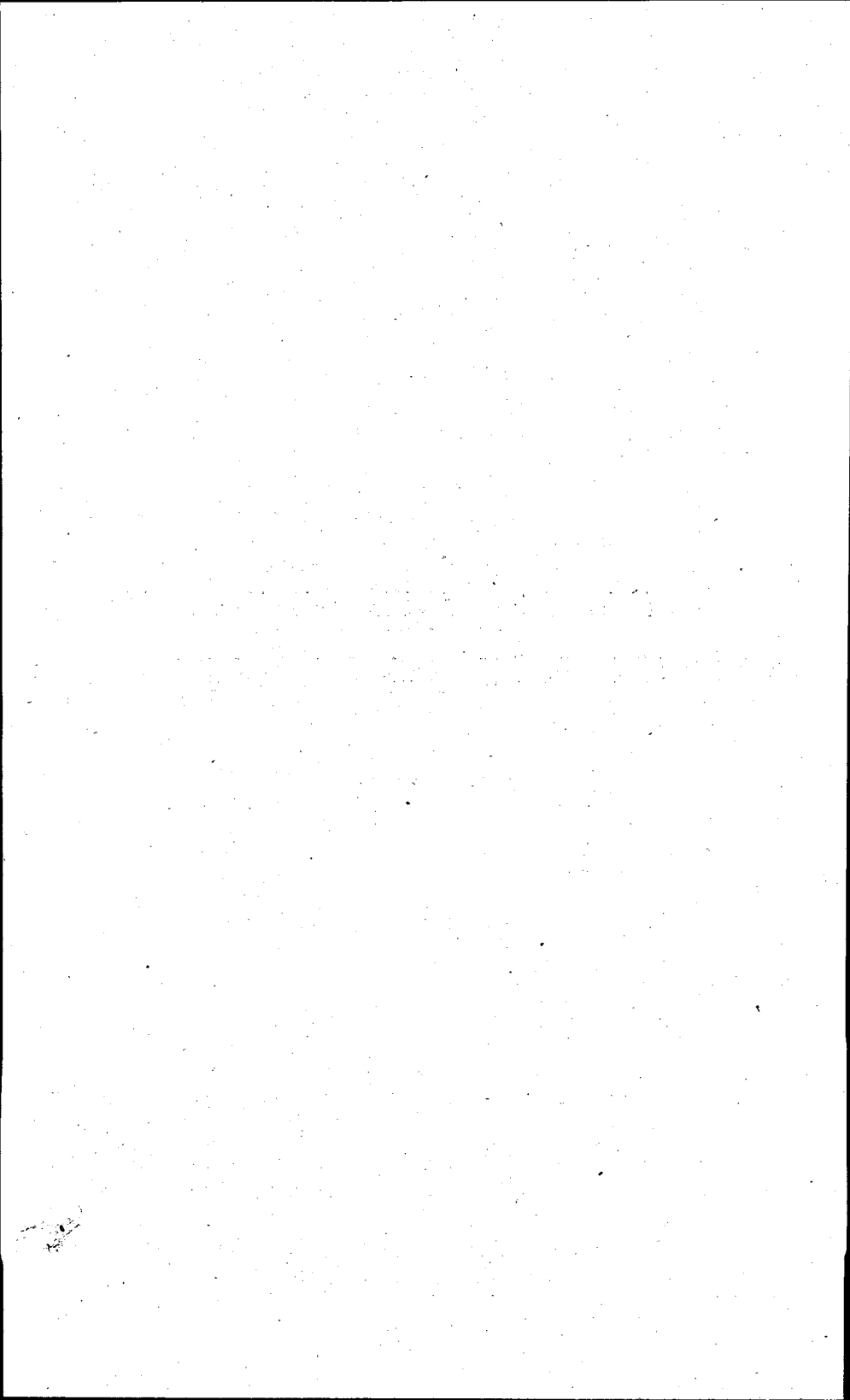
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CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
PROCEEDINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS.



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OF THE
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WITH
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VOL. VII.



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1888—1891.

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CONTENTS.

1888—1889.

	PAGE
Exhibition of Roman Pottery found near the Madingley Road. By Professor MACALISTER	1
On a skeleton of a Stag (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>) from Manea Fen. By J. W. CLARK, M.A.	2
On the University of Stamford. By E. G. DE SALIS WOOD, B.D.	2
On an Egyptian <i>Stele</i> . By Professor MACALISTER	3
Notes on an altar-cloth from Lyng Church, Norfolk. By Professor MIDDLETON	4
On an early Christian Inscription at Mertola, Portugal. By H. GADOW, M.A.	7
Exhibition of a medal of Queen Anne, dated 1704. By Miss JODRELL	9
Notes on two Chasubles from Sawston Hall. By Professor MIDDLETON	10
Exhibition of a bronze figure. By Professor HUGHES	13
Exhibition of a sheet of Hamond's plan of Cambridge, 1592. By J. W. CLARK, M.A.	13
Notes on some recent discoveries in Linton Church. By W. M. FAWCETT, M.A.	15
On a collection of Egyptian skulls of the xvith dynasty. By Professor MACALISTER	17
On a MS. copy of the <i>Scala</i> of Johannes Climacus. By F. J. H. JENKINSON, M.A.	"
On certain sculptured stones. By Professor BROWNE	"
Exhibition of the Will of General Arnold. By F. C. WACE, M.A.	18
On the stone of Jællinge. By E. MAGNÚSSON, M.A.	"
On antiquities found near Hauxton. By Professor HUGHES	24
On three choir-stalls from Brampton Church, Hunts. By Professor MIDDLETON	28
On Fine Art as applied to the illustration of the Bible, Sec. ix—xiv, exemplified chiefly by Cambridge MSS. By M. R. JAMES, M.A.	31
Annual Report (No. XLIX) for 1888—89	70

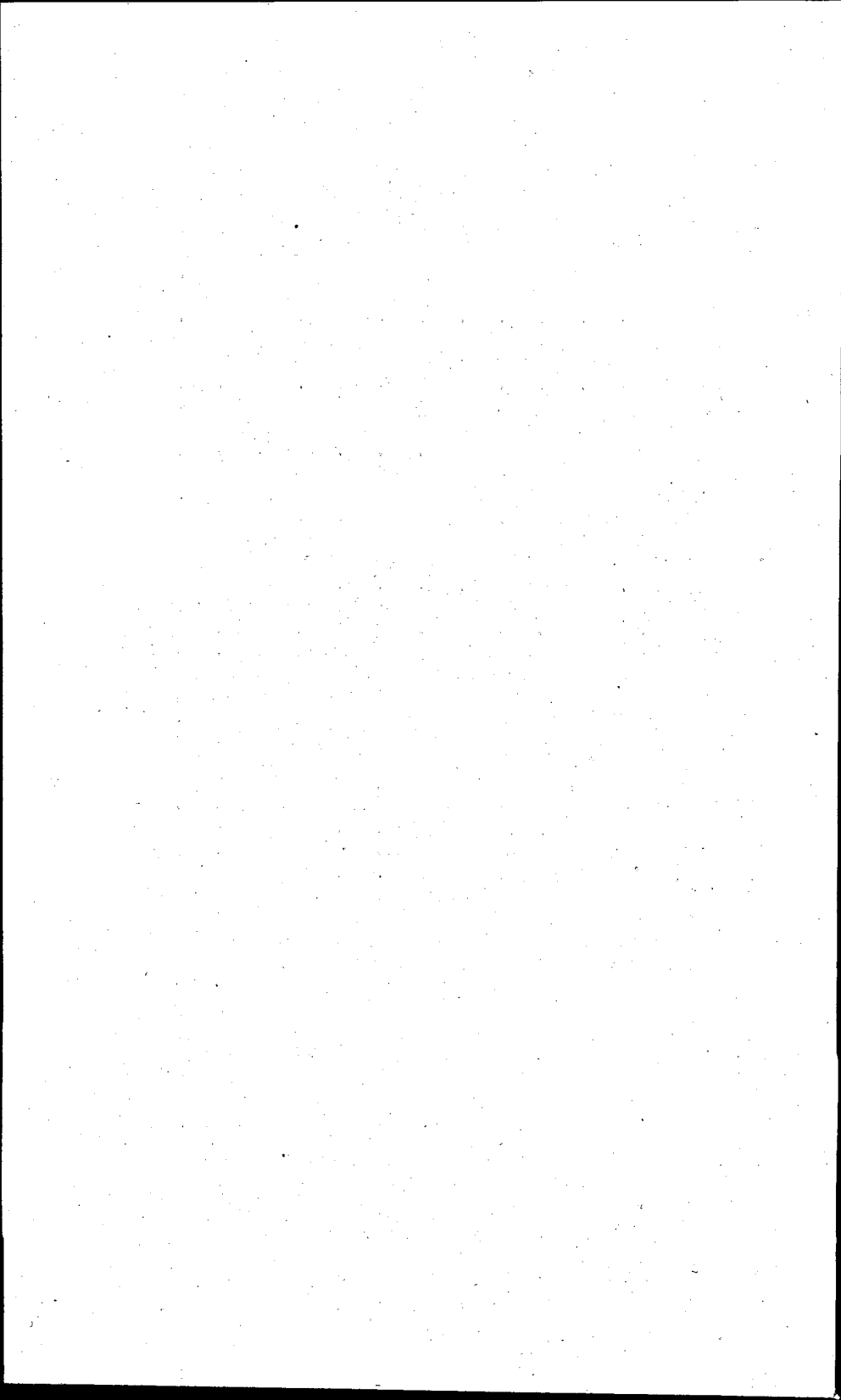
	PAGE
On a blue-glazed Oenochoe of Ptolemaic manufacture	72
List of presents, 1888—89	77
Treasurer's Report	82
List of the Council, 27 May, 1889	83

1889—1890.

On a sculptured stone with a Runic Inscription from Cheshire. By Professor BROWNE	86
On a sculptured stone with an Ogam Inscription. By the same	88
On the old altar-slab of S. Benedict's Church, Cambridge. By the same	89
On the house of the Veysy family in Cambridge. By Mr T. D. ATKINSON	93
On a book printed at Cambridge by John Siberch. By F. J. H. JENKINSON, M.A.	104
On fragments of alabaster retables from Milton and Whittlesford. By Pro- fessor MIDDLETON	106
On the Great Fen Road, and its path to the sea. By Mr E. M. BELOE	112
Exhibition of Bronze Ring-Dials: with remarks by Professor ADAMS	131
Exhibition of sundry objects by Professor and Mrs HUGHES	"
On the purchase of the manor and advowson of Mepal in the xvth century by the Prior and Convent of Ely. By Archdeacon CHAPMAN	"
On the Syriac and Coptic versions of the martyrdom of S. George of Cap- padocia. By E. A. T. W. BUDGE, M.A.	133
On Shengay and its Preceptory. By Rev. W. H. SHIMIELD	136
Notes on the Cultus of S. George of Cappadocia. By E. G. DE SALIS Wood, B.D.	"
Exhibition of a collection of British coins. By Mr F. LATCHMORE	152
On the formation of the ancient Diocese of Ely. By E. G. DE SALIS WOOD, B.D.; and Rev. E. VENABLES, M.A.	157
Annual Report (No. 1) for 1889—90	168
On a sixteenth century Cullen ware jug. By Professor MIDDLETON	169
On a Christian engraved gem in the Lewis Collection. By the same	171
On the parish registers of Abington Pigotts. By Rev. W. G. F. PIGOTT, M.A.	175
On a Roman refuse-pit in Alderney. By Baron A. VON HÜGEL, M.A.	"
List of presents, 1889—90	176
Treasurer's Report	182
List of the Council, 19 May, 1890	183

1890—1891.

	PAGE
On stakes and pottery from Loch Maree. By Professor HUGHES	185
On Roman antiquities found at Newton. By Mr HURRELL	,,
On a letter from P. Kaetz to J. Siberch. By F. J. H. JENKINSON, M.A.	186
Notes on the history of the parish of Tadlow. By Rev. H. W. STEVENS, M.A.	189
On coins and other objects found in Peterborough. By Mr J. W. BODGER	,,
On a hitherto unknown book printed by John Lettou. By Mr E. GORDON DUFF	190
On a signet-ring of the 15th century. By Professor MIDDLETON	193
On the canopy carried over Queen Elizabeth when she visited Cambridge in 1564. By J. W. CLARK, M.A.	194
On a bird's-eye view of Clare Hall, taken in 1714. By the same	197
Are the Cambridgeshire ditches referred to by Tacitus (Annals XII. 31)? By W. RIDGEWAY, M.A.	200
On the date of Ingulf's History of Croyland Abbey. By Rev. W. G. SEARLE	207
Notes on the architectural history of Horham Hall, Essex. By Mr T. D. ATRINSON	210
An attempt to trace the architectural history of Barnwell Priory. By J. W. CLARK, M.A.	222
Exhibition of a bronze medal, dated 1794. By Mr RHODES	252
On some antiquities found at Great Thurlow. By Professor HUGHES	,,
Letters of Wren and Hawksmoor on a proposed new bridge at S. John's College, 1697—98. By R. F. SCOTT, M.A.	254
Letters concerning the controversy between S. John's College and Trinity College on the enclosure of Garret Hostel Green and Trinity College Walks, 1599—1600. By the same	261
Speeches commemorative of Rev. S. S. LEWIS, Secretary	286
On Sakit Canoes. By S. J. HICKSON, M.A.	289
Annual Report (No. LI) for 1890—91	295
Address by the President, Professor HUGHES	296
Exhibition of antiquities found near Newmarket, and presented to the Museum by Mr A. C. WRIGHT	307
List of presents	308
Treasurer's Report	314
List of the Council	315



ON AN OENOCHOE.	
Plate XIII. A blue-glazed Oenochoe of Ptolemaic manufacture	To face p. 72

ON THE ALTAR-SLAB OF S. BENEDICT'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE.

Fig. 1. The Altar-slab	p. 89
— 2. One of the crosses on the slab	p. 90

ON THE HOUSE OF THE VEYSY FAMILY IN CAMBRIDGE.

Plate XIV. Cellar plan, and section on line BB.	To face p. 100
— XV. Ground-floor plan	" p. 100
— XVI. First-floor plan	" p. 100
— XVII. Outside elevation of north wall	" p. 100
— XVIII. Section on AA.	" p. 100
— XIX. Details of windows, chimneys, etc.	" p. 100
— XX. " internal woodwork	" p. 100
— XXI. Elevation and details of west fire-place, Room C	" p. 100
— XXII. Part of the same fire-place, on larger scale	" p. 100
— XXIII. Elevation and details of east fire-place, Room C	" p. 100
— XXIV. " " fire-place, Room G	" p. 100
— XXV. Carvings on above fire-place	" p. 100

THE GREAT FEN ROAD.

— XXVI. Sketch plan, shewing the path of the Road	" p. 116
— XXVII. Plan to shew the position of the sections given on Pl. XXVIII.	" p. 116
— XXVIII. Sections of the Road	" p. 116
— XXIX. Roman pottery found at Eldernell	" p. 116

ON ALABASTER RETABLES FROM MILTON AND WHITTLESFORD.

— XXX. } Fragments of the retable from Whittles-	
— XXXI. } ford Church: for description see p. 110	" p. 110
— XXXII. }	
— XXXIII. }	

SHENGAY AND ITS PRECEPTORY.

Fig. 1. Rough plan of Shengay and its neighbourhood	p. 136
— 2. Site of Preceptory	p. 137
— 3. Gravestone of Robert Dalison	p. 140
— 4. Reduced copy of Cole's sketch of Shengay Chapel	p. 145

ON AN ENGRAVED GEM IN THE LEWIS COLLECTION.

— 1. The Good Shepherd, from a gem	p. 173
--	--------

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

xi

ON A VIEW OF CLARE HALL, DATED 1714.

- Plate XXXIV. Bird's eye view of Clare Hall To follow p. 196
 Fig. 1. Hamond's plan of Clare Hall, dated 1592 p. 199

ARE THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE DITCHES REFERRED TO BY TACITUS?

- Plate XXXV. Map of the county described To face p. 200

NOTES ON HORHAM HALL, ESSEX.

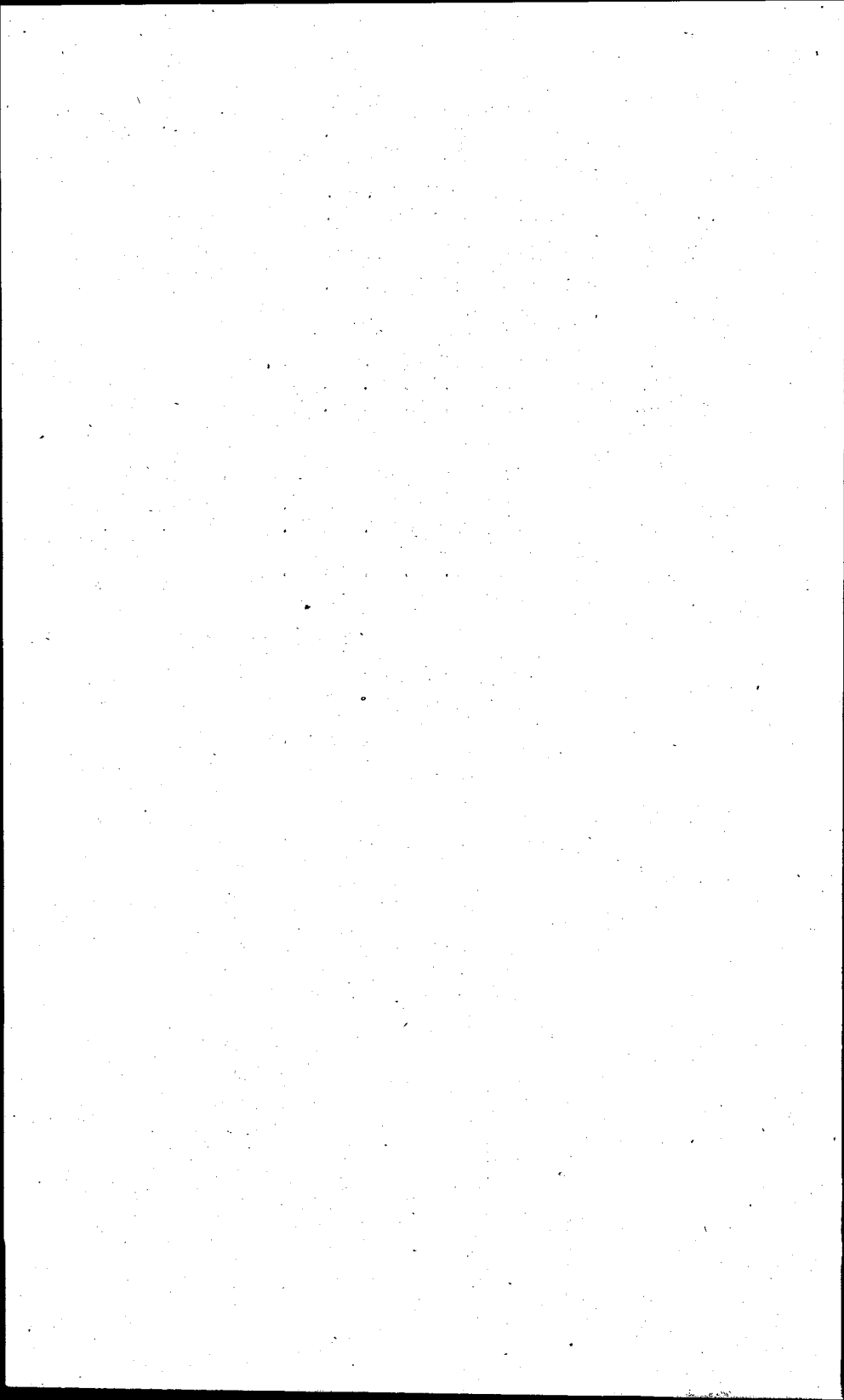
- XXXVI. Ground-plan of the Hall p. 212
 — XXXVII. Plan of the Roof p. 214
 — XXXVIII. Details of the same p. 215
 For description of these plates see pp. 220, 221.

ON THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF BARNWELL PRIORY.

- XXXIX. Ground-plan of existing remains p. 238
 — XL. Elevation of portions of the same p. 239
 — XLI. Ground-plan of the site, with suggested arrangement of the buildings p. 248

ON PROPOSED BRIDGE AT S. JOHN'S COLLEGE.

- XLII. Plan by Nicholas Hawksmoor for S. John's College Bridge, 1698 p. 255



sity; Sir P. Colquhoun, LL.D., M.A., of St John's College; and the Rev. R. B. Somerset, M.A., of Trinity College.

Thirteen new members have been elected during the past year.

Seven General Meetings have been held, of which three were at half-past four o'clock.

Last summer two excursions were made: one in July to Oxford, where the Society was very kindly received, especially at Oriel College; and one in August to Weeting Hall in Norfolk, on the invitation of William Angerstein, Esq.

The PRESIDENT read the following address: When last I offered a few remarks upon the work of our Society, you had just done me the honour of electing me to preside over your meetings. Let us now take a retrospective view over the two years that have passed since then, and see what we have done, and what our experience suggests we may do better in future. Our thoughts first turn to those who took part in all our discussions and labours, but are no longer with us. On our list we see the names of others who have recently passed away, whose duties lay elsewhere, and who, though they did not attend our gatherings or contribute to our publications, showed sympathy with our work, and were enrolled among our members.

Though more than one notice of his life has already appeared, the death of the Rev. Henry Richards Luard calls for a few words on this occasion, for he was very closely connected with our Society—more than once our president, often on the Council, a frequent attendant at our meetings, always listened to with attention. It is gratifying to our self-respect to feel that we did appreciate Dr Luard. He was a typical Cambridge man. I have heard him say, "The one thing we pride ourselves on most at Cambridge is our accuracy," and his standard was high and his criticism of those who fell short of it severe—for he was also a very outspoken man, one with whom you felt you could discuss questions on which you both felt strongly, and differed, as his freedom of speech invited reply as much as, or perhaps more than, the ever protesting avoidance of personality

by which others sometimes attempt to carry on a tepid interchange of ideas. The *Life and Work of Porson*, *Medieval Chronicles*, and *Relations between England and Rome in the Reign of Henry III.*, are some of the subjects upon which he expended much of his untiring energy and powers of research and criticism. It would be an interesting study to trace the steps of the young Fellow and Assistant Tutor of Trinity through Mathematics, Classics, Theology, to Medieval Ecclesiastical History. What did carry him through and enable him to leave his mark on each was a clear head, methodical habits, and a courageous spirit. He knew something of most of the subjects that came before us, and everything that was to be known about some of them. In the records of the University, so long under his care, we find, to our lasting benefit, a monument of his perseverance and method, and, in the hearts of all who knew him, we find impressed the sentiment that he was a man whom it was good to have had among us.

The Rev. Ralph Benjamin Somerset was an honoured member of the Society. He took little part in the discussions or the administration of the Society, but in the quietly spreading influence of one on whose judgment men felt they could rely, in whose knowledge men believed, his presence was of incalculable value in a Society which aims at the scientific treatment of subjects for which data are still insufficient, and on which speculation has long been rampant. His frequent attendance at our meetings showed his interest, and on matters relating to architecture and art his authority was great. His life's work lay elsewhere. Captain of his school, 1st and 2nd Class in the Mathematical and Classical Triposes respectively, Fellow and Dean of Trinity, Proctor in the University, on the Council of Cavendish College, active in church-work as Curate and Vicar, or with ever ready aid to fellow-labourers—and last, but not least, as Censor of the Non-Collegiate students—his was a full life, and among the influences that have tended towards making the world better during the last quarter of a century, few rank higher than the life of Ralph Benjamin Somerset.

Sir Patrick Mac Chombaich de Colquhoun was better known

in connection with the athletic sports of the University than as a member of our Society. Yet his studies lay among cognate subjects to ours; for besides various works on politics and language, he wrote a Treatise on Roman Civil Law; and, as President of the Royal Society of Literature and also of a Committee of the Orientalists' Congress, he did much to promote research in ancient literature and history. He was born in 1815, was educated at Westminster and St John's College, where he took his B.A. in 1837, M.A. in 1844, and was later elected as Hon. Fellow. He received the degree of LL.D. in 1851, and was also *Juris Utriusque Doctor* of Heidelberg. He had many opportunities of studying men and manners as a barrister on the Home Circuit, as Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple, as Plenipotentiary in the Hanseatic Republic, as Aulic Councillor to the King of Saxony, as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in the Ionian Islands. He died on Monday, May 18, at his chambers, King's Bench Walk, Temple.

Our late Secretary claims a fuller notice at our hands. He was the third son of William Jones Lewis, a surgeon, of Croydon, by his second marriage with Elizabeth Bunnell, who was a direct descendant of Philip Henry on her mother's side, and of Huguénot extraction on her father's. His elder brother, Bunnell Lewis, showed the same tastes and talent that distinguished our Secretary, and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and Professor of Classics in Queen's College, Cork. The father was a nonconformist of somewhat austere views, it would appear, and took a decided and active part as Deacon in the Congregational Church at the Poultry, London. Samuel Savage Lewis was in 1844 sent to the City of London School, where he won a foundation scholarship in 1848. In October, 1854, he entered at St John's College, where he became a prizeman in 1855; but at Christmas of the same year he was obliged to give up work and leave the University, in consequence of the failure of his eye-sight. Samuel Morley seems now to have interested himself in him, and assisted him to find a home on a farm near Shepreth, with Mr Clear. There, we learn, he showed the same kindly helpful spirit that characterised him through

life, and would walk miles to procure some little offering which he thought it would gratify the recipient to find on his breakfast table on his birthday morning. In 1857 he moved to the neighbourhood of Huntingdon, but did not stay long there, for in the same year we find him in Canada, where he spent nearly three years, made some friends, and suffered some sorrow and pain. His life was not without adventure and dangers. On one occasion, when stopped by a freebooter, who covered him with his revolver, Lewis remonstrated with him, pointed out with such force how sorry he would be by and by if he killed him, that the man hesitated, relented, and at last let him go. In November, 1860, he started from Quebec for England, when he tried private tuition in London for a short time, but had to give it up because of his eyes; and in September of the following year he went to the Prince Consort's model Norfolk farm, where he remained till 1864. But he never loved the work, he was forced into it by the cruel malady which drove him from the pursuits to which he was drawn by inclination. All his references to that life are those of repugnance, often expressed in Latin or Greek. Though he threw himself very fully into the work which he had to do, he did not in after life recall with pleasure many of the incidents of the time. Yet he always retained his love of horses, and his interest in farming and farmers continually showed itself. Whenever he could he snatched a moment from the bucolic toil to read some favourite classic, generally Horace, of which he always carried a small copy about with him. In 1864, however, an operation was performed by Critchet which seems to have been so far successful that in January, 1865, he re-entered at St John's, but the state of his eyes would not permit his doing as much written work as was there required, and so he migrated to Corpus, where a certain amount of relaxation to meet special cases was possible. At Corpus he was awarded an Exhibition and the Mawson Scholarship in 1866, but after joining Corpus he had again to leave Cambridge for a year, owing to a carriage accident in which he broke a leg and suffered other serious injuries. In 1868, in spite of the disadvantages of his long

weakness of sight and ill-timed accident, he was bracketed ninth in the First Class of the Classical Tripos, and the next year he was elected a Fellow of his College. In 1872 he proceeded to the degree of M.A., and in the same year took Holy Orders. He was soon engaged as Classical Lecturer, first as deputy, 1873-4, and as full lecturer, 1874 to 1887. He also held the offices of Catechist and Prælector, and that of Librarian from 1870 to the time of his death. In this last capacity he did good work in the arrangement and development of the Library, and moreover did much to spread abroad its fame, and to gain for his College and University a good name by his hospitable reception of, and generous and courteous attention to, the many scholars from our own and foreign countries who came to inspect and study the literary treasures under his care. He was a good linguist, well acquainted with many modern tongues, a fact which much increased his usefulness as a librarian, his profit in travel, and his agreeable reception of foreigners. He wrote a charming sketch of the history and contents of the library, which, with reproductions of some of the most interesting illuminations, he used to give away in the most liberal manner to any one interested in the subject. Several little incidents are recorded, which show at once the pride he took in the library of his College and his liberality and kindly feeling. Sometimes, for instance, when a student wanted a book which was not in the Library, Mr Lewis would, if it could be got, buy it at once, put the Library book-plate in it, and send it to the astonished enquirer, who often within an hour found on his table the book he had been trying to get from the Library. On its being sent back it was entered in the Library Catalogue. His liberality was great but unostentatious, and many a poor student was helped through the University by the timely aid that Mr Lewis gave him. His own College—especially its Library and that of Cavendish College—for which he bought Paley's Library, as well as this Society, can tell the same tale of benefactions. He took no active part in politics, nor in the various controversial matters that arose in the University from time to time. Though of a liberal turn of mind, he leaned

rather to the repose of Conservatism than to the restless activity of Radicalism. Though a loyal Churchman, he was liberal also in his views of religious discipline, and made friends alike of the Protestant pastor or the Catholic curé. He supported the early movement for giving women the advantages of a University education, and was from 1875 to 1877 Latin Lecturer to the Association for the Higher Education of Women. Always ready to undertake work, we find that he was at one time Secretary to the Philosophical Society, to the Philological Society, and to the Antiquarian Society, and all who have had to do with him in the various capacities in which he had to carry on the business of these and other bodies, bear testimony to the temper and forbearance he always showed, to his uniform courtesy, and to the punctuality by which he showed his respect for other people's time. Officially and unofficially he carried on an extensive correspondence with foreigners, and especially with the representatives of various learned societies, being himself a corresponding member of the Société des Antiquaires de France, and member of the Archeological Societies of Athens, Berlin, Bonn, Paris, of the Société Eduenne, of the Société des Antiquaires de l'Ouest, of the Statistical Society of Marseilles, and of the Archeological Societies of Philadelphia and Boston. He was of a very sociable disposition, and loved to share the pleasure of any new discovery. Some of us remember how he used to announce that he had secured a valuable communication for our society with as great pleasure as would be shown by many another if he had written it himself. Hence the work of societies was more congenial to him than lonely labour in his own study. To this trait in his character, as well as to the fact that he suffered after too long continuous application from pains in the head, and to the continued weakness of his eyes, as well as to constant interruptions and a too obliging nature, we may attribute the fact that he left no large work as the result of so much travel and research. He was always helping others, instead of elaborating and completing some task that would have redounded more to his own credit. He was not one of those who are so jealous of their own reputation that they will

contribute nothing to a discussion until they are able to come down with a final and authoritative statement. He was always willing to help to bring those around him up to his own standpoint, though he well knew that it was far short of the summit of knowledge. Always suggestive, he put enquirers on the right track, and told them where to turn for further information. When Lord Selborne was collecting material for his work on churches and tithes¹ he was taken ill at Cambridge. Mr Lewis, who had shown him every attention, and offered him every assistance while examining the Corpus MSS., nursed him through his illness, and this kindness Lord Selborne acknowledged in his preface.

"To the Rev. S. S. Lewis, Fellow and Librarian of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and the Master and other members of that learned Society, I owe thanks not only for the facilities given to me while consulting some of the MS. treasures of their library, but for the more than ordinary personal kindness with which those facilities were accompanied."

We can never rightly estimate the amount of work he did for others, but some idea of the nature and extent of it may be gathered from such extracts as the following from the preface to the second edition of the Rev. C. W. King's work, *The Gnostics and their Remains*.

"In conclusion I must express my grateful acknowledgments of the services of my indefatigable friend, Mr S. S. Lewis, Fellow of Corpus Christi College; but for whose persuasion, and negotiations with the publishers, these pages would never have seen the light. Not merely this, but he has enabled me to overcome an apparently insurmountable difficulty in the way of the publication—the failure of my sight, which totally prevented my conducting the work through the press—by taking upon himself the correction of the proofs: a laborious and irksome task to any one besides the author; and demanding a sacrifice of time that can only be appreciated by those, who, like myself, know the multifarious nature of the engagements by which every hour of his life is so completely absorbed."

There is something very pathetic in this story of one whose own life's work and aims had been so cruelly thwarted by failing sight, now making an effort, though with difficulty and suffer-

¹ "Ancient Facts and Fictions concerning Churches and Tithes," by Roundell, Earl of Selborne. 8vo. Lond. 1888.

ing, to help another whose eyes were already quite unequal to the task before them.

His own work is scattered through the publications of the learned societies connected with Archeology and Literature, especially with Philology. In 1872 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and in 1870 a member of the Numismatic Society, and in 1872 served upon the Council of that Society. In 1876 he communicated to the *Numismatic Chronicle* a description of the Jewish shekel of the fifth year, a coin which he had just added to his collection, but which had not been hitherto recorded. His collection of coins of this class was large and valuable, and this, with all his other coins and his gems, and statuary and vases, he has left to his college. These, forming a fine series in illustration of classic glyptic art, and of the coinage of the ancients, are of great educational value, and will be a very conspicuous addition to the already rich treasures which the college possesses. Nor must we forget the help so freely given to his brother clergy; help which involved no small amount of mental labour in the preparation, and of physical toil in the execution.

He married in 1887 Miss Agnes Smith, a lady who was in full sympathy with him in his work, and especially in his love for the history and literature of Greece. He did not live long to enjoy the comforts of the home they had made for themselves under the Castle Hill, but on the 31st of March, 1891, he quietly passed away as they were travelling together in the train between Oxford and Kirtlington. At our last meeting we sent to her a message of condolence upon her bereavement, and an expression of our own deep sense of the loss which we as a society had just sustained.

Our late secretary occupied an exceptional position in our society. No one realised till he was gone how much had been left to his initiative; how much depended upon his watchful care. Evening after evening he provided us with good and interesting communications, while he seldom received much help, but often was thwarted and inconvenienced by inconsiderate applications. He was a very marked personality, and

one full of mannerisms. His quaintly-turned expressions of kindly feeling, or his antiquated salutations, may have sometimes appeared grotesque to the stranger, but generally they only reminded one of the antiquary's familiarity with the courteous phraseology of bygone days, and certainly could evoke no feeling of resentment among those who knew that they were not mere words unbacked by deeds; for among us there was no one more ready to give ungrudgingly, and with no claim for acknowledgment, of all that he had to help a fellow worker. What little is known of the story of his life gives us glimpses of wishes and ambitions, baffled by circumstances over which he had no control. All of these hopes and fears and joys and sorrows have passed into the great abyss, and who shall strike the balance between them? Those few who were on such intimate terms with him as to touch now and then a sympathetic chord and draw out his inner thoughts, tell us that his self-control was maintained by a disciplined soul, and his good deeds were the outcome of a heart that beat true.

I am indebted to our secretary, Dr Hardcastle, for much valuable assistance in collecting the facts recorded in the above obituary notices.

Of the matters to which I especially called the attention of the Society in October, 1889, the first related to the hour of meeting. Some of our members preferred the evening, some the afternoon. It was decided to try each alternately, and I am unable to say that the preponderance in the number of attendances has shown that either is distinctly the more convenient. The compromise, therefore, continues in action, and the matter is still in your hands. Nor has the mode of election of new members yet been decided upon, and I would, on retiring from office, strongly advise you to look into and settle the question before it may possibly be forced upon you, encumbered with personal, and, perhaps, legal, considerations.

The wide range of subjects embraced by our Society is well illustrated in the list of communications made during the past two years. The archeology of our libraries has been represented by the description of an early xvith century book; by remarks

on early Cambridge and London printers; by documents from the archives of St John's College, and from the muniment room at Ely; and the interesting discussion upon the relation of the dioceses of Lincoln and Ely. St George and his martyrdom, and the Syriac and Coptic versions of the story, have furnished the material of more than one communication. In local history we have had a criticism of Ingulf's History of Croyland, and the results of researches into the records of the parishes of Shengay, Abington Pigotts, and Tadlow; an enquiry into the direction and age of the great fen roads, and an identification of our Cambridge dykes with certain earthworks mentioned by Tacitus. We have heard descriptions of Horham Hall, Swaffham Abbey, Barnwell Priory, and of a xvith century house recently discovered in Cambridge, and some interesting early sketches of the Colleges and other places have been shown. Kunic inscriptions and oghams have had their turn. The canopy carried over Queen Elizabeth has been described and placed in our Museum. Gems, coins, bells, dials, pottery, and various other objects have been exhibited and commented upon, but with regard to these last items I would offer some further remarks.

I would again point out that we have not yet got a museum of local antiquities which is of the slightest use for enabling us to work out the progressive or successive occupation of our district by various races, or to trace its history by means of objects disinterred from time to time. When many years ago I made a representation to the Council of the Senate that in the course of my geological work it came within my knowledge that many objects valuable from the point of view of their illustration of the history of the district, and much evidence that would probably never be offered again, was from time to time turned up during agricultural and other commercial operations, I urged upon the University that some steps should be taken to collect and preserve them. When later I organised a more distinct appeal to the University in the same sense, our aim was to obtain a museum where the objects should be classified according to what was known of their age, origin, and surroundings,

so that each new find could be compared at once with the *tout ensemble* of the nearest similar discovery, and what was the same or different be at once observed and recorded to guide further research. I thought we should see on a map where British and Roman objects had occurred together, where Roman and Saxon, where weapons, and where only instruments of peace had been found, and that we could have at once verified the accuracy of the determinations by an examination of the specimens themselves. I had hoped we should have been able by comparison of all the specimens found in the several localities to trace some difference in the character of the pottery as the Romans advanced along the fens, and as the natives adopted their customs and the pattern of their wares. It was a wonderful opportunity. A country was being pared off to the depth of from six to twenty feet for various purposes, a numerous body of students was ready to be interested, an abundant record of its former occupation continuously from the time of paleolithic man to the present day was buried around us. It was not necessary to display the objects under glass. Had they been only accessible the work would have gone on. Much may yet be found, but the great opportunity has been lost for ever. The excellent ethnological museum brought together and arranged by our Curator is of great value and most helpful for the inquiry into the habits of primeval man, but it is absurd to place at his disposal such a very limited space and such a small number of cases in which to keep and render available for study the local archeology of such a district as Cambridge. This short-sighted policy has already almost produced the effect of rendering further room unnecessary by stopping the drifting of objects of local interest into the museum at all.

In conclusion I will only congratulate the Society on having secured as President the distinguished scholar, epigraphist, and numismatist whose name has been so well received to-night—and as Secretary one whose great energy and powers of organisation, not unknown to the Society, encourage us to take a hopeful view of its future.

After a few words relating to the late Rev. S. S. Lewis, from

the Rev. J. T. LANG and Prof. MAYOR, Baron A. VON HÜGEL, in the absence of Mr A. G. Wright, exhibited and described some objects found near Newmarket.

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr Wright had kindly presented the objects exhibited to the Museum, and then proceeded to show a plated bronze strigil found at Great Thurlow, in Suffolk, which called forth some comments from Professor CLARK.

CONTENTS

OF PROCEEDINGS, No. XXXIII.

VOL. VII. No. III.

	PAGE.
On a letter from P. Kaetz to J. Siborch. By F. J. H. JENKINSON, M.A.	186
On a hitherto unknown book printed by John Lettou. By Mr E. GORDON DUFF	190
On a canopy carried over Queen Elizabeth on her visit to the University, 1564. By J. W. CLARK, M.A.	194
On a bird's-eye view of Clare Hall, 1714. By the same	197
Are the Cambridgeshire Ditches referred to by Tacitus? By W. RIDGEWAY, M.A.	200
On the origin and date of Ingulf's History of Croyland Abbey. By Rev. W. G. SEARLE, M.A.	207
Notes on the architectural history of Horham Hall, Essex. By Mr T. D. ATKINSON	210
On the architectural history of Barnwell Priory. By J. W. CLARK, M.A.	222
On some antiquities found at Great Thurlow. By Professor HUGHES	252
Letters of Wren and Hawksmoor on a proposed bridge at S. John's College. By R. F. SCOTT, M.A.	254
Letters on the enclosure of Trinity College Walks and Garrett Hostel Green. By the same	261
Comments on the loss of Rev. S. S. Lewis (Secretary)	286
On Sakit Canoes	289
Annual Report (presented 27 May, 1891).	295
Address by Professor HUGHES, President	296
List of Presents	308
Treasurer's Report	314