

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

26 OCTOBER, 1891 TO 25 MAY, 1892,

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXXIV.

BEING No. 1 OF THE EIGHTH VOLUME.

(SECOND VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.)



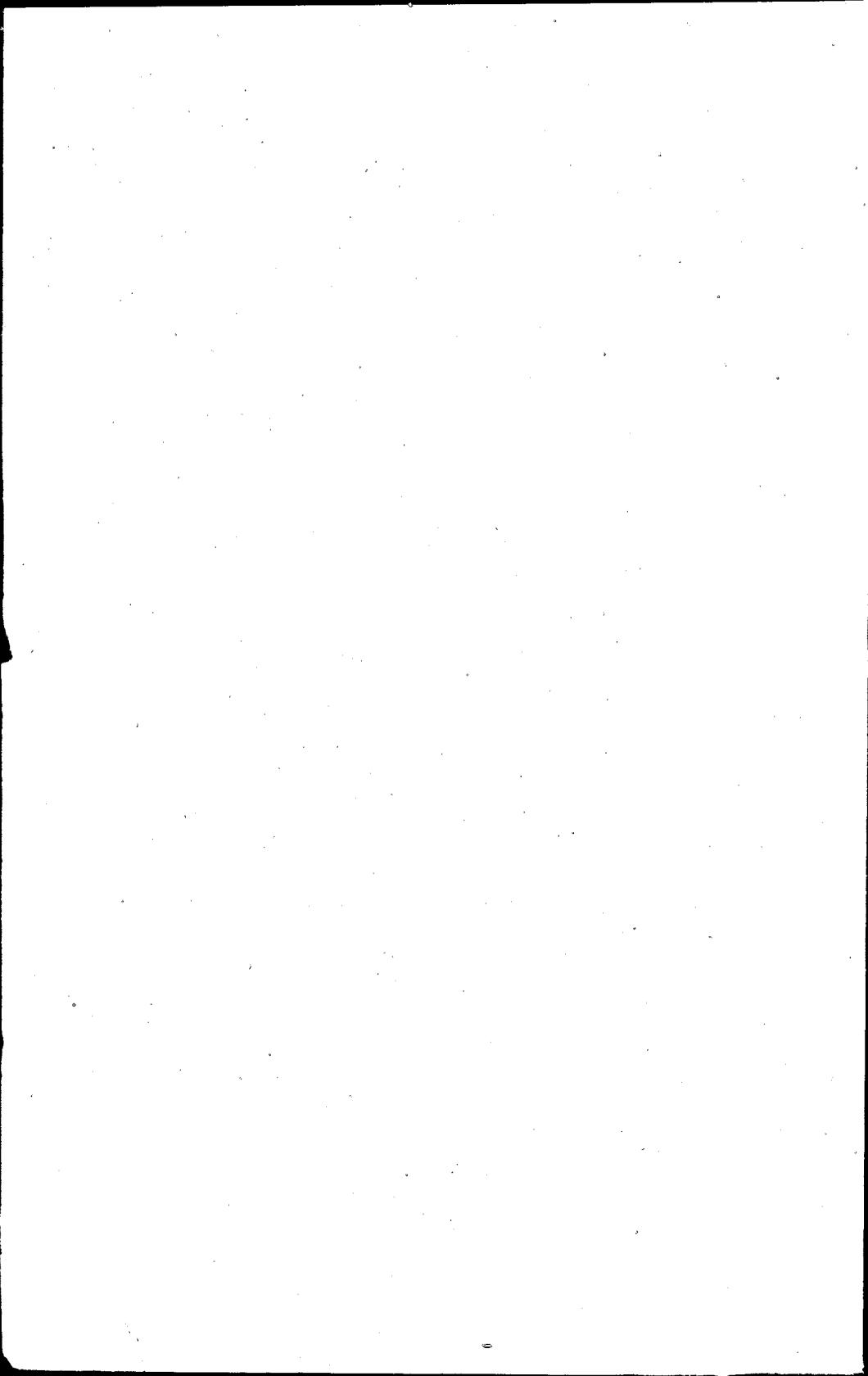
Cambridge:

DEIGHTON BELL & CO.; MACMILLAN & BOWES.

LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS,

1893.

Price 10s.



Mr GEORGE CHARLES MOORE SMITH, of S. John's College, made the following communication :

LETTERS WRITTEN BY JOHN GIBSON OF S. JOHN'S
COLLEGE, 1667—70.

Thanks to the kindness of the Rev. W. R. Tate, Vicar of Walpole, Halesworth, I am able to give some account of a little manuscript book kept by one John Gibson, a member of S. John's College in the time of King Charles the Second.

The book, which measures some five inches by three, was once bound in brown leather, but its cover is now gone. It contains first a series of letters sent by Gibson to various relatives and friends (1668) and transcribed by himself for his own use; next, accounts of his receipts and disbursements (1667—1671); next, a series of nine letters (1667—1669) addressed to Mr. Tate, an ancestor of the present possessor; and, lastly, a short piece of a religious character headed *Of the Divine Power*. All the letters are dated from S. John's, where, during the years in question, the writer was an undergraduate. The handwriting is extremely clear and good.

John Gibson—as it appears from the S. John's College Admission Book—was son of John Gibson, husbandman, deceased, of Habtun, near Pickering, Yorks. He entered S. John's in 1667 at the age of 17, graduated B.A. in 1671, and M.A. in 1674. He is probably the same as a John Gibson who received the living of Thorp Arch, Yorks, 1673, that of South Kirkby, Yorks, 1675, and that of Folkton, Yorks, 1718, vacating all three livings by death, 13 December, 1727. The letters and accounts are chiefly of interest in connexion with the history of the University in the seventeenth century. The following books are mentioned: the Greek Testament, Homer, Horace, Seneca, Aristotle's 'Priorums' (Prior Analytics), G. J. Vossius' Grammar, Burgersdicius' Logic, Golius' Ethics, G. Iacchæus' Metaphysics, The Whole Duty of Man, and The Method of Devotion. The chief points of interest in the letters are: (1) Gibson's use of the word *foy*, which seems to

appear in a rather different sense than that in which Pepys uses it; (2) his purchase of a *mourning gown*, taken in connexion with the edict issued in 1681 against the use of such gowns by bachelors and undergraduates; (3) his account of his first interview with Dr Gunning, Master of the College, of his examination by the Master and one of the Senior Fellows, and of his subsequent studies with his Tutor; (4) his report of the speech of the Prevaricator (Benj. Johnson, Sidney) at the Public Commencement of 1668; (5) his description of the visit of Cosmo, Prince of Tuscany, to the University on May 1, 1669; and (6) his references to the Act for D.D. kept by Francis Turner, afterwards Master of S. John's and Bishop of Ely, and to the Recantation of Daniel Scargill, of Corpus, the last reference being written on the day after the recantation took place.

[The "more salient passages of the first series of letters," with extracts from the Accounts, and the nine letters to Mr Tate, have been printed by Mr Smith in *The Eagle*, Vol. xvii. No. 98, June 1892. It has not, therefore, been thought necessary to reprint them *in extenso* here, but only those passages of special interest, to which Mr Smith draws attention in the above abstract. To these the same numbers are prefixed as those which Mr Smith uses.]

I.

To my Uncle Cuthbert Harrison.

I was sorry to receive (from my good friend Mr Tate) the sad tidings of the death of my dear Mother....My many necessities, Sir, do make me (as for books, etc.) pass for a begger...I thank you, Noble Uncle, once more for the friendly foy¹ you pleased bestow on me at Acaster, it being a rule in

¹ *foy*. It is not quite clear whether Gibson uses the word in this letter and [the next] in the sense of a present of money or a farewell entertainment. The latter is the usual sense of the word in English, and generally of an entertainment given by one departing to the friends left behind. See Pepys' *Diary*, 20 March, 1659—60. "So to the Bull Head,

moralitie that thanks for one favour is the way obtain another...
Your much obliged Nephew.

JO. GIBSON.

St. John's Coll. Camb.

Jan.

[Date imperfect.]

To Mr Francis Wright.

Kind Brother and Sister

...I send you both my due deserved thanks...for
the friendly foy you pleased to give me at our parting...Your
loving Brother in all that power and will can manifest.

JOHN GIBSON.

St. John's Coll. Camb.

Aug. 24, [16]68.

II.

The following items occur in Gibson's account-book :

Sept. 1669.	Bookes at Sturbridge fair	0 12 0
Jan. 1670.	A gowne	0 18 0
March, 1670.	A pair of shoes	0 4 0
	Hire of curtains and bolster	0 5 0
	A sute of cloth's	1 4 6
	Mourning gown and cap	0 12 0
	6 yards of stuff and a half for a coat and fore sleeves	0 12 8
Dec. 1670.	Stuff and trimming for a gown	1 12 4
	Cap, hood, etc.	0 13 0
	Stockings and gloues	0 4 2

whither W. Simmons and I gave him and others my *foy* against going to sea." See also *Ibid.* 25 November, 1661. This is the sense recognised in Phillips' *Dictionary* (1706). The Dutch *fooi* from which our word comes (as Professor Skeat kindly showed me) seems to cover the sense of a present of money. Thus in Sewel's *Woordenboek* (1766) I find "*de fooi geeven*, to give the farewell; *een fooitje geeven*, to give Vails." The word is still in use in Fifeshire, as I learn from Professor Macalister, in the sense of a farewell party.

The *mourning-gown* "worn at both Universities by Masters of Arts (and at Cambridge with the mourning cap) is represented by Loggan as having long full pudding sleeves pleted round the wrist¹." In 1681 it was enacted:

"Whereas severall under-Graduates and Batchelors of Arts, have of late neglected to wear such gowns as by Order and Custom are proper for their rank and standing in the Universitie, whereby the common distinction of Degrees is taken away...It was this day in Consistorie resolv'd...that none, residing in the University, under the degree of Master of Arts, shall hereafter...be allowed to appear publickly, either in or out of College, in mourning-gowns, or gowns made after that fashion²."

III.

My 1st letter to Mr Tate.

S^t. John's Coll. Camb.

Decemb. 16, 1667.

Sir,

I lately receiv'd your letter and deliver'd the enclos'd from Mr Mitford to Dr Gunning³ according to your desire with my own hand: he having strangers when I gave it him bid me goe to him some time the next day, which I did. When I went he being in his chamber alone first ask'd me my name, if I were schollar of the house, who was my Tutour and of what year I was of, next admonished me to fear God and mind my studies; and then said he could tell me more which I shall endeavour to fulfill (God willing) and obey such a reesonable request, and I hope in so doing I shall encrease more and more in loue and favour with him and those with whom I converse....

Now to tell you something as concerning our Election⁴.

¹ Wordsworth, *Social Life*, p. 516.

² *Ibid.* p. 514.

³ Peter Gunning, Master 1661—1670.

⁴ We have here a description of the examination in connexion with the election of Scholars and Exhibitioners. The "Register of Admissions of Scholars and Exhibitioners" contains the following entries:

At the giving in of our Epistles, which was on Thursday the last day of October, we were examin'd very strictly by Mr Morton one of the senior Fellows in Aristotle, and in the first book of Homer, after that by the Master in Burgersdichius¹, in Aristotle, and in the Greek-testament. On Munday next the 4th of November we did all meet in the Chapple, and had A theame given us to make Extemporary, the words of our subject were these: *Æternitas in bonis infinitum bonum: in malis infinitum malum.* We have read over Burgersdicius, and are now going to read Golius² Ethicks....

IV.

The Commencement or *Magna Comitia*, at which Masters of Arts and Doctors in all faculties proceeded to their degrees, took place annually on the first Tuesday in July. The disputations took place on that day and the day before (*vesperis comitiorum*). The Prevaricator was an M.A. of one year's standing, who had been sworn in the year before to fulfil this office—*Jurabis etiam quod sequenti anno in proximis comitiis per te vel per alium variabis*³ etc. On the other hand in 1667 an edict was issued to restrain the licence of the *tripus* and *prevaricator*, by requiring that neither should say anything but what he had before shown to the Vice-Chancellor⁴.

In the speech which follows, the Prevaricator begins by complaining of the difficulty he was in between these two demands.

"4 Novemb. 1667. Ego Johannes Gibson Eboracensis juratus et admissus sum in discipulum hujus Collegii pro Doct. Dowman."

"Exhibitionarii pro Mro Hare, Nov. 6, 1667. Gibson jun."

A George Gibson had been admitted to the College in 1666 who is described as "Gibson sen."

¹ F. P. Burgersdijck, Professor of Philosophy at Saumur. His *Logic* was printed at Cambridge eight times between 1637 and 1680.

² Theophilus Golius, Professor of Moral Philosophy at Strasburg. The book referred to is *Epitome Doctrinæ Moralis ex libris Ethicorum Aristotelis*, Camb. 1634.

³ *Beadle Buck's Book*, quoted in Peacock, *On the Statutes*, p. lxxxvi.

⁴ Wordsworth's *Social Life*, p. 229.

The Prevaricator at the Commencement played a similar part to that of the Tripos or Old Bachelor at the *Comitia Priora* and *Posteriora* when men proceeded to B.A. He had to 'vary' or play upon the questions which were disputed by the candidates for degrees. The speech of James Duport, Trinity, who was Prevaricator in 1631, is an excellent example. He plays throughout on the thesis *Aurum potest produci per chymicam*. The speech is printed from the Caius MS in Wordsworth's *Scholae Academicae*, Appendix A.

As time went on, the Prevaricator's speech lost its character and became a mere vehicle for wit, often of a personal kind. The change may be seen in the brilliant speech by Darby, Jesus, given in 1660, printed (though not without omissions) in the *Hutton Correspondence* (Surtees Soc. Publications 17).

After these two speeches, this of Benj. Johnson¹, Sidney, for 1668, as given by Gibson, is the fullest account of a Prevaricator's speech which we have, although short references to such speeches are abundant.

The Commencement proceedings took place in St Mary's Church. According to *Beadle Buck's Book* (1665) (Peacock, *On the Statutes*, p. lxxxiii) "the V. C. is placed with the D^s of his own Faculty in the Upper Stage at the West End of the Church. The Father in Divinity sitteth in the lower Stage with his Sons on his right hand."

The Commencement this year was one of the more elaborate kind called Public Commencements. Mr Chr. Wordsworth in his *Social Life*, pp. 258, 259, writes—"Besides the Annual Acts at the Commencement in the summer there was on grand occasions at that time of year a *public Commencement*.....there were elaborate disputations prepared by the doctors etc.: there was sometimes at the *public* Commencements (and on those occasions only) a MUSICK SPEECH."

Public Commencements were held in 1653, 1668, 1683, 1698, 1714, and 1730.

¹ In 1673 Johnson was Proctor, and seemingly indulged his taste for personalities in his Proctorial speech at the commencement. His recantation is preserved in the Registry.

Three 'Music Speeches' are preserved, those of Roger Long and Laurence Eusden for 1714, and that of Taylor for 1730. They are in humorous English verse.

My 3rd letter to Mr Tate.

S^t. John's Coll. Camb.

Aug. 20, 1668.

Worthy Sir,

I thought it an act well becoming me to giue you these following jocks; I did purpose to send them sooner but that time would not give me leaue: wherefore now, sir, I shall indeavour (God willing) to let you understand ordine quemque suo jocum.

Prævaricatoris joci. Domine Procancellarie, Domina Procancellaria, Honorandi Patres, Salutandæ Matres; Decretum est a capitibus nostræ Academiae, ut Quicumque in quocunque loco, cujuscunque collegii, cujuscunque ordinis sit habendus Prævaricator adeo prævaricetur suos jocos ut subeat periculum suspensionis aut expulsionis; et si non ero Prævaricator, idem manet supplicium: quasi Procancellarius dixisset si vis, si non vis, per collum pendere debes.

Quæstio. Opinio probabilis est Corpus solare esse molem flammæ. Opinio probabilis est nostrum Procancellarium¹ non esse bonum oratorem. Quare? quia non habet bonam elocutionem; quæso vos sophistæ, Anne carebat ille elocutione? num² in scholis regentium legebat captim chaptim potius carebat pronuntiatione; An justa erat illa compellatio (Auditores Humillimi) cum nullos habebat auditores? Opinio probabilis est jocos Oxonienses esse ad modum calvos: nam ostendam vobis picturam joci Oxoniensis; nonne videtis calvum illum senem juxta Horologiam stantem? tales profecto sunt joci Oxonienses, sunt enim nullius momenti. Et quomodo bene jocare possunt cum jocos ne pili faciunt, et sunt omnium scenarum homines. Inquit ad Oxonienses. Tu qui primus; quid sit bonum pro nihilo? respondetur pro te—nostrum

¹ The Vice-Chancellor was Dr John Howorth, Master of Magdalene College 1664—68.

² Should we not read 'nam cum.'

Theatrum. Tu qui proximus; quæ est differentia inter jocum Oxoniensem et Cantabrigiensem? respondetur pro te—eadem est differentia quæ inter gazettas et literas manuales, nam quæ apud nos novæ sunt Hebdomade sequente, apud vos novæ sunt Hebdomade posteriore¹. Vos, vos cavete ne ascendatis in cælum per funem vel ne discendatis in capita; sed reprimo me, vos enim estis supra mortem. Quid tibi voluit Jonensis iste concionator cum curru suo et auriga, nisi ut illi supplerent vicem sophistarum. Erat quidem Doctor apud nos qui habebat gallum ægrotantem et pius vir pene eodem morbo laboravit cum gallo: tum quid? in morbo gallico laboravit: parum refert. Habet indulgentiam a papa Cantabrigiensi. Hi cum multis aliis sunt Prævaricatoris joci quos ego non memoritur habeo.

I need say nothing of the 1st nor likewise of the 2^{cond}: touching the 3rd he spoke of their coming from their own stages hither to Cambridge. 4^{ly} in short of their Theatre² that fell when it was half finished. 5^{ly} he told them that they came to steal jocks at Cambridge which were new with them at Oxford the week followinge. 6^{ly} he bid them that was in the steeple among the bells take heed that they did not fall upon the head, viz. upon the Vice Chancellour and the Doctors that was beneath them³. 7^{ly} he spoke of one Mr Edwards⁴ of our Colledge who is accounted one of the prime preachers in our University that said (if I be not mistaken) Elijah was carried in the Wilderness *curru et auriga*. 8^{ly} and lastly of one Dr Brakenberry⁵ also of our College that had a cock fell sick

¹ There seems to be a contrast drawn here between the freshness of the news contained in manuscript *News Letters* as compared with that in printed newspapers at this time. The *Gazette* dates from 1665, and the first twenty-one copies were printed at Oxford, so possibly the word still had Oxford associations. I do not feel very certain, however, of this explanation.

² The Sheldonian Theatre was now nearly finished. It was opened 12 July, 1669.

³ Those among the bells seem to have been the undergraduates.

⁴ Robert Edwards, admitted at S. John's 1651, B.A. 1654—55, M.A. 1658, Fellow 1656—57.

⁵ Pierce Brackenbury, admitted Fellow 1656, Medical Fellow 1661—62, Senior 1671.

when he was fighting for a wager, upon that he likewise fell sick, but said he *Quid? in morbo gallico laboravit*, he hath a license from the Cantabrig: Pope, viz. from one here in Cambridge called M^{rs} Pope. I need say no more of this, you know his meaning. Thus, learned Sir, have I exercised my pen according to my small proportion of knowledge, to giue you this little account of our Commencement...

V.

My 6th letter to Mr Tate.

S^t. John's Coll. Camb.

May the 4th, 1669.

Sir,

...The greatest news, Sir, I can write unto you is of the Prince of Tuscany¹ who on Saturday the 1st of this instant came to visit Cambridge, and was very much respected of all the Doctors in town. Order was given from the Vice Chancellour (viz. Dr Ballderoe² of Jesus Coll.) to the master of every particular college that all might be in readiness to receive him. His first arrivall was at the Schools and there one Dr Witherington³ of Christ's Coll. made a speech before him. From thence he returned to his Inne⁴ being then about 2 a clock till after dinner. At 4 a clock he approached the Schooles again to hear the Proctor's speech (viz. Mr Blithe⁵ of Clare-Hall) and A philosophy Act. After that to King's College Chapel; and there was an Anthem appointed with pleasant musick. When that was done he came to our

¹ Cosmo dei Medici, afterwards Grand Duke by the title of Cosmo III. For this visit see Cooper's *Annals*, iii. 532.

² Edmund Boldero, Master of Jesus College, 1663—1679.

³ Ralph Widdrington, Fellow of Christ's, Public Orator 1654—1672; Professor of Greek 1654, Lady Margaret's Reader 1664, Professor 1672.

⁴ *The Rose*, which has left its name in Rose Crescent. The front windows of the Inn commanded the Market Place.

⁵ Samuel Blithe, Master of Clare Hall 1678—1713. He was Junior Proctor 1668—9.

college, where he had another speech made by one Dr Payment¹ who formerly had travelled into his own Country, and could speak his own language (viz. Italiane). After that was ended he took a walk into our Library and the Doctors along with him. Last of all he went to Trinity College and there he had a speech also and a Latin Comedy in the Master's Lodge², viz. Mr Pearsons³, which they had provided for the entertainment of his Person. On Sunday about 8 a clock in the morning he went from Cambridge intending next for Oxford....

VI.

My 7th letter to Mr Tate.

St. John's Coll. Camb.

July 26, 1669.

Sir,

...I have no news to declare unto you touching our commencement: seeing that we had no publick one this year. Dr Turner who kept the Commencement Act at Oxford⁴ came of exceeding well but the prævaricator etc. (as I hear) came of very dully; and according to the poet they were *sine nomine turba* both in their jocks and disputations....

The news that fills all mouths here is the Recantation of Sir Scargill⁵ which I have sent you in print (if you please) to read it at large....

¹ Henry Paman, M.D., Fellow 1647.

² John Pearson, D.D., Master of Trinity 1662—1673.

³ [The situation of the room in which this play was performed is discussed in *The Architectural History of the University and Colleges*, ii. 624.]

⁴ [There is evidently some mistake here, but I do not feel capable of suggesting what we should read instead of the words "at Oxford."] Francis Turner was originally of New College, Oxford, was incorporated M.A. here in 1664, and commenced B.D. and D.D. here 6 July, 1669. He was Master of St John's College 1670—1679.

⁵ Daniel Scargill, B.A., Fellow of Corpus Christi College, was expelled

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING, 25 *May*, 1892.

Professor E. C. CLARK, President, in the chair.

The following new members were elected :

His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, *LL.D.*, Trinity College.

Walter Rippmann, B.A., Gonville and Caius College.

Launcelot Arthur Cranmer-Byng, Trinity College.

Henry Arthur Edwin Standfast, Corpus Christi College.

The following Officers were elected for the next academical year :

President : Professor E. C. Clark, *LL.D.*

Vice-President : Professor Babington, M.A.

Members of Council :

Professor Hughes.

Professor Maitland.

J. E. Foster, M.A.

Treasurer : W. M. Fawcett, M.A.

Secretary : N. C. Hardcastle, *LL.D.*

Auditors :

W. W. Rouse Ball, M.A.

R. Bowes, Esq.

The Annual Report was presented to the Society.

Professor HUGHES exhibited, and made remarks on,

FINDS IN CAMBRIDGE DURING THE PAST YEAR,
and explained some methods of detecting forgeries.

the University, 12 March, 1668, for asserting impious and atheistical tenets. On 25 July, 1669 (the day before that on which Gibson wrote) he made a public recantation in S. Mary's Church, whereupon he was absolved by the Vice-Chancellor, and restored to the University. Cooper's *Annals*, iii. 532.

Mr T. D. ATKINSON read

NOTES ON HAUXTON PARISH CHURCH.

His principal object in preparing these notes was to call the attention of members of the Society to the interesting painting of S. Thomas of Canterbury, which, though known to exist, had long been hidden by the organ. A full description of the Church by the Treasurer of the Society, Mr Fawcett, will be found in *The Ecclesiologist* for 1861, illustrated by a ground-plan and a coloured representation of the fresco¹.

¹ *The Ecclesiologist*, Vol. xxii. (New Series, Vol. xix.) pp. 381—387.

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