

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

17 OCTOBER—5 DECEMBER 1910.

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY

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ROMAN.

- 67, 68. A square bronze buckle with a long, flat, chape, shewing incised decoration and battlemented edges (2''·5); and a ring (? buckle) of bronze, with a flat cross-bar, shewing in relief an animal's mask (0''·9 × 0''·7). From a field adjacent to the site of the Roman villa, Icklingham, S., 1909.

MEDIAEVAL AND LATER.

- 69, 70. Two pairs of calipers: one of bronze with straight arms nicked along the edges (one arm missing), l. 2''·6; and one ornate, of brass with curved moulded arms, inscribed "Andr Elton," l. 3''·4, 16th and 17th centuries, London and Bury St Edmunds.
71. A finely moulded brass spoon with fig-shaped bowl, stamped inside with a rose and a flat stem with bevelled sides, and ornate seal top (l. 6''·7), 17th century, Saffron Walden.
72. A leather-worker's "race" of iron, with a double beaded square-sided neck (l. 5''·4), 17th century, London, 1909.
73. A double key in bronze: the short cylindrical moulded stem bears at either end a large square web in ornate open work of dissimilar design, both webs springing from the same side of the stem (l. 4''·5), 17th century, Cambridge.
- 74, 75. Two ornate window-fasteners with perforated plates and moulded catches: one larger shewing ornate open-work, 16th century, Saffron Walden (the first from Audley End House).
76. A poppy-head terminal from an oak stall, finely carved in oak with foliate fleur de lys pattern (15''·5 × 12''·2), 16 century, from a church near Bury St Edmunds.
77. Two sections of a carved oak panel-framing, one bearing the date 1657 (21''·5 × 4''·6), Herringswell Church, N.
78. An annular bronze brooch, the moulded face decorated with alternate plain and incised sections (d. 1''·1), 17th century, Bury St Edmunds.

Professor W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE, D.C.L., F.B.A., delivered a lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, on

DISCOVERIES AT MEYDUM AND MEMPHIS.

Monday, 24 October, 1910.

The Rev. Dr STOKES, President, in the Chair.

The President referred in feeling terms to the recent death of Mr John Willis Clark, F.S.A., who had been an active member of the Society during fifty-one years.

Dr M. R. James, F.B.A., Provost of King's College, and Mr Arthur Gray, Vice-Master of Jesus College, delivered speeches in appreciation of Mr Clark's work as an Antiquary, and gave expression to the great sense of loss the Society has sustained by his decease.

Dr M. R. JAMES, F.B.A., Provost of King's College:

In undertaking to say something in commemoration of Mr J. W. Clark, I have accepted a very responsible task, and I ask in advance for your indulgence if I should err either by excess or defect. The latter is more probable than the former, for the amount of work which he did for this Society was so great, and touched so many sides of antiquarian knowledge, that one may very easily fail to do justice to one or other aspect of it. Not that I shall attempt to go through his antiquarian work in detail. I would rather try to pick out its salient qualities; but even so there is great risk of failure. It is due, however, to the memory of one of the most untiring and effective workers whom the Society has known, that some attempt of the kind should be made.

Mr Henry Bradshaw was never tired of impressing upon us the immense boon which the advance of scientific studies in this University (as distinguished from literary and humanistic) had conferred upon students of the human past, whether historians, bibliographers, or archæologists, in setting them a standard of method. Mr Clark's training had enabled him to appreciate this to the full, and, in addition to his directly scientific studies, he had the advantage of a close connection with the man who was, I think, the first in this country to

apply what I may call the anatomical method to the investigation of a certain branch of antiquarian studies, namely, the life history of buildings. That man was, of course, Prof. Willis, Mr Clark's uncle. His studies of the history and development of our cathedrals and abbey churches mark an epoch in the writing of architectural history. I think I am right in saying that no one before him had brought the evidence derivable from written documents—chronicles and account-rolls—into connection with the existing features of buildings. At least I may claim this for him, that he speedily became the recognised authority in that department of study. As we all know, Prof. Willis had written large portions of a work on the lines I have indicated, relating to the history of the University and colleges, and at his death in 1875 he bequeathed the materials to Mr Clark. As the latter tells us in the preface to the finished work, he found it necessary to start from the beginning and to go over the whole ground which Prof. Willis had traversed in order to put himself into the proper position and equip himself with the necessary knowledge for completing the task entrusted to him. This work of verification, together with the work of filling up the very numerous gaps and re-writing much that had to be discarded, occupied him just eleven years. As to the extraordinary value and, if I may so call it, the satisfactoriness, of the book as we now have it there can be no two opinions. That it contains no incorrect assertion, or that it solves all problems, Mr Clark himself would have been the last to imagine. Many of us will remember how, if we were engaged in an investigation which touched his province, he would beg us to be good enough to correct the 'grosser blunders' of his own book. Nevertheless, in the whole of the five massive volumes, I believe that there are singularly few pages, or even paragraphs, which after the lapse of twenty-four years can be criticised as unfaithful to the facts of history: while on the positive side, the light thrown on the inception and growth of every one of our then extant buildings: light which has been elicited from the patient perusal of the account books of every college, and the careful scrutiny and measurement of every court, chapel, hall, library,

and lodge is simply amazing in amount. The book is irreplaceable and indispensable.

I have dwelt thus long upon it because it was for so considerable a period the centre of Mr Clark's antiquarian studies. A very large proportion of the papers which he read before this Society were the outcome of his investigations towards the production of it; and others read since its publication were directed to the supplementing of the information it contains. It displays, too, the qualities which appeal to one in all of Mr Clark's work, namely, the gift of knowing what he wanted to say (for I think that must rank as a gift) and the power of saying it with clearness. You will not find many passages in his books which leave you in doubt as to his meaning. And the form, I think you will agree with me, is always excellent. There is behind it an imaginative quality which, though it does not lead him into the dangerous regions of word-painting, is sufficiently obvious to show his consciousness of the vivid human interest which permeates the history of buildings and institutions, and which also makes that history worth writing.

In later years a particular side of the history of books came to be the centre of Mr Clark's researches: I mean, of course, that aspect which he called the *Care of Books*. Besides the excellent monograph which bears that name, and which sprang directly out of the architectural history (its first beginnings may be seen in the Essay on College Libraries), there are a number of papers in the transactions of this Society in which he chronicles various stages of his investigation. Some of those here have been his companions, as I have myself at times, when he was carrying on researches in this field in England or abroad. Among much else that makes the memory of such expeditions delightful we like to recall how he would spare no pains and be defeated by no difficulties if there were a building to be measured, a site explored, or a library or muniment room laid open.

There are only two other points on which I will say a word. The first is the amount of Mr Clark's work. In a place where we have so often had to lament that great investigators have

carried their knowledge to the grave with them, it is worth much, I think, to have had one among us who not only recorded with admirable clearness the results of his own work, but was always extracting work from others, and urging upon beginners the duty of getting something done. There is another side to this, I know: the advance of knowledge may be retarded by the production of hasty and ill-considered work. But I feel that the atmosphere of a University is but too likely to foster the growth of the opposite fault.

I have mentioned the beginner, and that brings me to my last point, namely, the helpfulness which Mr Clark always showed towards the young. I recollect how when I was an undergraduate in my first or second year he put into my hands the proofs of a volume of his *Architectural History*, and with the pleasantry which I quoted just now—a request that I would correct the grosser blunders in it. This attention to a young man from one in his position was typical of what I want to commemorate. I believe and hope that there is a great deal of such attention and encouragement now given to young people here who show interest in learned pursuits. What I wish to show is that Mr Clark was a very principal source of such help and encouragement himself, and was the cause and promoter of it in many other people. The range of his influence in this matter, and the amount that he achieved directly or indirectly there are no means of measuring, but there are many of us here who will most gratefully acknowledge how effective it has been in their own case.

My object to-night has been to give such expression as I could to my own sense of the value of Mr Clark's work for this Society and for the department of study which this Society represents. That my task might have been much better carried out I know, but I believe that what I have said is no more than the truth: and, if that be so, my words will have this amount of value, that they will help towards an appreciation of the greatness of the loss which we have sustained.

MR ARTHUR GRAY, Vice-Master of Jesus College :

In speaking to-night of one who was so long and so worthily connected with our Society, and whose principal title to be remembered when his personality is forgotten will be the splendid work which he did for Cambridge antiquities, I should very imperfectly express my own feelings, and the feelings of all of you who were privileged to know him, if I dwelt exclusively on those topics which brought him and us especially together in this Society. If my interest and yours in Clark were limited to our common study of Archaeology there would be nothing for me to say that might not better appear in cold print. Many of you will share the feeling that comes home most warmly to me—a feeling admirably expressed by others who are more competent to estimate his many-sided genius than I can be—the feeling of personal loss. In the poverty of language to measure that feeling we who have known him may take refuge in the words of Mark Antony :

“ He was my friend, faithful and just to me.”

Which of us can affix a value to his friendship with Clark? I do not refer only to that inspiration which he breathed on every subject which he had made his own, though I would make the confession that what interest I have in one of his many spheres of knowledge came first and altogether from his kind and generous sympathy in long-past days. But the privilege of looking into his broad and friendly mind was not limited to the subjects with which our Society is concerned. How large his friendship was those whose claim to it was the study of antiquity will be the first to attest.

It was from the quality of interest in the present and the passing, from his warm feeling for what was new and young that Clark drew his sympathy with the past. If old Cambridge lived and breathed in his work it was because Clark's own life was cast heartily into the Cambridge that he saw in the

actuality of to-day or in vision of the future. In the tracing-linen plans of the Colleges which he put in the last volume of his *Architectural History* there is a parable. Under the old he saw the new—not different, but adapted. The *Care of Books* in mediæval times was mirrored in his care for the University Library in the present, and his picture of the social life of the University in old times was coloured by the warm tints of the living Cambridge that he knew so well and so delightfully portrayed in his recent "Reminiscences" in the *Cambridge Review*. Beyond even friends he loved Cambridge. It was fit that he, a native of our town and a lifelong resident in the University, should be the historian of material and social Cambridge.

Perhaps we stand too near to Clark to estimate the value of his *Architectural History*. There is, in my estimation, only one English book which is fit to stand on the same shelves with it—Dugdale's *Monasticon*. Other books may be described as exhaustive, in so far as they comprise all that is known of a given subject at the time of writing. Clark's book is more. Twenty-four years—years in which his work has invited the incessant research of other labourers in the same field—separate us from the date of its publication. Anyone who has devoted time and study to Clark's book will not limit himself to saying that it is exhaustive; it has absolutely exhausted the soil. It defies time both by its scope and accuracy. And if I may add one quality of the book which deserves to be mentioned with these, it is the writer's restraint and modesty. He, who never shrank from the freest expression of his views in practical matters of to-day, never obtrudes his opinions where he has to record facts. The book is described on its title-page as "by the late Professor Willis, edited by John Willis Clark." The incompleteness of the Professor's manuscript left many entire chapters to be written by Clark, and the verifying and arrangement of his uncle's materials was a prodigious labour. Yet he rigidly limited himself to the plan left to him by the Professor without altering a line, except by further illustration in a footnote, or as an addition marked as such by brackets. You must remember how often, standing before us, he appealed to "my

uncle Willis" as authority for a fact which yet came within his independent knowledge. And there is the same restraint in the style which he used throughout his own contributions to the work. How he could charm in description we know from his *Brief Notes on Cambridge* and his *Old Friends at Cambridge*. But in the *Architectural History*, there is no phrasing or picturesque colouring.

In that modesty lay Clark's strength as an exponent. No one was afraid of his learning. As he was ready to impart generously from his stores to all who sought his counsel, so he was always learning—from the old and, more particularly, from the young. The splendid tribute that Chaucer gave to the Clerk of Oxenford is the last and best word that can be said of his Cambridge namesake:

"Gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche."

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