



REV. THOMAS LEES, M.A., F.S.A.,
VICAR OF WREAY.

In Memoriam.

BY the sudden death of the Rev. Thomas Lees, M.A., F.S.A., vicar of Wreay, near Carlisle, the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society has again not only been deprived of one of its most esteemed Vice-Presidents, but has again also lost the services of one of the most valued contributors to the pages of its Transactions.

Thomas Lees was born at Almondbury, near Huddersfield, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, in the year 1829: on the mother's side he was descended from Dr. Nowell, dean of St. Paul's and the reputed author of the Church Catechism. He was educated at the Grammar School of Almondbury, and at Emmanuel, Cambridge, where he graduated as 18th senior optime in 1852; he took the degree of B.A. in that year, proceeding to M.A. in 1855. He was admitted to the diaconate in 1854, and was ordained priest in the following year by the Bishop of Carlisle [Dr. Percy]. In the former year he became curate of Kirkbythore in Westmorland, which charge he held for a year, when he was appointed curate to Canon Percy at the important parish of Greystoke in Cumberland: there he remained until 1865, when, on the nomination of Canon Percy, he accepted the Dean and Chapter living of Wreay, where he spent the rest of his life. By his death the Church has lost a faithful servant, and a large circle of friends one of

the most beloved of men. Being of a retiring disposition, humble minded, and sensitive in the extreme, he naturally shunned the bustle and worry of public life, confining his attention mainly to the duties of his own parish. But Thomas Lees was known to the outside world more as a scholar and man of letters than a man of affairs. He was an early member of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society, having been elected, in company with his old friend the late W. Jackson, F.S.A., at its second meeting in 1866, the year in which the Society was founded. In 1873, he, Mr. Jackson, and the present President of the Society, were elected on its Council, and from that time the waning fortunes of the Society took a new turn, fresh vitality was infused into it, the regular publication of Transactions commenced. Mr. Lees was a warm supporter of the Society and always a prominent figure at its meetings. To its Transactions he contributed the following papers:—
Extracts from the Registers of Greystoke Church during the reigns of Elizabeth and the Stuart Kings: An attempt to trace the Translation of St. Cuthbert through Cumberland and Westmorland: Ancient glass and woodwork at St. Anthony's Chapel, Cartmell Fell: Bolton Church: Probable Use of certain Stones found in the Ruins of Furness and Calder: A Monk of Furness: St. Ninian's Church, Brougham: An attempt to explain the Sculptures over the South and West Doors of Long Marton Church: S. Kentigern and his Dedications in Cumberland: S. Herbert of Derwentwater: Cresset Stone at Furness Abbey, a Correction: Shears combined with clerical emblems on grave stones: The Rey Cross on Stainmore: S. Catherine's Chapel, Eskdale: and The Parish Church of S. Andrew's, Greystoke (also published separately).

Mr. Lees was elected a Vice-President of the Society in 1892. In 1885 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was also a member of the Royal Archæological Institute, to whose Journal he was a contributor, of the Surtees Society, and of the English Dialect Society, for which he edited 'A Glossary of the Dialect of Almondbury and Huddersfield.' He was an able ecclesiastical antiquary, his knowledge of the arrangement, ritual, and custom of the Church being wide, varied, and accurate. Always a voracious reader, and endowed with a tenacious memory, he accumulated vast stores of information on all sorts of subjects connected with history, dialect, folk-lore, and genealogy, which he was ever ready to communicate to his friends and brother antiquaries. But his dislike of writing, combined with his rare modesty, restricted his contributions to literature.

Mr. Lees had been a widower for upwards of two years. He is survived by a son and daughter, the former being settled in America. Another son met his death on his seventeenth birthday by falling over the rocks at St. Bees, about twelve years since.



