

SURREY
Archæological Collections,

RELATING TO THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE COUNTY.

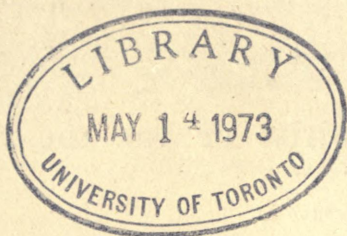
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TO THE MEMBERS.

IN presenting to the Members of the SURREY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY the Sixth Volume of "Collections," the Council trust that it will be found of equal interest with those which have preceded it, both as regards the Papers which it contains, and the manner in which they have been treated. The completion of Part II. has been unfortunately delayed owing to the death of the Secretary, Mr. E. V. AUSTIN.

In addition to his loss, the Council have to deplore the death of two old and constant friends of the Society, Mr. J. WICKHAM FLOWER and Mr. J. GOUGH NICHOLS, F.S.A., the former so distinguished in the field of prehistoric archæology, the latter no less so in matters of genealogical and historical inquiry. The present volume contains Papers by both these gentlemen, a fitting legacy from them to the Society in which they took so warm an interest.

The Council desire to take this opportunity of impressing upon Members the importance of raising an Illustration Fund. From the nature of the Papers, it is specially important that they should be carefully and well illustrated; and in these days of restless innovation, many an interesting feature may thus be preserved when the original has been destroyed by so-called restoration.

An important object which this and kindred Societies have in view is to supplement the older County Histories by a close attention to the details of parochial history. This is generally to be gathered from the church and from the parish register; and on parish churches this volume will be found to contain many interesting Papers.

No further progress has been made since the last Report in establishing a County Museum. It is most desirable, from every point of view, that this County should have one, and the Council trust that no long time will elapse before it is established. The Society already possesses

many interesting objects well worthy of exhibition, and if a Museum were in existence, it would doubtless receive considerable additions.

The Council watched with much interest the introduction in Parliament of Sir John Lubbock's Bill for the Preservation of National Monuments. Although it failed to become law, the Council believe that the discussion which it provoked will be productive of great advantage in calling public attention to the subject, and may ere long lead to some measure of the kind being passed. The demolition of the famous Roman earthworks at Dorchester must be felt by all archæologists as a national misfortune, while in this County the threatened destruction of the so-called "Cæsar's Camp" at Wimbledon is much to be deplored.

The Annual Excursions that have taken place since the publication of Vol. V. have been thoroughly successful: they have shown that amid the inexhaustible beauties of nature which Surrey possesses, objects of antiquarian interest are not yet exhausted, while the cordiality with which the Members have been everywhere received, is satisfactory evidence that the objects of the Society are generally appreciated.