



The Quarterly Journal

OF THE

Berks Archæological and Architectural Society.



CONFERENCE of Archæological Societies was held at Burlington House on May 7th, when it was decided to form a Union of the Antiquarian and Archæological Societies of England and Wales. A Register of the "Societies in Union" will be kept in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, and an Annual Congress will be held for the purpose of promoting the better organization of antiquarian research. The valuable library of the Society of Antiquaries will be open for the use of the officers of a "Society in Union," or of any person recommended by them. This action of the Society of Antiquaries will give a great stimulus to local effort, and will receive the cordial support of all Archæologists throughout the country. The Berks Archæological Society has been invited to become a "Society in Union," and the first Congress will be held on July 17th.

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MR. ARTHUR J. DASENT is collecting materials for an account of the Church Plate of this County. A complete inventory of Church Plate in this Diocese has long been wanted. The Rev. E. R. GARDINER, Vicar of Fawley, who has accomplished a similar work in the Diocese of St. Albans, would be able to render great help

in the undertaking, and with other able assistants the inventory might easily be accomplished. But we think it would be well that the work should be undertaken on some regularly organized plan, in order that no omissions may be made, or two or three applications sent to the same incumbent. The Secretary of our Society would be glad to call a Meeting, at the offices of the Society, of all those who may be willing to help in this undertaking, if those who are chiefly interested in the matter will communicate with him.

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WE should be glad to hear from our correspondents throughout the county, and from others intimately acquainted with the Archæology of Berks, their answers to the following questions :—

1. What tumuli, or other stone monuments, have been recently removed or destroyed ?
2. What Churches have been “restored” ?
3. What Historic Monuments are being left exposed to the weather without protection ?
4. What Records, County and Parish, are being left uncared for ?

Meetings and Excursions of the Society.

AN Afternoon Meeting of the Society was held (by the kind permission of the Mayor of Reading) in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, on April 11th. The portrait of King Charles I. alleged to have been painted by Velasquez, in 1623 (and now in possession of the family of the late Mr. Snare, of Reading), was submitted to the inspection of the Society. Mr. S. S. STALLWOOD presided, and the Rev. J. M. GUILDING, Vicar of St. Lawrence, opened the discussion, giving an able *resumé* of the history of the picture, and tracing it to the gallery of the Duke of Buckingham. Mr. HAVELL, Mr. WING, and the SECRETARY took part in the discussion. The Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. G. W. PALMER) very kindly entertained the Members of the Society to tea at the close of the meeting.