



The Quarterly Journal

OF THE

Berks Archæological and Architectural Society.



THE Corporation of Reading have granted the use of the Abbey Gatehouse to the Berks Archæological and Architectural Society. It will be a great advantage to the Society to hold its Meetings in a building so full of historical associations, and so admirably adapted for its purpose; and the Public will derive certain privileges which the Society proposes to offer. A collection of architectural mouldings, and other relics of the ancient Abbey, will be formed, and exhibited in the large room over the Gateway, which will be open to the Public at certain hours. It is fitting that such a building should be in the hands of an association which devotes itself to the study of the past, and collects the relics of archæological and historical interest which remain to us from past generations. In the room where our Society will meet the Abbot held his Manorial Court. Here he sat as judge in his capacity of feudal lord. Here, once a year, came the Burgesses of Reading with very humble mien to ask the high and mighty Abbot to nominate one of their number as Mayor of the town; and here the last Abbot, Hugh Faringdon, shorn of his greatness, was found guilty of high treason, and condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. With such associations is this historical building connected, and the Society will not fail to preserve the remembrance of the ancient glories of the Abbey, and will endeavour to lead the inhabitants of Reading to take an intelligent interest in the relics that remain.