Berks Archwological and Architectural Society.

Founded 1840. Reconstituted 1871.

ANNUAL REPORT,

1888-9.



Reading:

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY J. J. BEECROFT, MARKET PLACE.

1890.

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Architectural Referee:

MR. S. S. STALLWOOD.

Meetings and Excursions, 1889.

1889. DATE.	DESCRIP- TION.	Subject or Place.	LECTURER OR SPEAKER.
Feb.	Meeting	Cumnor Hall	H. REID, Esq., F.S.A.
March	Do.	Saxon Conquest of Berks	Rev. A. D. CRAKE
April	Do.	Charles 1st by Velasquez	Rev. J. M. Guilding
May	Excursion	Churn Knob and Blewbury	Rev. A. D. CRAKE
June	Do.	Swallowfield and Arborfield	LADY RUSSELL REV. P. H. DITCHFIELD
Sept.	Do.	Tilehurst and Purley Hall	Mr. S. S. STALLWOOD Mrs. FREDK. WILDER



Berks Archwological and Architectural Society.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1888-89.

T is with much satisfaction that, in making their Report for the year 1888-9, the Committee have to state that the condition of the Society is most prosperous both in numbers and financial stability; and also to record a period of useful work and progress in that department of Historical research and Architectural study which the Society was founded to promote.

There has been a large increase of members on the Roll of the Society. Fifteen ordinary members and eight Lady members have been elected since the last annual meeting; five ordinary members and four ladies have resigned; and at the present date there is a total of 105 ordinary and Life members on the Register, and 48 Lady members.

The Secretaries for the time being of the Newbury, and of the Thames Valley Field Club, being County Societies in union with the Berks Archæological Society, have also been elected Honorary Members of our Society.

The Balance Sheet, printed in the appendix, shows an Income from subscriptions of £51 12 6 + £10 12 2 Balance, and an Expenditure of £48 18 7, leaving a Balance in the Treasurer's hands of £13 6 1.

During the last Winter Session there were three General Meetings of the Society, when Papers were read on the various subjects indicated in the Appendix. During the Summer Session, three Excursions were made—to Cholsey in May; to Swallowfield in June, when the Society was entertained by the President, Sir George Russell, Bart.; and to Tilehurst and Purley Hall in September, when the Society was entertained by Mr. Frederick Wilder. At the Meeting in February, the Society had the honour of receiving a visit from Lord Coleridge, Lord Chief Justice of England, who spoke on the subject of Sir Walter Scott and Cumnor Hall; at the Meeting in May the Society was entertained at the Town Hall by the Mayoress, Mrs. George William Palmer.

No additions of any moment have been made to the Library. Now that a special department of books bearing on Local History has been added to the Public Library of the Town, there is no necessity of making any further additions to our own small stock, except to obtain the chief Antiquarian Magazines, and necessary books of reference.

Prizes for the encouragement of the study of English History have been granted by the Society to the following Educational Institutions connected with the Town of Reading and the neighbourhood, viz:—Bradfield College, Reading Grammar School, the Kendrick School, the University Extension Lectures, and an Architectural Prize to the School of Science and Art.

A proposition was started early in the year for incorporating the Newbury Field Club with the Berks Archæological Society. But the very distinguished record of the Newbury Club, and its valuable contributions in the past to the History of the County, would have made

it a matter of regret had it ceased to maintain a separate autonomy. The two Societies are in close sympathy and alliance; while the Quarterly Journal, published by us, will always be open to contributions from other County Societies, and will form a link of union between them.

In other respects the History of the Society during the past year has been marked by several notable events.

Among these we may mention as of primary importance, the publication of the Quarterly Journal as a medium of communication on all subjects connected with Archæological discoveries, and as a permanent record of the Society's proceedings. It is to be hoped that every member of the Society will make a point of subscribing to this valuable serial.

Another gratifying fact is that the interesting Gatehouse, formerly the manorial court of the Abbot, as feudal Lord, has been granted for the use of the Society by the Corporation of Reading, on the condition that the Society will open it to the public, and commence the formation of a collection of Architectural Mouldings, and other relics of the ancient Abbey, which shall become the property of the Corporation. It will be, in future, one of the objects of the Society to act as custodians of the Gate-house, and periodically to give a description on the spot of the These ruins would become a source of Abbev Ruins. more intelligent interest to visitors if tablets were placed on the walls of the various apartments, denoting their object and use. It is much to be desired that the Tudor fireplace in the South Transept (beneath which is the broken Sarcophagus, supposed by some to be a portion of the tomb of King Henry I.) could be removed elsewhere, and the tomb placed in a position of greater honor and security.

As the study and cultivation of Architectural Science is one of the primary objects of this Society, the large room of the Gate-house will be used for the exhibition of models, plans, and architectural designs. Any qualified architect may exhibit; but architectural students (not yet qualified) must submit their drawings for the approval of the Architectural Referee, Mr. S. S. STALLWOOD, before they are placed on the walls.

Under the auspices of the Society, Mr. ARTHUR DASENT and the Rev. E. R. GARDINER have undertaken the work of compiling an Inventory of Church Plate in the County of Berks; the Committee hope that these gentlemen will have the cordial co-operation of the incumbents who have the charge of these sacred vessels, and anticipate that valuable and interesting results will accrue from their labours.

The Committee conclude with an expression of their warmest thanks to those gentlemen in the various divisions of the County who have acted as Local Secretaries and Correspondents, as well as to the numerous friends who have communicated to the Quarterly Journal valuable information on matters of Antiquarian interest.

P. H. DITCHFIELD,

Hon. Sec.



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Ralance Sheet for Year ending Michalmas, 1889.

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Audited by Mr. BRADLEY,
Wednesday, November 27th, 1889.