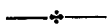
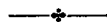


Berks Archæological and Architectural Society.



Patron:—H.M. THE QUEEN.
Offices:—THE ABBEY GATE, READING.



ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR 1893.



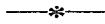
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PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY CHARLES SLAUGHTER, BLAGRAVE STREET.

1894.

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List of Officers.



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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

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THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD.
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MR. ERNEST WRIGHT.

Hon. Treasurer and Librarian :

REV. J. M. GUILDING, F.S.A., F.R.Hist. Soc.

Architectural Referee :

S. SLINGSBY STALLWOOD, Esq.

Local Correspondents.



ABINGDON	J. T. MORLAND, ESQ.
ASCOT	A. J. DASENT, ESQ.
FARINGDON	<i>(Vacant.)</i>
HUNGERFORD	MARTIN CAVE, ESQ.
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READING	MISS THOYTS.
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WANTAGE	REV. T. A. HOUBLON.
WINDSOR	<i>(Vacant.)</i>
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Berks Archaeological and Architectural Society.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR 1893.



IN pursuance of the duty entrusted to us we beg to lay before the Annual Meeting of Members a Report of the proceedings of the Society for the year 1893.

(I.) *General Occurrences of the Year.*

The past year has not been marked by events of exceptional importance. The restoration of the ancient Hospitium, now used as the University Extension College, has been effected under the careful and able superintendence of S. S. Stallwood, Esq., F.S.A., but we regret to observe that the corridor which was to have been constructed as a memorial to the revered memory of Mr. W. I. Palmer, formerly President of the College Council, by the working men of Reading, has been suspended for the present through want of funds. No other building deserving of special attention, has been erected during the year within this district. One church of note—that of Lambourne—has been almost completely restored, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the proposed addition to the Municipal Buildings of Reading may redeem the architectural mediocrity of its other portions.

The excavations at Silchester are still in progress under the direction of the Society of Antiquaries, and we are glad to report that substantial assistance has been rendered in Reading in this undertaking.

The publication of the registers of the ancient Parish of St. Mary, Reading, undertaken by the Rev. G. P. Crawford, a work of considerable value to the local antiquarian and genealogist, has now been completed; and it is proposed to undertake, in continuation, the registers of St. Laurence, dating from 1603.

It is probable that the Parish Councils or Local Government Act recently enacted, may raise the question as to the proper custody of these valuable Parochial documents. We strongly deprecate

their removal to a Metropolitan centre, like the Record Office, and are inclined to support the proposal that, if removed from their present custodians, they should be preserved in a special County Registry, under the care of the respective County Councils.

(II.) *Practical Work of our Society during the year 1893.*

Notwithstanding the long and serious illness of our valued Secretary (Rev. P. H. Ditchfield), from which he has now happily recovered, the Society has steadily pursued its three-fold objects, viz. (1) The contribution of papers on architectural subjects, and the personal inspection of historic sites; (2) the encouragement of architectural and historical study; (3) the publication of original articles in the *Quarterly Journal*.

We now proceed to give the results of our efforts in these several directions.

LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS.

Two Day Excursions and one Afternoon Excursion have been held during the past year.

On February 25th, an afternoon visit was made to the Abbey Ruins, in conjunction with the Oxford Architectural Society, when an interesting paper on the History of the Abbey was read by Jas. Parker, Esq., one of our Vice-Presidents, and the Oxford visitors were subsequently entertained in the Society's rooms. The Mayor of Reading (J. W. Martin, Esq.) honoured us with his presence on the occasion.

On June 28th, the Society visited the town of Guildford, inspecting the ancient Castle, St. Mary's Church and Archbishop Abbot's Hospital, together with St. Martha's Chapel, the Silent Pool, and other interesting places in the neighbourhood. By the courtesy of the Mayor and Corporation of Guildford, the Municipal Records, the Maces, and Plate were exhibited in the Town Hall.

On October 4th a visit was paid to the Royal Castle of Windsor, when the Rev. H. Edwards, Minor Canon, gave an historical account of the edifice. Permission was given by the Queen's Librarian (Mr. Holmes), to inspect the Queen's Library—a rare collection of choice books and historical MSS. After lunch the party was conducted by the Right Rev. Bishop Barry, over St. George's Chapel, the Chapter House, the Deanery, the Chapter Library, and Cardinal Wolsey's Tombhouse, now converted into the Albert Memorial Chapel; an opportunity was also afforded of inspecting the apartments of the Military Knights of Windsor in Henry VIIIth Gate-

way. This proved one of the most successful and numerous-attended excursions which the Society has undertaken, the party consisting of 78 persons.

The following lectures have been delivered during the Session :— On April 12th, by H. J. Mackinder, Esq., M.A., Principal of the University Extension College, upon the value and importance of the local element in historical study. On October 25th, by the Right Rev. Dr. Virtue, R.C. Bishop of Portsmouth, on some ancient books and MSS. formerly belonging to Reading Abbey, discovered at Woolhampton.

USE OF ABBEY GATEWAY.

The Society has endeavoured in every way to fulfil the duties entrusted to them by the Corporation of Reading in committing to their charge this interesting relic of our ancient Abbey. A large number of visitors, including several Americans, have been conducted over the Abbey Ruins and allowed to inspect the Gateway. The officers of the Society are prepared at any time to give a hearty welcome to schools or parties of working-men who wish to be conducted over the Ruins. Shortly after Christmas a large body of intelligent working-men connected with the Reading P.S.A. Society, was conducted over the Ruins by our Senior Vice-President, Chas. Smith, Esq., J.P., and entertained by him in the Abbot's Court Room at the Gateway. Much pleasure and enjoyment was expressed by them at their visit, and we trust that other working-men will follow the example. Enquiries are frequently made by strangers for information concerning the Abbey and other antiquities of the town, which entails a considerable amount of correspondence from our official head-quarters. In addition to these duties, it is our endeavour to utilise the large room over the Gateway as much as possible for educational purposes. The Students' Association have held their weekly meetings in this building for some years past, and three conversaziones have been held by them in the course of the year for social meeting and discussion.

We have also to mention that our Society has furnished the Corporation with the necessary information respecting the detailed portions of the Abbey Buildings, so as to affix notice boards for guidance of strangers.

PRIZES AND DONATIONS. LIBRARY.

The usual prizes have been awarded by the Society for an Historical Essay, and for Proficiency in Architectural Drawing. The drawing prize, for a lych gate, was awarded to Mr. A. E. Grant.

The history prizes were awarded to Miss E. Weldon, of the High School for Girls ; and in the Kendrick School, to Frank Guilding ; Miss Holmes and Miss Bertha Hicks. It has not been found practicable to grant any donations during the past year towards the restoration of public buildings, but the Society has contributed towards the Silchester Exploration Fund, and has also made some small additions to the Reference Library. The non-expansion of our Library is the less to be regretted because an important section of the Public Library is now devoted to works of a *local* character. The Society cannot omit this opportunity of expressing its obligation to W. H. Greenhough, Esq., F.R.S.L., for his unceasing efforts to make the local collection as complete and full as possible. A valuable collection of manuscript notes, on the Topography of Berkshire, compiled by Miss Thoyts, has recently been added to this section of the Public Library.

“QUARTERLY JOURNAL.”

The articles in this publication have been of unusual interest and the circulation of the Journal has considerably increased, but the cost of quarterly publication is such a heavy tax upon the resources of the Society that it is doubtful whether it would not be expedient to substitute for it in future an annual volume of transactions. The Inventory of Church Plate, conducted by Rev. E. R. Gardner and A. J. Dasent, Esq., is in progress, and will probably be published as a separate work. We may remind our Members that back numbers of the Journal may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary to complete their set.

(III.) *Financial Condition and Statistics of the Society.*

There is a slight decrease in the number of members on our books as compared with last year. The financial position is more satisfactory, although a small balance of £9 9s. 6d. is still due to the Treasurer. The Balance Sheet for 1893 has been audited by J. Okey Taylor, Esq., and will be printed in the Society's Report. The Balance Sheet for the *Quarterly Journal* appears in a separate account.

(IV.) *General Remarks and Conclusion.*

PROGRAMME FOR 1894.

Several papers have been promised for the current year by various friends, on the following subjects : “Tapestry and Ornamental Needlework of the Middle Ages” ; “The Value of Heraldry to the Genealogist and Antiquary” ; “Merrie England, or Sports and

Pastimes in former days"; "Monograph of the Knollys' Family"; "The Golden Book of Reading, or a Record of some past Benefactors"; "Notitia Parliamentaria, or the Origin and Growth of English Parliaments"; "Scenes and Events connected with the Reading Abbey and its Chapter House."

The following places (from which a selection may be made) are submitted by the Committee as the programme of Excursions for 1894. AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS, viz.: (1) Caversham; (2) Shottesbrooke; (3) Basingstoke and Basing; (4) Wargrave; (5) Aldermaston; (6) Bradfield and Theale. DAY EXCURSIONS: (1) London, St. Bartholomew's Priory, Charter House, Christ's Hospital, and Tower of London; (2) Town of Marlborough; (3) Chequers House, Bucks.

OBITUARY.

We have to record two losses by death among our Members during the past year, viz., that of H. H. Browne, Esq., of Binfield, who has long filled a useful and important position as an active magistrate and county gentleman; also that of Mr. Geo. Higgin, of Inthray, Maidenhead, an eminent engineer, and one who in every respect was a valuable acquisition to our Society.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

P. H. DITCHFIELD, *Hon. Secretary.*

J. M. GUILDING, *Treasurer.*

NOTE.

The above Report was approved, and ordered to be printed, at the Annual General Meeting, on March 16th, 1894.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

BALANCE SHEET, 1893.

1893.	Dr.	1893.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions	...	By Balance due to Treasurer	...	16	3	9
" Rent received from Students' Association	...	" Rates, Taxes, Gas and Caretaker	...	11	19	6
" "	...	" Printing and Stationery	...	6	16	0
" Balance due to Treasurer	...	" Prizes	...	2	12	6
		" Library Expenses	...	2	5	10
		" Loss on Excursions and Cost of Meetings	...	7	12	7
		" Repairs and Furnishing	...	2	2	6
		" Donation to Society of Antiquaries	...	1	0	0
		" Postage and Sundries	...	4	17	10
		" Assistant Secretary's Salary	...	6	0	0
				£61	10	6

Audited and found correct, March 15th, 1894.
J. OKEY TAYLOR.

QUARTERLY JOURNAL BALANCE SHEET.



1892 & 1893.		1891.	
To Amount of Subscriptions received from		By Amount owing to Publishers	
Members	...	Postage expended	...
Amount due to Publishers	...	Cost of Journal, 1892 & 1893	...
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
	23 10 6		29 5 4½
	35 2 10		2 19 8
	£58 13 4		26 8 3½
			£58 13 4