

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal

The Jubilee Meeting of the Berkshire Archæological Society.

By JOHN HAUTENVILLE COPE.

THE present number of our Journal is one of very great importance, for it is the Jubilee number, and fifty years in the life of any Society to have flowed on steadily and pleasantly is a record of which to be proud. We all feel and know that this is due to the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, who as Organising Secretary has for so many years ruled the destinies of the Society. When he became Secretary it was a small local Society, and the fact that it now numbers four hundred members is a fact that speaks for itself.

To aid Mr. Ditchfield in the Society he has had Mr. C. E. Keyser as President, who while fulfilling the task of President and presiding at every meeting, has himself contributed to the history of the county those excellent papers, most beautifully illustrated, giving a complete account of the churches of our county, which will always be handed down and valued by generations to come.

That the Jubilee meeting was a success goes without saying. It was attended by a very large number of members, and besides these many were invited, to give a chance to those who desired to show their appreciation of the work done by the Society and those responsible for its management.

At that meeting a direct appeal for additional members was made, with the result that the Society has now a very

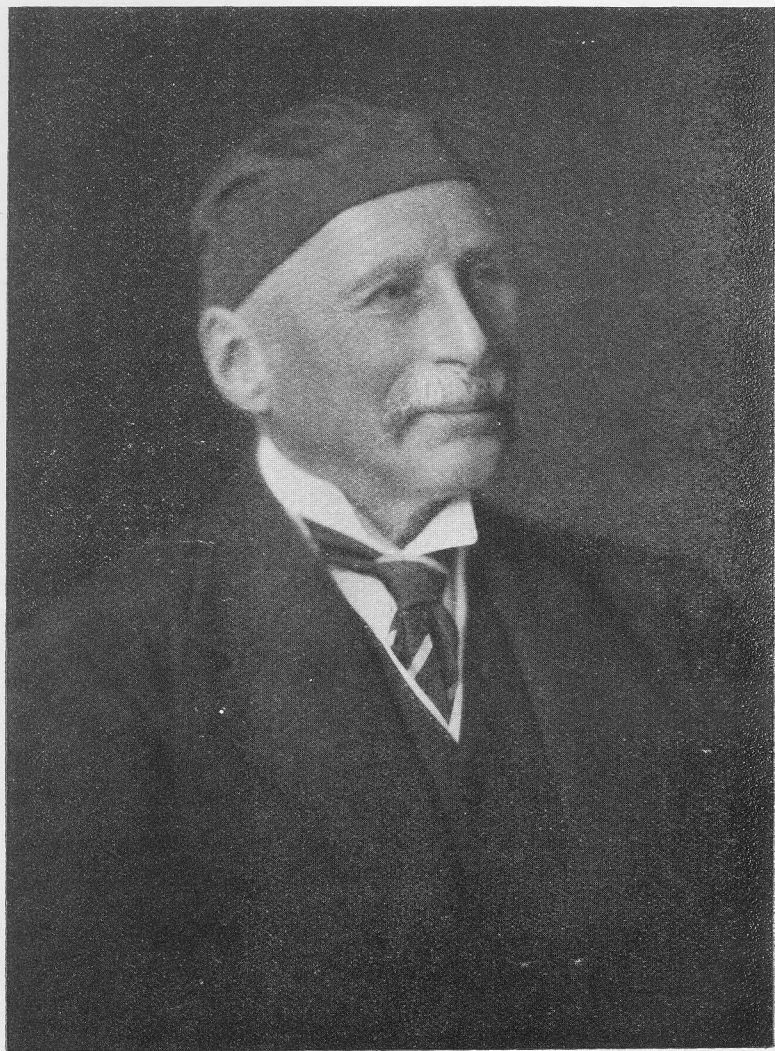
large membership in proportion to the area which it covers, and the Berkshire Archæological Society should now take its place as one of the pleasantest and best-managed Societies in England. It can truly call itself a County Society; its members come from all parts of the county, as well as from Oxfordshire, Hampshire, Bucks and Surrey, and letters have been received from neighbouring Societies offering good-will and a desire to work together.

The Jubilee Meeting took place on the 3rd December, 1921, with Mr. C. E. Keyser, the President, in the chair, and was the occasion of a special address presented to that gentleman as an acknowledgement of all he had done for the Society.

The Mayor of Reading, on behalf of the Society, made the presentation in a felicitous speech, and expressed the hope that Mr. Keyser would for many years continue his occupancy of the Presidential chair. The following is the words of the address, which was beautifully illuminated by Mr. Morley:—

To Charles Edward Keyser, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., J.P., D.L.—We, the members of the Berkshire Archæological Society, on the occasion of our Jubilee celebration, desire to express to you our hearty recognition and appreciation of the eminent services you have rendered to our Society, of which you have been, for a quarter of a century, President, and to which you have devoted so much of your valuable time and energy. We have many happy recollections of the instructive lectures you have given us, of your contributions to our Journal, and of the pleasurable excursions we have made together, which owe much of their success to your kindly leadership. We ask you therefore to accept this address as a small token of our esteem and affection, and we trust that you may be spared with health and strength to continue for many years your occupancy of the President's chair and your active and useful life.—Signed on behalf of the Committee and members, P. H. DITCHFIELD, Honorary Secretary.'

In returning thanks for this kind testimony on behalf of the subscribers, Mr. Keyser said it was an almost unique position for a man to celebrate his golden wedding and be the recipient of so many public expressions of goodwill as he had



CHARLES EDWARD KEYSER, M.A., F.S.A.,
President of the Berkshire Archaeological Society,
1898—1922.

January
1921

Berkshire Archaeological Society

Charles Edward Keeser Esq.

M.A.F.S.A. JR. DILL

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Berkshire Archaeological Society

on the occasion of our

Jubilee Celebration

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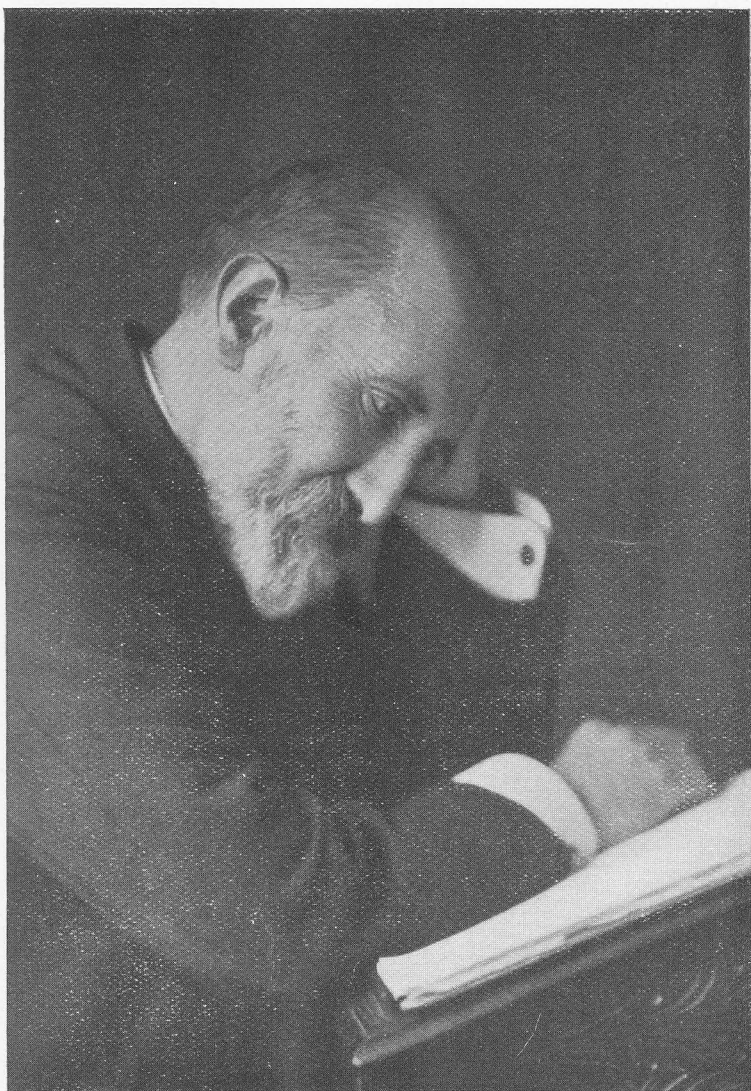
on behalf of the Committee and Members.

R.H. Ditchfield.

Vice Secretary.



ILLUMINATED ADDRESS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT AT THE JUBILEE
MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.



THE REV. P. H. DITCHFIELD, M.A., F.S.A.,
Hon. Secretary of the Berkshire Archæological Society,
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been in one short week. He was deeply touched by it, and most heartily tendered his thanks both to the members and the subscribers. Theirs was a living Society, and all it needed was to increase in numbers; but this he knew was fast being accomplished, and they had every reason to be proud of their Society. It was both his pleasure and his duty to have been requested by the members to make another presentation—that of a travelling clock—to his valued friend and colleague, Mr. Ditchfield. It was a little surprise prepared for the occasion, and one he knew would be valued for the kind thought which had prompted it.

The Honorary Secretary, the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, received quite an ovation when he rose to acknowledge the gift. It was, he said, a very delightful surprise, and one for which he thanked them sincerely. He called to mind ten years ago when the members of the Society had so generously given very handsome presents to himself and his wife, which were among their most valued possessions, and always reminded them of happy days and work done for the Society.

Mr. C. E. Keyser remarked there was a still further presentation to be made—a very important one, and near to the hearts of all present. For a long time his Gracious Majesty the King had been patron of their Society, and so had both King Edward and Queen Victoria, and on the occasion of the marriage of his Majesty's only daughter, the Society, as loyal subjects, desired to forward an address of congratulation to H.R.H. Princess Mary. This address was here to be shown to the members before being sent to Windsor Castle, and he thought all would agree with him in wishing Her Royal Highness every happiness.

'To Her Royal Highness Princess Mary.—May it please your Royal Highness to receive from the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, the Mayor of Reading, the President and members of the Berkshire Archæological Society, of which His Majesty the King is our honoured patron, here assembled at our Jubilee meeting, our cordial congratulations on your Royal Highness' engagement to Viscount Lascelles, our respectful homage, and good wishes for your Royal Highness' future happiness.'

One of the chief features of this meeting was a paper read

by Mr. Ditchfield, giving an account of the Berkshire Archæological Society from its foundation :—

THE STORY OF THE BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

‘ Let us now praise great men and our fathers who begat us.’ These words of the preacher seem applicable to us when we are trying to recall the memories of the founders of our Society, who fifty years ago laid the foundation stones of the structure we prize to-day. Fifty years is a long period. Few of those remain who gallantly launched our bark upon the waters in the year of grace 1871. Societies, like human beings, have many ups and downs in the course of their careers. We have had our times of activity and stagnation, of vision bright and clear, and of lethargy and dulness; but like old men at the end of a long life, we are perhaps a little thankful that we are still alive, that ‘ our sight is not dimmed, nor our natural force abated.’

It is curious that those who have no ancestors except our common father, Adam, and are not quite sure who their grandfather was, are always very eager to establish a pedigree, and to discover their ancestors. This search for ancestors when we do not possess a very assured pedigree is a human weakness, to which even learned Societies are liable, and our own Society has not been free from the temptation. In the year 1840 there was founded a very learned institution called the Berkshire Ashmolean Society, named after Elias Ashmole, the learned antiquary of Oxford. It could boast of several illustrious names on its list of Council and members. It had as President the Earl of Abingdon, Vice-Presidents the Marquess of Downshire and the Archdeacon of Berkshire, Edward Berens; John Bligh Monck was its Director, Dr. Alnatt, Charles Blandy (Treasurer)—we still have a member of the family on our list—John Bruce, F.S.A., Adam Duff (we are glad to have another gentleman of that name as a member), Charles Eyston, of East Hendred, I think our oldest Berkshire family, James Orchard Haliwell, F.R.S., F.S.A., Philip Pewsey (another old family of the shire), John Richard, Junr., F.S.A., and Thomas Noon Talfourd, Sergeant-at-Law, M.P., one of Reading’s most famous citizens. Also we find William

Thoms, F.S.A., Dr. Woodhouse and the Rev. Samuel Yates. You see the list bristles with F.S.A.'s, and the Society might well claim to be learned. They paid a large subscription, but the institution had a great defect. They did not admit ladies, a fault that we have in these days rectified. Moreover they produced three learned works, small quartos, neatly bound in black cloth: *The Chronicle of Abingdon*; *Laud's Benefactions to Berkshire*, and the *Unton Inventories*, edited by that great antiquary, John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. They had for their badge a portrait of Ashmole, surrounded by a garland with a scroll inscribed 'The Berkshire Ashmolean Society, founded 1841.'

So you see, ladies and gentlemen, that it was an ancestor to be proud of. Now I was always told—and I think my old and valued friend, the late Rev. J. M. Guilding, Vicar of St. Lawrence's Church, was the author and deviser of the legend—that our Society was lineally descended from that very aristocratic antiquarian institution, and I have always tried to believe it. Indeed, with some degree of fortitude and assurance, Mr. Guilding recorded in the Report of 1890 that that year was an *Annus Mirabilis*, the Society having attained its Jubilee, and that during the fifty years of its existence it might claim to have contributed is no small degree, both by its meetings and publications, towards promoting the study of local history and antiquities of the Royal County. That was all very well, but there is an awkward gap between 1841 and 1871, and recently I have it on the authority of one of our founders, who happily survives, that those who inaugurated the Berks Archæological Society had no idea of reviving that ancient body, of the very existence of which they were profoundly ignorant, but thought that they were starting *de novo*. However, perhaps they built better than they knew. Ours is a Berkshire County Society as the old Ashmolean was; and so perhaps it is not a crime or false heraldry to link together the two pedigrees.

At any rate our Society commenced its career in 1871. It owes its origin to a band of young architects who laid the foundations of the building which has survived the storm and stress of fifty years. Their pioneers were all Fellows of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the chief of them were Frederick Albury, an old friend of mine and also of many

others here present; Charles Smith (senior), who took great interest in the budding Society and was its first President; E. J. Shrewsbury, Hon. Secretary, who was succeeded by William James Martin, and then by Mr. Albury. The late Mr. William James Martin was the brother of Mr. Alderman Martin, who was also an original member and took part in the excursions. Amongst the company were also Alfred Drewe, Fred Goddard, and John James Cooper, who were articulated pupils in Mr. Smith's office, wherein the idea of founding the Society was first mooted. Mr. George Webb was also a founder, and he and Mr. Shrewsbury and Alderman Martin are the only survivors of the original fraternity. I have much pleasure in stating that the Committee, recognising the debt we owe to these gentlemen, have elected them honorary members for life. Mr. Shrewsbury we are glad to welcome here to-day, and he has been good enough, and also Mr. Martin, to tell me of these early days, of which I have been unable to discover any but oral tradition.

The study of architecture and archæology was in 1871 exercising men's minds. Mr. Joyce had begun his excavations at Silchester, and laid bare the forum and basilica of the old Roman city. One of the first excursions of the Society was made to that interesting site, when they were honoured by the presence of those great Oxford antiquaries, the Messrs. Parker, father and son, who acted as cicerones to the party. The work begun by Mr. Joyce was followed later by the sixteen years' devoted labour of the Society of Antiquaries, the results of which you see around you in this building, and these have made the Reading Museum famous as one of the chief depositories of Roman relics in southern England. Another stimulus to antiquarian research was the existence of a flourishing Society at the other end of the county, the Newbury District Field Club, which showed great activity, and had some distinguished names on its list of members. Foremost amongst them was Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., who has been for so long its leading spirit. It is impossible to estimate the great debt which Berkshire owes to Mr. Walter Money for all that he has done for Berkshire antiquities. His great work on the 'History of Newbury,' his other books on the 'Battles of Newbury,' Donnington Castle, on the history of Hungerford

and other Berkshire places, constitute abundant evidence of his patient toil and research, and we are proud to welcome him amongst us to-day.

It will have been gathered that our Society was more architectural than archaeological in its early days. The advent of Mr. William Ravenscroft, F.S.A., and the Rev. J. M. Guilding greatly strengthened the budding institution, which had for its patrons Canon Charles Kingsley (a very honoured name), Mr. Higford Burr, of Aldermaston Court (you will observe that Aldermaston comes into our early as well as our later annals—we cannot get away from it!), and the distinguished architect, Mr. Alfred Waterhouse. Other names that occur were Mr. Joseph Morris, Mr. J. S. Dodd, Mr. W. F. Blandy, Mr. H. H. Jones and Mr. J. Okey Taylor.

As in our day, so did our ancestors; the Society made excursions to places of historic interest, and visited many spots and buildings to which we in later times have often made pilgrimages. Besides Silchester they journeyed to Sonning, White Waltham, Shottesbrook, Wallingford, Goring and elsewhere, and I have no doubt that many learned discourses were delivered and many excellent luncheons and teas enjoyed.

I need not say that the arrival of Mr. Guilding as Vicar of St. Lawrence's, was a God-send to the Society. He was the life and soul of the institution for many years. A great enthusiast, he used to inspire others with a like zeal. Always a ready speaker, he could discourse easily upon most topics relating to history and archæology, although his conclusions did not always agree with those of modern scholars. When I was urging the Reading Corporation to erect tablets on the walls of the Abbey ruins for the guidance of visitors, in order to make sure that the identification was correct I secured the assistance of Mr. St. John Hope (afterwards Sir William Hope); and there was a great battle royal between the two as to whether the lower part of the ruins, wherein we enacted our pageant, was the kitchen or the dormitory. However, the Society owes more than it can realise to Mr. Guilding. He was always eager to enhance its reputation, increase its usefulness and magnify its importance. In all this he was supported by the cordial co-operation of Mr. Ravenscroft, who acted as Treasurer, and continued his good offices in my time. We all

missed him very much when he left Reading and migrated to Milford, but his son for several years carried on his work as Treasurer.

Another great name in the annals of our Society is that of Mr. S. Slingsby Stallwood. He performed for many years the duties of Hon. Secretary, and did immense service. I am not sure, but I believe that it was mainly owing to him and to Dr. Stevens that the Silchester collection found a home in Reading. He raised a subscription for the preservation of Ockwells Manor, and with his accustomed energy arranged meetings and excursions. The upper room of the old Athenaeum Club was then the head-quarters of the Society. Mr. Stallwood's name (we congratulate him on his recovery from his late severe illness) should be remembered with gratitude.

Again I must revert to Mr. Shrewsbury, who after a sojourn in Wales, returned to Berkshire in 1875, and settled at Maidenhead, where he acted as Local Secretary. He assisted Mr. Guilding in organising excursions to such far-distant places as St. Albans and Hatfield. Subsequently he founded the Maidenhead Field Club, and the two Societies made a joint excursion to Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon, mustering a grand company of 150 members and chartering a special train. The Societies evidently showed no lack of activity at that time.

Another name of that period must be mentioned, Mr. James Rutland, the Parish Clerk of Taplow, who had a great genius for collecting objects of antiquity, and founded a private museum. He was at one time Secretary; but he was not a very literate person, and could not write a well-worded letter; but Mr. Guilding was quite equal to the occasion, and wrote most of his letters for him.

The officers apparently thought that if the Society would discharge its proper functions it must publish something. So in 1878 they began to publish volumes of Transactions, of which they issued four, each containing two years' papers, viz. 1878-79, 1879-80, 1880-81, 1881-82. Some of them have long been out of print, and members are fortunate who possess copies of them. Amongst the papers I find an admirable account of 'Norman Architecture,' by Mr. Stallwood, enriched by many of his own drawings; 'Ancient Earthcones in Britain,'

by the late Major Cooper King, author of 'A History of Berkshire'; and 'Relics of Early Races in the Upper Test Valley and in Thames Valley,' by Dr. Joseph Stevens. It would be impossible to over-estimate the value of the archaeological work done by Dr. Stevens. He was the first curator of this Museum, the pioneer of the study of prehistoric man, who inspired others with his own keenness, and many of us will readily acknowledge how much we owe to him for his help and encouragement.

Besides accounts of excursions—in 1880 our forefathers wandered as far as Cirencester—I find an excellent paper, by Major Cooper King, on 'Arms and Armour,' which was followed by an exhibition of the same, most of the specimens belonging to Mr. W. L. Nash, who then lived in Reading, was for a time Secretary, became an F.S.A., and published extracts from the Registers of St. Giles' Church.

Amongst our Presidents I must not omit the name of Sir Paul Hunter, of Beech Hill, who died in 1890, and was succeeded by Sir George Russell, of Swallowfield. His duties as M.P. for East Berkshire and manifold occupations prevented him from presiding at our meetings very often; but he always took an interest in its welfare, and Lady Russell was a most zealous supporter. She has the genius of a genealogist, and wrote that very charming book, 'Swallowfield and its Owners,' the greater part of which was first published in our Journal. Some of us may remember our pleasant visit to Swallowfield Park in 1891, when we were kindly entertained, and Lady Russell read to us a portion of her history.

I came to Reading in 1880, and remained as curate of Christ Church for six years. During those six years I heard little of the Society, and was too engrossed with many clerical duties to take any part in its proceedings. It was not until I retired to Barkham in 1886 that I was able to help, and I was soon compelled by the strenuous compulsion of Mr. Guilding to undertake the duties of Hon. Secretary, and somehow or other I have managed to carry on ever since. In 1888 I urged upon Mr. Guilding and the Committee the importance of issuing a Journal; so in 1889 the Quarterly Journal was born, a modest publication of about twenty-four pages, and on looking back I find its pages not devoid of interest, as they recall

many old friends, and information that otherwise might have been lost.

We had still lived in our modest room in the Athenæum, but in 1890 Mr. Guilding, with his persuasive tongue, managed to induce the Reading Corporation to hand over to us the Abbey Gatehouse. We were very proud when we entered into possession of that noble building, so fitting for the abode of an Association that devotes itself to the study of the past. We continued to have our home in the Abbey Gate for many years, but alas! after some time 'a new king arose who knew not Joseph,' and we were saddled with a heavy rent, with rates and taxes, &c., and most of our income was expended on our home. So by the kindness of the Principal of the College we were able to make our headquarters there, where we have received every kindness and consideration.

Just before migrating in 1889, at a meeting at the Athenæum, Mr. H. J. Reid, F.S.A., was announced to read a paper on 'Cumnor Place.' The Assizes were being held in Reading, with Lord Coleridge as Judge, and Mr. Guilding, with his usual persuasiveness, contrived to interest Lady Coleridge in the lecture. Being a lady who must be obeyed, she compelled the Judge to close his court earlier than usual, and then sally forth after dinner to hear the lecture. I expect he was horribly bored, but he and Lady Coleridge professed to take some interest in the proceedings; and we got a speech out of the Lord Chief Justice, who propounded the riddle as to the origin of the proverb, *Quid hoc ad Iphicli boves*, in Sir Walter Scott's *Kenilworth*, which has remained unsolved to the present day. I pass it on for our younger members to find an answer. I remember that I was horridly nervous when I had to make a speech before such a master of oratory as the late Lord Chief Justice Coleridge.

In 1891 Her Majesty Queen Victoria graciously accepted the office of Patron, and moreover was kind enough to send us a donation of £5 to our funds. We greatly appreciated this high honour, which has been renewed by His Majesty King Edward VII and by His Majesty King George V. H.R.H. Prince Christian in 1890 also honoured us by becoming Vice-Patron, together with the Lord-Lieutenant, Lord Wantage;

and we still have the pleasure of welcoming our present Lord-Lieutenant as Vice-Patron.

As one reads our records of the past we notice the names of many active members who have read papers before the Society, presided at our meetings, and done good work for the advancement of archæological knowledge. It is impossible within the limits of our time this afternoon to record all these. Our objects have always been the publication of original documents, the examination of historic sites and ancient buildings, the encouragement of historical and architectural study, the preservation and restoration of historical monuments, to collect and publish information on topography, genealogy, heraldry, numismatics, prehistoric remains, and all matters comprised under the head of archæology; and as I glance through the Journal I think that we have not been altogether unfaithful to our mission. We would continually impress upon the members that a body which contributes nothing by its researches to the elucidation of county history and antiquarian lore, which makes the fatal mistake of allowing its meetings to degenerate into pleasant social gatherings, cannot long retain the interest of the public, or deserve any lasting support from intelligent residents within the district. Our work must be tested by its results. And as I look back I can find some evidences of this. We have organised exhibitions of brass-rubbings, of prints and drawings, of church plate. In the nineties a scheme was inaugurated for making an inventory of church plate. I found that two experts were eager to undertake this work, Mr. Arthur Dasent and the Rev. E. R. Gardiner, so we divided the county between them; but Mr. Dasent's notes were destroyed in the fire of his father's house, and Mr. Gardiner died before his task was completed. I am very glad that the scheme has been revived by Mr. Walker, late Secretary of the Yorkshire Society, who to our great advantage has come to live amongst us.

The Quarterly Journal survived for six years, but it was costly, the modest subscription of 2/6 a year was not paid, and the Society had to face a debt. Other Societies in the three counties seem to have experienced a similar fate, when Mr. James Parker invited all the Secretaries of Societies to visit him in Oxford, and to discuss the project of founding the

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal. I was requested to act as Editor, and was responsible not only for its contents, but also for its finances. It was not a very lucrative venture, as many people forgot to pay their subscriptions. However, I struggled on till twenty-four volumes were issued, and then the Berks Society kindly relieved me and purchased the Journal, which is presented free to all its members.

The year 1898 brought its sorrows. Early in the year Sir George Russell, our President, passed away, and ere its close Mr. Guilding was taken from us, also one Life Member, Mr. Richard Benyon, the predecessor of our Lord-Lieutenant. Your Secretary felt very lonely, and we did not see how we could carry on. However, we heard that a good gentleman had come to be our neighbour at Aldermaston, that he was very keen about archæology, that he was an F.S.A., belonged to several learned Societies, had written a book on mural paintings, and that he was just the gentleman to occupy the position of our President. I wrote to him, and all was well. Thus for twenty-three years Mr. Keyser has presided over our Society, and we all know what a good President he is.

A great work associated with the Society is the Victoria History of Berkshire, of which your Secretary is joint Editor with Mr. Page. Two volumes have been published, but the troubles of the war and the stringency of money have hitherto prevented the publication of the two remaining volumes, though they are in print.

It is impossible to record the history of this long period. We have earned the character of an active Society. Many Societies content themselves with one meeting and excursion during the year, and a very modest report. We have always arranged five or six lectures during the winter session, and held two or three excursions. During recent years, through the inspiration of the President, we have held a two days' excursion to some rather distant centre, and I should not be surprised if he will want us to extend the time to a week! One of these two-days' excursions I have cause to remember very well. It was to the ancient city of Gloucester, where you were all good enough to present me with a beautiful silver bowl, an illuminated address, and a charming jewel and pendant for my wife, for which I am ever grateful; and when

sometimes the work is heavy and one is inclined to be discouraged, I can read your kind words of appreciation, see your gifts, and take heart again.

As I look back at our records I remark the names of many who did yeoman service. The late Lord Saye and Sele, the Palmer family, the Right Hon. George William Palmer, who defrayed the cost of those four volumes of 'Reading Records,' edited by Mr. Guilding, Mrs. Palmer, the Rev. Alan Cheales, who took so keen an interest in our work, Mr. Arthur Sutton, Mr. Harold Peake, our learned anthropologist, Mrs. Climensson, whose death we deplore, the late Rev. F. T. Wethered, the enthusiastic Vicar of Hurley, Mr. Shrubsole, our great geologist, Rev. J. E. Field, historian of Wallingford, Mr. and Mrs. Cope (whom we used to know in our earlier records as Miss Emma Thoyts), Mr. Hewett, who enjoyed the privilege of discovering a Romano-British village, and many others who have done good work and true for the good of archæology in general and this Society in particular.

But it is not to the past only we have to look. It is to the present and the future. We aspire to be in reality as well as in name the County Society. We notice such Societies as Somerset, or Sussex, or Leicestershire, which number three hundred or more members. Our Society has been hampered by the existence of smaller bodies in some of the chief towns, which prevent the formation of one big Society. During recent years, by the exertions and enthusiasm of Mr. d'Almaine, of Abingdon, a very flourishing Branch has been formed in that district. We should like to see similar ones in other towns. We are affiliated to Societies in Windsor and Wallingford, but that is not the same as having one large County Association. We have wonderfully increased our membership recently, but we want more. In these days it is hard to pay one's way. Some Societies have solved the problem by doubling their subscriptions. We should prefer to double our members. The subscription is only 10/- a year, or 15/- for husband and wife, and for this the Journal is presented gratis. You will find some forms in your chairs, and perhaps those who would like to join will fill them up and return to Mr. Morley or to me. We want local secretaries in different parts of the county. Just lately a new Branch is being formed

in South-East Berkshire, under the auspices of Mr. Cope, who has done us good service by acting as Treasurer for seven years and assisting in the Editorship of the Journal, and similar Branches might be formed elsewhere. We should like to introduce into the schools of the county, especially the secondary schools, the study of archæology and history, and for some time we gave prizes for historical essays and architectural drawings.

Several of our members have distinguished themselves and added credit to us by their special studies. In prehistoric antiquities Mr. Treacher has followed in the footsteps of Dr. Stevens, and is one of the chief authorities and collectors of flint implements. He has achieved fame by finding the largest palæolithic flint in England, now in the South Kensington Museum, a model of which may be seen here. Mr. George Smith has also a very fine collection of flints and also of relics of the bronze age. Our President specialises in ecclesiastical architecture, of which he is a great authority. The Rev. J. E. Field and now Mr. Morley have worked diligently on memorial brasses. Mr. d'Almaine has undertaken the study of megalithic remains, especially Weyland's Smithy, about which he has made some valuable discoveries and, largely at his own expense, conducted important excavations. Our President by excavations discovered the site of the ancient Bishops' Palace at Sonning. Dr. Hurry has taken under his special care the Abbey of Reading, and published several important books upon it. Moreover, he carried out some carved heads at the Abbey Gate, reared the cross to the memory of Henry I, and promoted the Octocentenary Festival of the Abbey foundation. His good work in the town will always be remembered. Mr. Cope is beginning the study of camps and earthworks. Mr. Preston loves to delve in old documents and bring to light their buried treasures, Mrs. Cope in parish registers and heraldry, and many others have set themselves some particular work to do which adds to archæological knowledge and gives lustre to our Society.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, it is time for me to close. There is much else that I should like to record, much gratitude I should like to express to all who have helped us in the past and in the present—to our President for all that he has done

for us, and with whom it has always been a pleasure to work; to Mr. Cope, who is a very old friend who is always ready to help me in every possible way; to many generations of Mayors and our present Mayor; to the officials of the Museum and Library, Mr. Colyer and Mr. Greenhough; to Mr. Morley, our very efficient Treasurer, who has assisted us greatly in arranging this public meeting to-day and the exhibition. Let me close these remarks by expressing the hope that the Berkshire Archæological Society may continue to flourish in the future as it has done in the past, and prove itself worthy of the Royal County and of our august Patron.

The Mayor of Reading congratulated the Society on its long and interesting history and on the celebration of its jubilee. He had for many years taken an interest in its welfare. He recalled how, as a young man, an articulated pupil, he had entered a competition promoted by the Society for drawings of buildings in Berkshire. He did not win the first year's prize, but the following year, when Mr. Charles Smith handed him the first prize, it was one of the proudest moments of his life. As Chairman of the Museum and Art Gallery Committee, he had done everything to preserve records and pictures of old buildings in the town. Old buildings were passing away and were soon forgotten, and it was one of the objects of the Society to preserve such records for all time.

The next speaker—the Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor—said he wished with much emphasis to endorse all that the Mayor of Reading had said, but he desired especially to impress upon them that the most beautiful chapel within the county—St. George's Chapel, Windsor—was in imminent danger. If once the roof of that magnificent chapel really gave way it would be beyond repair. An appeal for funds had been delayed owing to the bad trade of the country since the war, but this coming year they would be faced with a difficulty of finding the sum of £15,000, and by calling the attention of the members to the serious state of the chapel he trusted they would help him with this important work.

The Lord Lieutenant of the county proposed and Lord Wyfold seconded a vote of thanks to the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield and the Dean of Windsor for their interesting addresses.

To this Mr. Ditchfield responded, and he at the same time proposed votes of thanks to the Lord Lieutenant and Lord Wyfold for their attendance that afternoon.

Dr. Hurry, who has done so much to preserve the ruins of Reading Abbey, seconded the votes of thanks.

The proceedings terminated with tea.

The following articles were exhibited :—

- *Palæolithic Implement (model of). The largest ever found in this country. The original was discovered at Taplow by Mr. Ll. Treacher, F.G.S., who presented it to the Natural History Museum (British Museum), South Kensington.
- *A number of fine Palæolithic Implements, specially selected from the Reading Museum Collection. All from Berkshire.
Polished Flint Hatchet (Neolithic), eight inches in length. Found at Highfield, Wokingham, at three feet below surface. Loaned by Commander G. W. Gregorie, R.N.
- *Polished Quartzite Hatchet and a roughly chipped Flint Hatchet. Found at six feet deep, with charred wood and animal bones on Clapper's Island, Reading.
- *Flint Hammerheads (Neolithic) from Berkshire.
- *Flint Saw-knife (Neolithic) from Reading.
- *Flint Chisel (Neolithic), five inches in length, made from a flake and ground at the cutting edge on both sides. From the Thames at Hurley.
- *Flint Chisel (Neolithic), six inches in length, polished at cutting edge. Found about eighteen inches from surface on one of the islands in Englefield lake.
- *Arrow-head Flint (Bronze Age), a particularly fine specimen. Found at the bottom of a well with human bones at Long Wittenham, by Mr. H. J. Hewett. Loaned by the finder.
- A series of Flint Arrow-heads (Bronze Age) from Berkshire.
- *Beaker (Drinking Cup), richly ornamented with dotted lines forming diagonals. Found at Theale.
- Two Bronze Spear-heads with projecting side pins, unique shape. Found in the Thames at Bray. Loaned by Mr. G. W. Smith.
- *Sepulchral Urn (Bronze Age) containing cremated human remains. From a tumulus at Sunningdale.

*Two Boat-shaped Brooches of Italian type, dating in Italy fifth century B.C., probably late survivals in this country. Both found in Reading.

*A group of Pottery of the thirteenth century to the sixteenth, consisting of Costrels, Pitchers, Bottles, &c., all found in Berkshire.

Large Pewter Dishes and other interesting objects. Lent by Mr. A. Petrocokino.

*All from Reading Museum.

One Late Norman Capital and Piece Shaft, one Early English Capital and Piece Shaft. Both from Abingdon. Loaned by Mr. A. B. West.

An Anglo-Saxon Saint's Bell, c. 700 A.D., found at Bradfield. Loaned by Mr. A. Radford.

Plan of a Norman Motte at West Woodhay and a Flint Celt. Loaned by Mr. B. Williams.

A fine Neolithic Flint Implement found locally. Loaned by Mr. A. T. Heelas.

Wooden Platters and Pewter from Abingdon Corporation, &c. Per Mr. H. G. W. d'Almaine.

Drawings, &c., of Old Tiles. Loaned by Mr. H. Blatch.

Number of Large Photographs of Norman Doorways. Loaned by Mr. C. E. Keyser.

Brass Memorial Plate (1605), about thirty Rubbings from Berkshire Memorial Brasses, Carved Stone Head from Reading Abbey. Loaned by Mr. H. T. Morley.

Old Plans and Maps, &c. Lent by Mr. L. Treacher.

Old Berkshire Deeds with Seals. Mrs. Tyndall Heelas.

CORRECTION.

In Volume 26, plate 70, for Inglesham Church read Eaton Hastings Church.