

## Obituary.

### THE LATE HENRY WILSON, M.A., F.S.A.

The Council of the Royal Archaeological Institute have received with very great regret, which they are sure will be shared by all the members, the information of the sudden death by accident of their esteemed colleague, Mr. Henry Wilson. He joined the Institute in 1893, was elected a member of the Council in 1898, and remained a member of that body until his death. For some time he undertook the duties of Honorary Editor of this *Journal*, and he accepted the arduous post of Secretary for the meeting at Tunbridge Wells in 1905. As he was then verging on his seventy-third year, those who know the labour and strain involved in the duties of that office will appreciate the mental and physical vigour displayed by him up to the last.

Returning from Catford by bicycle to his home at Farnborough in Kent at 11 o'clock on the night of the 8th January, 1907, he came upon some furniture vans at a part where the road was being repaired, and, in endeavouring to guide his bicycle along the narrow space allowed, was thrown under the wheels of a van and instantly killed.

Mr. Wilson was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1899, but it does not appear that he contributed either to the proceedings of that Society or to our *Journal* any formal communication of importance. At our meeting on 1st April, 1896, he exhibited a book of sketches of churches in Cheltenham and its neighbourhood and on 3rd March, 1897, a small Roman bronze figure found at Sidcup. His presence was always a welcome feature of our annual meetings; and in the social intercourse and informal discussions which are so pleasant an incident of those meetings, he was ever ready to give his fellow members the benefit of his great learning, his retentive memory, and his ready eloquence.

Mr. Wilson was born at Banks Hall, Barnsley, and educated at Catherine Hall (now St. Catherine's College), Cambridge, where he took the degree of M.A. After leaving Cambridge he followed the profession of a school-master, and for some years had a private school at Malvern. He removed to Farnborough in 1891. He had become a member of the British Association in 1883. In social politics he was a strong individualist, and a frequent correspondent of the *Times* newspaper, and contributor to the *Liberty Review*. An article of his on the subject of the Carnegie millions appears in that Review for January, and may be referred to as an excellent example of his literary style. E. W. B.

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#### THE LATE JOHN THOMAS MICKLETHWAITE, F.S.A.

The Institute has suffered a serious loss by the death of Mr. John Thomas Micklethwaite, one of its Vice-Presidents and an active member for thirty-one years. Having written briefly, in *The Architectural Review*, what I had to say of him as an architect, as a fellow pupil in architecture, and a friend of forty years' standing, I hoped that someone more competent would have spoken of him as an archaeologist. It may be safely said that never did archaeology, or more strictly ecclesiology, enter so largely into the professional practice of an architect as in Micklethwaite's career. Instead of its being a recreation or a study to which only the hours snatched from business could be given, it was with him an essential part of the profession and business of his life; and sound and good as his architecture was, it is, I believe, rather as an ecclesiologist that he will be chiefly remembered.

While various works were being carried out in St. Albans Abbey Church in 1872, under the direction of Mr. George Gilbert Scott, Micklethwaite, who was then still engaged in his office, assisted in the work, and it was he who, when his attention was called by the clerk

of works, John Chapple, to numerous beautifully-wrought fragments in Purbeck marble that had been found, discerned that they could be none other than the *dissecta membra* of the Saint's Shrine, and took the greatest delight in piecing them together and re-erecting the shrine as it may now be seen. This find formed the subject, I believe, of Micklethwaite's first communication to this Society,<sup>1</sup> he being deputed by his chief, at short notice, to take his place at one of the monthly meetings. I have before me a letter from Mr. Albert Way, dated August 16th, 1872, returning "acknowledgements and thanks for the memoir on the Shrine." Micklethwaite was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries so long ago as February, 1870, shortly after reading a very complete paper on the little chapel of St. Erasmus in Westminster Abbey Church,<sup>2</sup> which had previously escaped notice or had been regarded as merely a vestibule to the larger chapel of St. John Baptist to which it has been made to open. The accompanying plan was reproduced from *The Spring Gardens Sketch Book*.<sup>3</sup> He was elected a member of the Institute in 1875, and his contributions to the *Journal* were afterwards as follow: Vol. xxxiii, "Notes on the Abbey Buildings at Westminster"; Vol. xxxv, "Well in Beverley Minster," and an important memoir on "Parish Churches in 1548"; Vol. xxxviii, "High Side Windows in Chancels"; Vol. xxxix, "Crypts at Hexham and Ripon"; Vol. xl contains his address on Architecture; xlv, "Ankerhold at Bengeo"; Vol. xlv, "Pigeon-houses in Churches." In Vol. xlix, he departed from his usual subjects and contributed a paper on "Indoor Games in

<sup>1</sup> *Archaeological Journal*, xxix, 201-211.

<sup>2</sup> Printed in *Archaeologia*, xlv, 93-99.

<sup>3</sup> Micklethwaite was one of the founders in February, 1866, of the Spring Gardens Sketching Club, formed chiefly of pupils and others who were then or had been connected with Mr. Scott's office. Eight volumes imp. fol. of lithographs, chiefly scale drawings, were produced during the existence of the club, which continued until May, 1890. It was the first enterprise of the kind in England, and the *Architectural*

*Association Sketch Book* and others were started in imitation of it. The plates and accompanying notes were printed for members only, who never exceeded 72, so that the volumes have become scarce. Micklethwaite's contributions illustrated: Chasuble in possession of Rev. E. Moore; Netley Abbey, west front of Chapter House and part of Nave; Rochester Cathedral, Rood Screen, etc.; Pontefract, Rock Excavation; Wakefield, Screen in All Saints Church; Helpringham Church; Westminster, Ashburnham House; St. Albans Abbey, Choir.

the Middle Ages." In Vol. li came another important paper on "Westminster Abbey Buildings"; and in Vols. liii, lv, "Saxon Church-building," the subject to which he gave most of his leisure in his later years. Until the year of his death, I believe, he hardly ever missed the annual country meetings, and he frequently spoke on these occasions and described subjects visited, in addition to taking part in discussions at the monthly meetings. At the Tunbridge Wells meeting in 1905, he made some remarks on the churches of Etchingham, Penshurst and West Malling, of which last he had previously rebuilt the nave. He was a patriotic Yorkshireman and contributed papers to the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*. No one knew more of the great Yorkshire Abbeys than he, and he was always willing to impart his knowledge. I was with him on one occasion in the eighties when he acted as guide in a visit paid to Rievaulx Abbey by the directors of the London and North-Western and North-Eastern Railways (who were, and perhaps are still, in the habit of spending a day together in the holiday season every year), and I remember Micklethwaite, in speaking of the Cistercian Order, comparing them for their simplicity and contempt for the vanities of the more ornate architecture with the Quakers, to the evident amusement of some of the North-Eastern directors, the board of that company including more than one member of the Society of Friends. He made a special study of the Carthusians and their buildings, and was so widely known as an authority on this Order in England that the Prior of a French community settled in Sussex applied to him for assistance in a history of his Order upon which he was engaged.

Micklethwaite was connected with the St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society, the Henry Bradshaw Society and the Alcuin Club. For the last he wrote "The Ornaments of the Rubric," which attracted much notice and has passed through three editions.

In 1874 he brought out his "Modern Parish Churches," which still continues to be the text-book for architects and church-fitters. He was a principal contributor during its short life to *The Sacristy*; he also wrote

occasionally and reviewed for *The Athenaeum*, *The Academy*, *The Church Times*, and other periodicals.

Many distinguished antiquaries, both at home and abroad, were among his correspondents, and much of his time was occupied ungrudgingly in replying at length to the numerous queries that were put to him. A North of England dignitary prefaced a letter propounding several questions thus: "As you are so learned that you know everything and so simple that you tell others what you know . . ." And this was not all of it flattery.

Although he never joined the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, he was as zealous as any member of that Society in the same cause and was frequently consulted by its committee and sometimes recommended as architect to those who applied to this Society for advice. The late William Morris, whom he knew well, wrote to him in December, 1881, asking him to join the S.P.A.B. and become a member of the committee, feeling sure "you would be hearty in the cause against the destroying Philistine." He was associated in 1896, both with the Society of Antiquaries and the S.P.A.B. in their protests against the proposed demolition and rebuilding of portions of the west front of Peterborough Cathedral, when after much correspondence both protests were over-ruled and the advice of Mr. Pearson and Sir A. Blomfield acted upon. He also joined in unavailing protests that were made to Lord Grimthorpe against the unfortunate "restorations" which that nobleman was allowed to carry out at St. Albans Abbey Church.

Born in May, 1843, John Thomas Micklethwaite was educated at private schools, and spent much of his childhood at Hopton Hall, in the West Riding, an old house with a moat where the Micklethwaites have succeeded each other for more than two hundred years.<sup>1</sup> He became a student at King's College, London, in the Engineering and Applied Sciences Department in 1860, and in 1901 the Council elected him Fellow of King's College as being a "former student who has become eminent in Public Life." Before he was articled to Mr. G. Gilbert Scott,

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Miss Ada Micklethwaite, his devoted sister and confidant,

for much of this information, and for the loan of letters, etc.

there was some anxiety as to his eyesight, and the taking of Holy Orders was considered as an alternative. To the end he remained a strong champion of the English Church. He did not marry. He was appointed surveyor of the Fabric at Westminster Abbey in February, 1898, and of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, in 1900. Undoubtedly the Westminster appointment was the wisest choice that could have been made. What he proved to be there is best expressed in the Dean's words: "Yesterday (October 31, 1906) we laid in the cloisters an eager, reverent, skilful worker. . . . John Thomas Micklethwaite studied this Abbey during the main part of his life. . . . he gave his whole heart to this place, and jealously guarded every fragment that could tell of its long history."

W. NIVEN, F.S.A.

## Obituary.

### THE LATE JAMES HILTON, F.S.A., HON. TREASURER OF THE INSTITUTE.

The Institute has recently lost one of its most devoted and generous friends. The late Mr. James Hilton had been a member for forty-two years, and for twenty-five years had filled the responsible post of Honorary Treasurer. It was his careful management of its finances which largely secured for it a healthy and prosperous condition, and enabled it to maintain its *Journal* at the high level which it has always occupied. He and his devoted daughter, Mrs. Hale-Hilton, have been very regular attendants at its annual gatherings and also at its meetings in London. It was a notable event when, not long ago, the chairman at one of these meetings was able to convey to Mr. Hilton, who was present, the congratulations of the members on his ninety-second birthday. His genial, gentle and ever welcome presence will be much missed among us.

Mr. Hilton was born on 6th June, 1815. He sprang from the old Lancashire family of the Hiltons, and was educated as a solicitor. His practical ability attained its natural result in a successful career; but his friends will be chiefly concerned to remember how he spent his leisure and his means in furthering the two objects he loved best, namely, archaeology and philanthropy. He was for many years on the committee of the Church Building Society, and greatly assisted in the work of restoring the church of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield. He was an active member and auditor of the accounts of the Egypt Exploration Fund and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. His particular and personal taste was the study and explanation of chronograms, on which he was the first authority. He had collected a large series of books on the subject, many of them of the greatest rarity, and himself published three volumes

dealing with it, which were written with great thoroughness, acumen and learning. This collection of books he has bequeathed to the British Museum, to which he also left his fine and choice collection of Chinese jade objects. To the Institute he left a legacy of £200.

These things will keep his memory fresh with those who did not know him as well as some of us who were privileged to be his friends, and who cherish most the recollection of his simplicity, modesty, and perennial kindness and urbanity, qualities that are seldom so prominent in those otherwise so well endowed. It is a pleasure to us to feel that his tie with the Institute is maintained, and we hope may be long maintained by the fact of his son-in-law, Mr. Hale-Hilton, being our Honorary Secretary.

H. H. H.