

## THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

1889.



THE Eleventh Anniversary of the Society was held in the School of Art (kindly lent by the Committee for the occasion) on Friday, February 8th, 1889. J. G. Crompton, Esq., Vice-President, was announced to preside, but was prevented, at the last moment, by illness, and the chair was taken by the Hon. F. Strutt. The Report for the past year, showing a satisfactory financial position, was read and adopted. The officers for the year commencing were elected. The meeting confirmed the provisional election by the Council to the seat vacant by the resignation of Mr. Cooling, of Mr. John Ward, and re-elected all the members of Council retiring under Rule V.—viz., Messrs. Foljambe, Frith, Jolley, Jourdain, Keene, Robinson, Cade, and Gallop. The Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Sec., Hon. Sec. of Finance, and the Auditors were also re-elected.

Mr. William Bemrose read a valuable and interesting paper upon "Woodwork, Domestic," illustrated by an exhibit of various pieces of furniture, carved panels, etc. The Rev. Dr. Cox followed with some notes on "Woodwork, Ecclesiastical."

The attention of the meeting was called to a proposed scheme for the establishment of a Derbyshire Record Society, to be affiliated to the Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society. The meeting approved the scheme generally, leaving all further details in the hands of the Council.

The Duke of Rutland was elected a Life Member and Vice-

President of the Society, and seven other new members were elected.

During the past year there have been five meetings of the Council, the attendance at which still leaves something to be desired as regards numbers.

The first expedition of the Society for the past year was arranged to take place on Saturday, May 11th. It was proposed to visit the Owen's College, at Manchester, Professor Boyd Dawkins having promised to receive the visitors, show the Museum collections, and to give an address. As, however, only some eight or nine members signified their intention of joining the expedition, it was abandoned.

On Saturday, August 17th, an expedition was held to Chesterfield and Staveley. The party left Derby in special saloon carriages attached to the 12.30 train for Chesterfield. Luncheon was taken at the "Angel" Hotel, after which the church of St. Mary and All Saints was visited. The Rev. Dr. Cox conducted the party over the church, and described the architectural features, and also gave some very interesting extracts from the old registers bearing upon the fearful visitation of the Plague in the 16th century. The series of monuments were described by the Rev. Charles Kerry. After inspecting the church, the party drove in breaks viâ Whittington and the old "Revolution" house to "The Hagge," an old shooting lodge of the de Freschville family, where the owner, Mr. Crawshaw, received the visitors, and allowed them to examine the panelled rooms, solid oaken staircase, the haunted chamber, and the basement story. From the Hagge the drive was continued to Staveley Rectory, where the Rector, the Rev. C. H. Molineux, hospitably provided tea, and afterwards conducted the visitors over the church, the structure and monuments being described by the Rev. Charles Kerry. The party drove back to Chesterfield station in time for the 8.13 p.m. train for Derby.

Another expedition was held on Saturday, September 21st, to Castle Donington, Hemington, and Lockington. The party started from the Free Library, Derby, at 11.0 a.m., and drove

direct to Castle Donington church. The Vicar, the Rev. A. S. Mammatt, received and conducted the visitors over the church, and read the following paper descriptive of its past history :—

#### CASTLE DONINGTON CHURCH.

I HAVE much pleasure in offering to you a few remarks on our church, craving your indulgence, as only an amateur in antiquarian matters. And in attempting to describe this interesting church I shall largely use a paper read before the British Archæological Society at Leicester, in 1862, by Dr. Pearson, of this place, which he compiled from the best sources, chiefly, I believe, Nichols' "Leicestershire," and there are some points which he does not mention to which I should like to draw your attention. There is a difference of opinion about the dedication of the church. Some authorities say that the patron saint is King Edward the Martyr, who was murdered in 979; others declare that the church is dedicated to St. Luke "the beloved physician;" and, as is usual in such cases, there seems to be good reasons for either theory. But I will not pursue that subject. I think it will be more interesting to you if I speak of the objects which you may see with your own eyes this morning.

The church consists of a nave, a chancel, and two side aisles. A careful restoration of the body of the church was carried out about thirteen years ago in the time of the late Vicar, the Rev. J. G. Bourne. The chancel remains unrestored, as you see.

The church may be described as Early English, and was probably built by Henry Laci, Earl of Lincoln, about 1278. There are four Gothic arches on each side of the nave. The south pillars are circular, with octagon capitals, one of which is ornamented with dog-toothing. The north pillars are hexagonal. The roof of the chancel and nave were originally high pitched, the clerestory windows belonging to a later period, and probably added when the roof was lowered. The corbels on which the original roof rested still remain, and deserve special notice.

The font is octagonal, with shields, on which are roses and crosses alternately.

At the east end of the south aisle was evidently a chapel, said to have been dedicated to St. Edward, and in it is a double piscina, with two stalls. These, with the east window of this south aisle, and that especially when viewed from the outside, and the entrance through the south porch, are fine specimens of Early English architecture.

During the restoration (thirteen years ago) a hagioscope was discovered on the north side of this Edward chapel, and the entrance to the Rood Loft on the south side of the Mary chapel (at the east end of the north aisle) was opened. It is rather difficult to understand the use of this hagioscope on the north side of the Edward chapel. There would, however, probably be altars

beneath the Rood Loft, and so, through this opening, the priest at the altar in the Edward chapel could see the priest at the Rood altar when celebrating mass. Or perhaps some of my more experienced and learned hearers may be able to explain it in some other way.

All the windows in the church are, I believe, modern. There must have been at some time a most wicked and wanton destruction of glass, for we are told that "several, if not all, of the windows were formerly glazed with painted glass, on which different armorial devices were portrayed." The old east window contained the arms of the Priory of Norton, in Cheshire, and it is a matter for regret that this window was ever removed. The living belonged to the Priory of Norton at the time of the dissolution of religious houses when the large tithes were alienated. Previous to that period the vicars were generally selected from the canons of the Priory of St. Mary, Norton-Stevens, in his "Monasticon" records several interesting particulars relating to this benefice, and these would have been well illustrated by a glance at the east window as it originally existed full of historic associations. In the east window of the south aisle there used likewise to be a picture of a knight in armour, and his wife kneeling opposite to him, and in the south windows were emblazoned various devices and impalements of the Staunton family. All these have long since passed away, and the only memorial in this church of their grandeur and greatness is the splendid mediæval brass on the tomb at the east end of the south aisle.

This brass has been much mutilated, and the inscription partly broken off and taken away. I cannot tell you when or how, but I fancy it was done many years ago. What is left reads thus—

"Staunton Armigeri et Agnes uxor dicti Roberti, quæ obiit 18th die mensis Julii anno Domini —0-458 (*i.e.*, 1458), et dictus Robertus obiit—die mensis—millesimo cccc (1400)—quorum animabus propicietur Deus. Amen."

A scroll proceeds from the mouth of the lady on which is graven—

"illuminet vultum suum super nos, et misereatur nostri."

You will observe that there is a hiatus in this brass as to the date of death of this Robert Staunton. This family is of very ancient origin, and Harold was their patronymic. In the time of William II. they possessed many fair manors and much influence. They were early located at Staunton, and assumed their surname after that place in the reign of King John. The post of High Steward of Donington Castle was hereditary in the family through many reigns. The granddaughter of this Robert Staunton, whose name and effigy is graven on the brass, was married in 1423 to Ralph Shirley, son of Sir Ralph Shirley, who was a distinguished commander at the battle of Agincourt, and from this union of the Stauntons and Shirleys descends the present Earl Ferrers, of Staunton Harold, in this county. In two of the north windows the arms of the Shirleys and Hesilriges were formerly emblazoned,

and at the east end of the north aisle is a fine altar monument of alabaster, with two figures, a knight in plated armour, with helmet under his head, sword hanging by belt, dagger fastened by a cord, mail shirt, square toed shoes, and hound at his feet; his lady in folded cap, with lappets, cordon, mantle, kirtle, necklace, and belt, and a little dog on each side of her. On the sides of the monument are figures of weepers and angels alternately, the angels holding shields. At the east end is the Virgin and child, at the west end the Holy Trinity. It is difficult, at least for an amateur, to make out the inscription, but the tomb is that of Sir Robert Hesilrige and Elenora, his wife, who died in 1529.\*

It is probable that one Thomas Hesilrige, who founded a Chantry and Grammar School in 1509 conjointly with one Harold Stanton, was this Sir Robert Hesilrige's son, as it is said that after the bequeath of his soul to Almighty God, he directed that his body should be buried "in the Chapel of our Lady St. Mari, at Castle Dunitone, and masses be therein sung for the repose of his soul for ever." The remembrance of the pious act still lives, but the Chantry and Grammar School no longer exist, nor can any trace of them be found, unless we can believe, as has been suggested, that a quaint looking gable overlooking the churchyard is part of the old Chantry house. The alabaster monument of which I am speaking has been shamefully mutilated by spoilers both ancient and modern. Some interest attaches, I think, to the *tradition* that Harrison and Bradshaw, the regicides, inscribed their names on the breast and leg of the Knight. Perhaps, as the Hesilrige of the day was favourable to the Parliamentary cause, they may have condescended to spare this monument of his ancestor, but at the same time they thought it right to make their mark upon it! The *pulpit* is formed of slabs of alabaster some 400 years old, the gravestones of the Dalby family. These were removed from the floor of the Church at the time of the restoration, and *set up* in this manner by the late Rev. Robert Dalby, of this place, for many years Vicar of Belton.

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\* Through the kindness of the Rev. C. Kerry the inscription was made out thus:—

"Magister Robertus Hasylyreg armiger filius Wilimi Hasylyreg armigeri dmi de hoseley (?) et Elenora uxor Roberti predicti et filia—Shyrley armigeri domini de Stanton Harold quæ quidem Elenora altissimo reddidit spiritu ano salutis M<sup>o</sup> quigesimo vicesimo nono sexto die Martii quorū amabus ppiciet (?) q' eas suo sanguine cōs-avit. Amen. Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Pientissimas (?) Christianaum preces exposuit (?);" which Mr. Kerry translated—

"Master Robert Hasylyreg, Esq., son of William Hasylyreg, Esq., lord of hoseley, and Eleanor, his wife, and daughter of — Shirley, lord of Staunton Harold, which same Eleanor resigned her spirit to the Most High in the year of salvation 1529, on the 6th day of March, on whose souls may He be merciful Who hath consecrated them with His own blood. Amen. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, on these devout Christians who pour out their prayers before us."

In the *chancel*, which is a fine one *structurally*, is a plain piscina, with three stalls of the Early English period, into one of which at some barbarous time the altar rail has been fixed. With equal taste, or rather want of taste, has the other end of the rail been placed in a recess, which contains a recumbent effigy in stone, much defaced, apparently representing some ecclesiastic, probably one of the Priors of Norton, or it may be the founder's tomb. Here are also some monuments of the Hastings family. Lord Donington is now patron of the living, and his son, the Earl of Loudoun, is lay rector. Perhaps the memorial of the family most interesting to an antiquarian is a tablet on the east wall, bearing the date 1647, about the time I suppose when anagrams were much in vogue. It is thus inscribed—

“ In memoriam vere nobilis  
 Ferdinandi Hastings filii tertii  
 honorandissimi Ferdinandi  
 Comitis Huntingdoniæ  
 qui haec vitam mutavit  
 anno nono ætatis suæ  
 Anno Domini 1647  
 Octavo Maii.  
 Ferdinando Hastings  
 In God he stands in fear  
 as of his name the anagram  
 so of his pious mind  
 the happy character.”

On the south wall of the chancel is a brass tablet, inscribed, “Here lyeth William Fox, son and heire of Simon Fox, and Helen, his wife, both buried the 20th day of July, 1585,” and followed by these lines :

“ That fatall scyth, which cutts in two  
 Most nuptiall knotts, this closer drew.  
 Life made them one ; death left them so.  
 A love more constant who can show ? ”

I should like to add a word about the exterior. The south side has battlements, but they seem to have been removed from the north side. On the exterior of the south aisle are two niches with canopies, in which figures formerly existed, and on the north side of the chancel can be seen the priest's door.

The tower and spire, which rises to a height of 180 feet from the ground, have lately been repaired, and raised about 3 feet, at a cost of £136.

The oldest Register dates from 1539, has an index, and is in good preservation.

The Rev. Charles Kerry supplemented Mr. Mammatt's paper with some valuable notes on the monuments in the church, notably that in alabaster, whose inscription he has recently deciphered. After a further inspection of the exterior of the church, the party adjourned for luncheon at the "Moir Arms." After luncheon, all that is left of the old castle, the moat, and some ancient masonry, was inspected, by kind permission of the owner, Mr. Baugust, and the party then drove on to the ruined church of Hemington. Here the Rev. Charles Kerry read a paper upon the history of the church, which appears in another part of this volume.

After inspecting the old Hall and barn adjacent, the drive was continued to Lockington church, where the visitors were received by the Vicar, the Rev. R. L. Story, who conducted them over the building, and pointed out the various interesting features, with notes upon the architecture, the Leper's window (?), the six bells, the dates of which range from 1692, and the tenor is yet older, the oak screen, and the beautiful alabaster effigy of a Lady Ferrers. A curious feature of this church, which is absolutely un-restored, is the fact of the south aisle having always been termed the "Hemington Side," the worshippers from Hemington always entering the church by the south door, and sitting on the south side only.

After inspecting the church, the visitors were hospitably entertained at tea, at the Hall, by Mr. and Mrs. Curzon, driving back to Derby by seven o'clock.

The proposed scheme for a Derbyshire Record Society, which was brought to your notice at our last anniversary, has not met with the support it deserved, and which your Council strongly hoped would have been given to it. A prospectus was sent out in May last, explaining the scheme, and asking for promises of support to the number of about 200; the result was very disappointing, inasmuch as the *bonâ fide* promises barely reached thirty. The Council feels that many more are really willing to join the proposed society (which, it will be remembered, is to be affiliated to the Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History

Society), and with this view, a slip, urging members to send in their names at once has been inserted in the present volume of our Journal.

Along with the prospectus for the Record Society, members also received a circular, asking for special subscriptions towards a systematic investigation of "Rains Cave," as recommended by Professor Boyd Dawkins. In response to this appeal, a certain amount was very generously promised, though not sufficient to complete any thorough examination; and we shall still have to ask for more promises if the work is to be satisfactorily carried to an end, although we now think that the sum originally asked for was beyond the limit of what is required. Under the painstaking superintendence of Mr. John Ward, very practically assisted by Isaac Rains and his brother, existing obstructions to the systematic examination of the cave have been removed, and there is now every hope that the exploration may be carried out, when the three requisites are supplied. These are time, very careful work, and—money: for the two former we rely upon Mr. John Ward and his able helpers; the last will, doubtless, be forthcoming from the members and friends of this Society.

In the autumn of last year, certain valuable discoveries as to the early denizens, both man and beast, of the caves of Deepdale, about two miles from Buxton, were made by some of the Buxton townfolk. Much further work remains to be done, and we hope that this Society may be of use in the systematic exploration of these caves. The discoveries, so far as they have yet gone, are briefly described in this volume by the Rev. Dr. Cox. Specimens of the "finds" are exhibited here to-day.

In May last a conference of Archæological Societies was held in London under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries. In accordance with resolutions then agreed to, a Register of Antiquarian and Archæological Societies, hereafter to be termed "Societies in Union," is to be kept at the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries; and any Society desiring to be placed on this Register must submit its application to the Council of the Society of Antiquaries, who shall grant or refuse it as they think fit.



Your Council is glad to inform this meeting that our Society has been placed upon the Register of "Societies in Union." The first Congress of Archæological Societies in Union with the Society of Antiquaries was held in July, and was attended by one of your elected delegates, the Rev. Dr. Cox.

During the latter part of last year, a very interesting work has been done in the town of Derby, for which the sincere thanks of our Society are due to our member Mr. Keys. At his own expense, and with untiring energy, in the face of some difficulties, Mr. Keys has opened and cleared out the ancient and historic well of St. Thomas Beckett, and has restored the last of the buildings placed over the site. An exhaustive paper upon this subject appears in another part of this Journal. Mr. Keys also most kindly offers to present to our Society the "Mercury" stone found at Little Chester, and described in the last volume of our Journal. Upon this work at Beckett's well, and upon other "restoration" and similar points, our Society's opinion and advice has been asked and given in the past year, proving, your Council hopes, that the value and influence of the Society is felt more and more. There is, unfortunately, one "restoration" scheme before us just now which cannot be passed over without special comment.

As mentioned in our last Report, your Council was asked to advise respecting a probable restoration of the interesting chancel of the church at Chapel-en-le-Frith. As a result of the advice then given, one of our members, Mr. Jolley, was invited to report upon the condition of the chancel, his opinion being "there is no necessity for pulling it down." It is unnecessary to emphasize this opinion, as of course our members do not need to be reminded that if *there is no necessity* for pulling down an ancient and interesting chancel, nothing can justify the pulling of it down. All the most competent authorities seem to agree that the chancel in question is very decidedly interesting as well as ancient; the most cultured local antiquaries have deprecated its demolition; the *Athenæum*, and other leading London and provincial papers have written strongly against pulling down; the Society for the

Preservation of Ancient Monuments sent a deputation to see the building, the result of which was a strongly worded report in favour of the retention of the old fabric ; but yet, in the face of every protest, we learn that at a meeting of the parishioners, presided over by the vicar, "a considerable majority expressed themselves in favour of the chancel being pulled down and rebuilt." It is disappointing, and very discreditable that the carefully given advice of competent authorities can thus be over-ridden by the voice of ignorance. Your Council has since that meeting sent a further protest to the vicar, deprecating the demolition of the chancel, but has received no reply.

In November last, an idea which had before been mooted was brought formally before your Council in the shape of a suggested amalgamation between the Derby Natural History and Philosophical Society and ourselves. The matter was fully discussed at a particularly well attended meeting of your Council, with the result of the general approval of the scheme, and the appointment of sub-committees of the two Societies to arrange details. The sub-committees joint report has been accepted by your Council, and will be placed before this meeting immediately. Should this apparently happily conceived conjunction of the two Societies receive the assent of this meeting, and become an accomplished fact, it will naturally bring about a few changes and modifications in our Journal. One of the new members for instance, Mr. George Fletcher, would like to devote a few pages yearly to reports and tables of the rain-fall of Derbyshire. Such tables become of great value after years have gone by. Mention is made of this project to-day, in order that those in the county who take such observations may be induced to submit their readings to Mr. Fletcher, or whoever may be appointed to receive them.

The Editor desires, on behalf of the Society, to express his obligations to Mr. John Murray and to Mr. Edward Stanford for their ready courtesy in lending blocks for the further illustration of articles that appear in the current issue of this Journal. A similar application was made to Messrs. Macmillan, which was as curtly refused. The broad rule that the Editor has laid down for

his guidance, namely, to keep the pages of the Journal as far as possible strictly devoted to the concerns of the county, must occasionally have an exception. He feels sure that he has done right in including in this volume the account and charters of Hemington, a parish that is not only contiguous to Derbyshire, but whose history and ownership make it almost a part of our own shire.

In the past year death seems to have been unusually busy amongst our members. We have to record the loss of one Vice-President, one hon. member, one member of Council, and no fewer than eleven ordinary members. All members will join in real sorrow for the loss of three clerical original members of our Society—the Rev. M. K. S. Frith, a member of Council, was most regular in attendance at all our meetings, and always keenly interested in our work; the Rev. William Hope, too, was a well-known figure at our meetings, and contributed from time to time valuable information upon matters connected with Derby of long ago; the Rev. James Chancellor, though less frequently seen amongst us, was always alive to our proceedings, and set a good example by never failing to call our attention to any matter bearing upon our work.

Our financial position is an improvement upon what it was last year; and your Council is content with the result of the twelfth year of our proceedings.

ARTHUR COX,  
Hon. Sec.

Mill Hill, Derby,  
January 31st, 1890.