



FRAGMENT OF THE TOMBSTONE OF MARCUS APRONIUS, THE FIRST
MONUMENTAL STONE FOUND IN THE NORTH WALL IN APRIL,
1883. (See Mr. G. W. Shrubsole's paper on the City Walls, in the
Appendix, p. 178.)

This block is kindly lent by the Executors of the late Mr. W. Thompson
Watkin (see his *Roman Cheshire*, p. 211).



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SESSION 1886-7.

Wednesday, October 20th, 1886.

THE first meeting of the session 1886-7 was held in the lecture theatre of the New Grosvenor Museum, on Wednesday, October 20th, 1886. The Bishop of Chester presided, and amongst those present were the Very Rev. Dean Darby, the Ven. Archdeacon Barber, Mrs. Stubbs, His Honour Judge Horatio Lloyd, Dr. Stolterfoth, Dr. Davies Colley, Colonel Scotland, Alderman Charles Brown, Rev. Canon Owen (the Bishop's Chaplain), Rev. H. Grantham, Mr. J. Gamon, Mr. W. Shone, Mr. R. Farmer, Mr. S. Golder, Mr. A. Lamont, Mr. G. W. Shrubsole, Mr. T. Cann Hughes, Mr. J. Griffiths, &c., &c.

The Bishop, in opening the proceedings, said:—"Ladies and gentlemen, As this is the first occasion upon which this very pleasant room has been used for the purpose of the Archæological Society's meeting, it is laid upon me as President of the Society to say a few words by way of an opening address. If I had had time or had not been occupied with other business, it would have given me great pleasure to have prepared something which might bear the dignified title of an inaugural address—something which might have formed a good omen for days to come for the use of this room in instructing and entertaining students in

archæology. This I have not been able to do; but I cannot allow the occasion to pass without attempting to say a few words. We have most of us vividly in our memory, I hope, the extremely pleasant occasion of the visit of the Archæological Institute last August. Many of us I imagine heard the addresses of the distinguished visitors. And by far the least likely to be forgotten was the most interesting address given by our munificent patron the Duke of Westminster—an address I am bound to say which not only surprised me by the extent of the reading and the careful elaboration of the details with which it was filled, but also by the literary power and force with which the whole was marshalled. I think we are extremely fortunate in being able to connect the name of this institution with the Duke of Westminster, whose words on that occasion showed a large knowledge of the subject and a sincere appreciation of the objects of the Society which was then holding its meeting. At this meeting of the Archæological Institute we had not only the speech of the Duke, but we had also a very remarkable address from my old friend Mr. Freeman. Then I also made a speech, which took some hold upon public attention, judging from the newspapers. Then we had Mr. Beresford Hope. I believe that the Council of the Archæological Institute were very much pleased with their visit to Chester.”

The Bishop then proceeded to speak about “archæology,” which he described as hardly as yet raised to the rank of an exact science, but which was now making great strides towards that most desirable end. It was the sister of history, and, although it was not in itself history, it contributed that element of antiquarian research which is one of the most charming and taking sides of historical study, and which always attracts the largest number of students.

He then proceeded:—“Antiquarian research in matters of genealogy is of a most inexhaustible character, and many magazines are published in England and America

on this subject. In America especially the study of genealogy is followed up with a greater expenditure of money and literary power than in any other part of the world. Then, besides genealogy, there is the study of local history, for which men of every rank and station in life had a taste, and towards which they could contribute real and serious help. On Cheshire and North Wales we have a large number of very good books. Some of those books are so good and so thorough that until one has mastered them it does seem presumptuous to talk about the history and antiquities of Cheshire and North Wales. Until you have mastered *Ormerod*, for instance, you cannot be sure that any new fact you have just hit upon has not been known for the last sixty years. We have *Ormerod*, and King's *Vale Royal* and Leycester's *Antiquities* amongst the books of the old school of antiquaries, and recently we have had Mr. Thompson Watkin's *Roman Cheshire*, Mr. Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, Mr. Hall's *History of Nantwich*, and Mr. Henry Taylor's *Historic Notices of Flint*, which I have read with the greatest pleasure—a book which seems to me quite a model of what a local history ought to be. It is full of old information and new information, and all arranged in that intelligent way and with that full appreciation of the bearing of local history upon general history, which ought to be observed in all archæological records, and which is one of the most interesting and valuable features of such a work."

After referring in general terms to what is known as pre-historic archæology, and the cave-dwellers and lake-dwellers, his lordship spoke of early British remains and of the great importance of the Roman period, as far as Chester was concerned, and then passed on to the Saxon and later periods, about which he made the following remarks:—"The fourth period then is the Anglo-Saxon period, and for that period I think we in Cheshire may have materials which have not been adequately worked. I am only now speaking quite tentatively; I am not quite sure about it, and I think it is quite possible that a good deal of the ground I should like

to go over myself may have been gone over already by Ormerod and other writers; but Cheshire being at the northern part of the kingdom of Mercia did escape to a great extent the ravages of the Danes. It was well ravaged by the Anglo-Saxons in their battles with the ancient British, and it was also the scene of great events in the Roman times; but during the Danish invasions I am inclined to believe it did not suffer very much. It lay to the west of the great line which in the time of Alfred separated the Anglo-Saxon dominions from the Danish encroachments. Consequently we may look in Cheshire for the continuity of a great many Anglo-Saxon names of places, and we may to some extent possibly find traces of Anglo-Saxon institutions. Now Runcorn, besides Chester, which is pre-eminent in this matter, is a site of very ancient Anglo-Saxon civilisation. Eddisbury is another and Thelwall is another. I don't know that if you went to Runcorn and dug the ground all over that you would find Anglo-Saxon coins or anything else important, but I do know that historically it is important from the ninth century, and the same may be said of Thelwall and the forest of Wirral. Cholmondeley indicates the ley of Ceolmund—an Anglo-Saxon name given to both kings and bishops. And we not only have Ceolmund's ley, but also Cholmondestone. In Wybunbury you have the burgh or dwelling of Wybba, the father of Penda, the great king of Mercia, who witnessed the introduction of Christianity into his kingdom. In Plemondstall you have the stall or habitation of Plemund, who has been identified with an archbishop of Canterbury in the time of King Alfred. Then you know there is Bromborough in Wirral. Mr. Dyer Green, and a great many people in that part of Wirral, claim Bromborough as the scene of a great battle, which was fought between the Scots and the Danes—the great battle of Brunanburgh. I should like to give a hundred pound prize to any one who would determine where that battle was fought. There may be fifty Bromboroughs, and it is forty-nine to one it was fought

somewhere else. This will be an interesting question for any one to take up. We now get on to the Norman and Mediæval period. Of course, as you come lower down in the scale of these divisions, you find that the material which is available expands very largely. To this period nearly all the architectural archæology of Cheshire belongs. For the Anglo-Saxon period, I do not remember at this moment ever seeing a charter connected with Cheshire. I do not think Cheshire contributes any large quantity to our collection of early Norman and Anglo-Saxon charters. I have seen at Peover the earliest charter of the Mainwaring family, which has been quite recently re-discovered, so to speak. It is a most beautiful specimen of its kind."

"Then there is the great subject of genealogy, about which everybody should know something, more or less. There is scarcely a settled family in Cheshire that cannot trace itself back three or four centuries, and any man in Cheshire, who can say that his father held his farm at the beginning of this century, may very probably be able to trace his genealogy as far back as the Reformation. That is a very important matter and interesting to those who have family connections in Cheshire."

"The architectural interests of archæology in Cheshire are in good hands. The parish churches, such as those of Astbury and Nantwich, and, in fact, all the fine old parish churches of the county, are being or have been restored with very careful regard to their ancient features."

After a humorous description of the old "church ales," which took the place of the modern "bazaars" as a means of raising funds for church purposes in mediæval times, the Bishop referred to the old church rates and poor rates, and the way they were formerly collected. He said:—"The way in which that was done may often be found by a reference to the old churchwardens' accounts of the parish, and that is the kind of information I want you to collect from churchwardens' books, before they are destroyed.

These plans of raising money show a distinct series of steps, which it is very desirable should be put on record before they are entirely forgotten. I was recently at Great Budworth; it was an extremely wet day, and the vicar kindly gave me the churchwardens' books to read. They proved most interesting, and in other parts of Cheshire you would get the same thing. There you get the accounts of the churchwardens, showing the money they raised for church expenses, for land rates, for the maintenance of the poor and of illegitimate children, who were supported and clothed out of the rates, and who seem to be the principal paupers of the district, for there was not much pauperism in this part of Cheshire until of late years. Great Budworth was a parish which contained I think twelve townships, and each of those townships returned to the parish meeting two representatives, who were called township men. I think all the townships in Great Budworth, except one, returned two township men. These township men met in an assembly which exactly resembled in its constitution our imperial parliament. It is described collectively as an 'assembly of the gentlemen landowners, township men, churchwardens, and overseers.' Thus you get different estates as in Parliament: the vicar representing the first estate, the gentlemen representing the House of Lords, and the township men the elected members in the House of Commons. In the churchwardens and overseers you get the most honourable the Privy Council, and the great ministers of the Cabinet. There you have distinctly a survival of the system out of which grew the great constitutional system of England which is the model system of the world. Then when they found out how much money they wanted they proposed to make what they called 'a mise.' It was not rating according to each holding, but a certain sum or amount which represented the payment of the collective parish. We will say that the sum to be raised in that particular parish was £11. 16s. 1d. That was the particular sum which was supposed to be ordinarily raisable in that parish.

Then that was divided amongst the townships—I don't remember the exact number, but we will suppose it is twelve—and each of them was called upon for its proportion, which was allotted in turn or in proportion to particular payers. Exactly in the same way when the king wanted a subsidy it was said this county must pay £250, that other county £350, and so on. That was the principle under which from the reign of Edward III. to the accession of Queen Mary money was raised in England. If the wardens wanted more money they raised two or three, or as many as five 'mises.' Then when the mise system became unsatisfactory, which it did before the poor-law system made its appearance, they then fell back upon a system which they called 'a lay,' which is a word common to both Yorkshire and Cheshire. I never saw the word 'mise' elsewhere than in Cheshire and in Lancashire. A 'lay' was levied exactly as we levy rates. In another generation probably the word 'mise' will scarcely be found in a dictionary. I am not sure you would find it now. Then, besides mises and taxes, there are the records of city guilds and other institutions which will very soon not only be things of the past, but it will be forgotten that they even existed. I do not doubt that there are in Chester many books of records of city guilds, &c., which are valuable as containing lists of names, &c., which will be lost if they are not looked after, and carefully preserved.

"Archæology will thus be found by many of us, if treated in the way I would like to see it treated, a healthy amusement, and a training of one side of the mind, which in this utilitarian age is a little apt to be dwarfed. It will give us a lively and hopeful interest in the study of the history of our country and of the institutions, which have made our country what it is. We must work thoroughly well together, trying not to be dogmatic, not to tread upon one another's toes; not to lay down hard and fast rules which cannot be defended. At all events we shall stimulate the minds of the rising generation, and create a love in them of the things we

love ourselves in studying our local history. It will stimulate a love of that patriotic life which I am sure the people of Chester, and I believe the people of the county also feel. That is the feeling of pride in one's county and country which is felt by an Englishman as an Englishman, which I felt first as a Yorkshireman in Yorkshire, and which I feel to-day as being a Cheshireman in Cheshire."

Mr. G. W. Shrubsole then read a paper upon the traffic carried on upon the River Dee with the port of Chester in connection with the recent discovery of Roman remains in the excavation for a new gasometer at the Chester gas works on the Roodee. This paper will be found on pp. 76-90.

Mr. T. Cann Hughes (the Assistant Secretary) read the following letter from the General Secretary :—

"Chester, 19th October, 1886.

"Dear Mr. Hughes,—I very much regret that my official duties at Flint, at the last moment, prevent my attending to-morrow evening the first monthly meeting of our Society, as I had hoped to have done. Will you kindly explain the reason of my absence to his Lordship, the President, and to the other members present. I promised Mr. Shrubsole to make some enquiries as to the cannel-coal fields of Flintshire and to give the result of those enquiries to the meeting should his paper be reached. Will you kindly do so for me? In the first place, I must confess that the fact of this cannel being found near to the gas works, where so much of that mineral has been brought for the manufacture of *gas* [for lighting], makes me somewhat sceptical as to its being imported by the Romans, unless Mr. Shrubsole saw it, *in situ*, near to the pig of lead, &c. The piece he showed to me certainly looked water worn and was covered with sand and shells, which would lead one to suppose that it had been in its resting-place for a long time. Moreover, as I will try to show, it is quite possible that the Romans knew of this mineral and may have brought it to Chester; nevertheless, *there are those gas works*. Cannel-coal (to use a mining

phrase) "crops out" to the surface in several parts of Flintshire. It is found at Leeswood, and has been worked from the surface in what miners call a "Day-level." Leeswood is close by Caergwrle, where of course the Romans had a station. The cannel at Leeswood is known as the curley-cannel, and is highly bituminous and so full of oil that during the late American War upwards of a million of money was expended in sinking pits and erecting works in the neighbourhood of Leeswood for the purpose of extracting oil from this cannel. The pits and works ended (when the war was over and petroleum came from America) in extracting money from the pockets of the shareholders. The cannel, however, which Mr. Shrubsole showed to me is not curley-cannel. Again, we find the coal-seams which lie under the River Dee "crop out" to the surface on the Flintshire side, but on the Cheshire side they are "thrown out" by the red sandstone. In Mostyn Park, and again in the high land above Flint, cannel-coal comes to the surface. It has been worked at Mostyn, and is now being worked at the Flint Coal and Cannel Company's pit at Coleshill. I showed the piece of cannel Mr. Shrubsole gave to me both to Mr. Joshua Lancaster, the manager of the Mostyn Colliery, and to Mr. Dawes, the manager of the Flint Colliery, and they both say that it is precisely the same kind of cannel as theirs is. Now at Pentre, on the Chester side of Flint, was the Roman settlement of Croes Ati, to which Pennant so fully refers in his *Tours in Wales*, where the Romans had large hearths for smelting the lead brought down from Halkyn Mountain. At Pentre we are constantly picking up "Roman remains." Only the other day our borough surveyor brought me a first brass coin of the Emperor Commodus which he had found when reconstructing the road between the town and Pentre. I strongly suspect that both the pig of lead and the cannel, always supposing the latter was not brought for the manufacture of modern "gas," came from Pentre or Pentrefurn-dan as its proper name is—which being translated is

“the vill of the fiery furnace.” I understand the word Ceangi is said to be marked on the pig of lead. Pentre is within the district occupied by the Ceangi. It is also situate on the side of the river and affords easy transit for minerals by water. The celebrated Pentre Rock, if one is to believe all that has been said of it before Committees of the Houses of Parliament, is answerable for all sorts of calamities to the River Dee. They say Chester would have been the largest shipping port in the world only for this wretched Pentre Rock.—Yours faithfully,

“HENRY TAYLOR.

“T. Cann Hughes, Esq., B.A.”

His Honour Judge Horatio Lloyd moved a vote of thanks to his lordship for the interesting address he had given them, which was not only valuable for the amount of information it contained and would be remembered by them all for a long time to come, but was also graced with that agreeable humour, for which his lordship was so distinguished. He must also include in this vote of thanks Mr. G. W. Shrubsole, a veteran member of the Society, who had opened for them another field of investigation, which it would be interesting for many of them to follow.

Dr. Stolterfoth seconded the motion, and said he was sorry that want of time had prevented their doing justice to Mr. Shrubsole's paper by discussing it, but he hoped the Society would have another turn at the Roman traffic on the River Dee.¹

Monday, November 8th, 1886.

The second monthly meeting of the session was held in the lecture theatre at the Grosvenor Museum, Dr. Henry Stolterfoth, M.A., in the chair.

Mr. John Hewitt read a paper, entitled “Notes on the Crypts and Rows of Chester,” which will be found printed

¹ This adjourned discussion took place on the 10th January, 1887 (see p. 111).

at pages 30-52. The lecturer exhibited a number of drawings illustrating the subject of his paper.

Mr. Henry Taylor, the honorary general secretary, pointed out that what Mr. Hewitt had stated in regard to the origin of the Rows agreed pretty much with what had been advanced by Pennant and Lysons, as well as by Dr. Brushfield, His Honour Judge Foulkes, and other old members of the Society; and that antiquaries in the city were much in the position of Mr. Micawber in relation to the question, and must wait for "something to turn up" before anything positive could be known.

Mr. G. W. Shrubsole, F.G.S., Mr. E. W. Cox (Old Hall, Flookersbrook), Alderman Charles Brown, and Mr. Harry Beswick also joined in the discussion on the subject of the lecture.

Monday, December 13th, 1886.

The third monthly meeting of the session was held in the lecture theatre at the Grosvenor Museum. Dr. Henry Stolterfoth, M.A., in the chair.

Mr. Alfred Rimmer, joint author with the late Dean Howson of *Ancient Streets and Homesteads of England*, and other works, read a paper, entitled "The Black and White or Half-Timber Architecture of England, with a special reference to its development in Chester and the neighbourhood." Mr. Rimmer prefaced his remarks on the black and white architecture with an interesting *resumé* of the general advance of architecture, the progress of which, he said, had been migratory from east to west. There was no doubt that the earliest forms of our architecture, the Saxon and the Norman, were based upon the Roman. If we went to Northampton, or Canterbury, or Leicester, or any of those places where there were the oldest Norman remains, and in some cases Saxon, we should find rude imitations of the Doric and Corinthian capitals. In the triforium of St. John's church, Chester, we find the capitals assuming a form which is not Corinthian but

English altogether—what is called Early English—which was reached after passing through many stages and after many checks. The Early English lasted from 1100 to 1200 roughly speaking, and the domestic largely corresponded with the ecclesiastical architecture of the times. At that period there was very little black and white architecture, but there was a great deal of wooden architecture. The houses of the peasants were built of solid oak logs, not unlike the log huts built by settlers in the wilds of North America. The feudal nobles, on the other hand, lived separately from the people in their great castles, with their retainers about them.

Coming down to a later period, the manor houses in Cheshire were strongly timbered; in fact, one beam in a Cheshire house he had seen at Baddiley would have been sufficient to timber a moderate sized dwelling-house in any other part of the kingdom. In Elizabeth's time there were some magnificent timbered houses in Cheshire and England generally, as well as other houses erected in the Elizabethan style. The Renaissance style, however, which came in with the architects Vanbrugh and Adams, was really responsible for the destruction of our timbered houses. Examples of this Renaissance style were seen in the earlier Eaton Hall, Blenheim, Bank Hall, Warrington, and Hooton Hall.

Mr. Rimmer then compared the English black and white structures with those of the Continent, very much to the advantage of our own, which were of much more solid construction, and alluded to numerous fine examples of timbered work, such as Stokesay, the earliest example extant, the old Town Hall at Hereford, Poulton Old Hall, &c. The Falcon Cocoa-house, in Chester, he described as a beautiful example, dating from Henry VIII.'s time. Photographs of some fine examples of timbered architecture in Shrewsbury, one of these in Butcher's Row being one of the oldest examples in England, were also exhibited. There was also a house belonging to the Ireland family, beauti-

fully enriched with carving. In conclusion, he recommended for the purposes of timbering, the black walnut of America, a wood which deserved to be better known in this country. By getting it ready cut and mortised from the United States they would be able to erect timbered houses very cheaply, and perhaps see a revival of this beautiful, irregular, and picturesque style in England.

A discussion followed, partly on a personal topic of no public interest, between Mr. E. A. Ould and the lecturer, and a few remarks were also offered by Mr. E. W. Cox and Mr. H. Beswick.

Mr. John Douglas, architect, exhibited six drawings of Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire, made by Mr. James Strong (formerly of Chester), and for which he obtained the silver medal of the Royal Institute of Architects.

Mr. Hodkinson, architect, also exhibited a sketch of the old Falcon Inn, now the Cocoa-house, in Bridge Street.

Mr. Rimmer showed a number of drawings by himself of half-timber architecture in Shrewsbury.

Monday, 10th January, 1887.

The fourth monthly meeting of the session was held in the lecture theatre of the Grosvenor Museum. The Venerable Edward Barber, M.A., Archdeacon of Chester, in the chair.

The Hon. General Secretary read extracts from Mr. Shrubsole's paper "On the Evidence of a Considerable Traffic in Coal, Lead, and Lime in Roman times between Deva and the Coast of North Wales," printed on pp. 76-90, and the discussion thereon (unavoidably postponed from the opening meeting) was resumed by the Chairman, Mr. T. Cann Hughes, B.A., Mr. Shrubsole, and the Hon. General Secretary.

Mr. Shrubsole, as curator, then exhibited and described several earthenware pipes now in the Society's museum, and supposed to be of Roman manufacture, and to have

formed part of a conduit for conveying water from the neighbourhood of Boughton.

The Roman brass coins belonging to the Society were also exhibited and described by the Curator, as were also a bronze mask, fibulæ, fine first brass (Domitian), gold coin (Titus), &c., all recently found in Chester, and now in the Museum.¹

The forty-three Roman Denarii of the Imperial series found in a hoard at the beginning of the present century at Eccleston, near Chester, long in the possession of Mr. George Cuitt, the artist, afterwards in the possession of his kinsman the late Mr. W. F. Ayrton (formerly one of the honorary secretaries of the Society), and now belonging to his widow, Mrs. Ayrton, Abbot's Rock, Chester, were also exhibited and described in writing by Mr. W. T. Ready, late of the British Museum (see pp. 91-97).

The baton of Patten (or Pattison) Ellames (Mayor of Chester, 1782), as chief constable of the city, lately presented to the Society by Alderman Charles Brown and now in the Museum, was also exhibited.

Monday, 14th February, 1887.

The fifth monthly meeting of the session was held in the lecture theatre of the Grosvenor Museum. Alderman Charles Brown in the chair.

Mr. E. W. Cox read a paper entitled, "Notes historical and legendary connected with the Church of St. Hilary, Wallasey, and its five rebuildings," which will be found printed on pp. 53-75. This paper was illustrated with several drawings and plans of the church.

The Chairman and several others made a few remarks on the various points raised by Mr. Cox in his paper.

¹ The small bronze mask is engraved in Mr. Watkin's *Roman Cheshire*, p. 205, and a full list of the most important Roman coins in the Society's Museum in 1886, will be found in that book, pp. 227-232.

Monday, 14th March, 1887.

The sixth and last monthly meeting of the session was held in the lecture theatre of the Grosvenor Museum. The Venerable Edward Barber, M.A., Archdeacon of Chester, in the chair.

Mr. J. P. Earwaker, M.A., F.S.A., author of the *History of East Cheshire*, Honorary Secretary of the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, &c., &c., read a paper on "The Ancient Deeds and Charters now preserved at High Legh, Cheshire, the property of Lieutenant-Colonel H. Cornwall Legh," which will be found on pp. 1-29.

Mr. Earwaker exhibited a large number of specimens of the most ancient and interesting deeds and charters, as well as many beautiful examples of heraldic art in the shape of coats of arms, pedigree rolls, and other documents, which were inspected by the members with considerable curiosity and pleasure.

Alderman Charles Brown, in reply to the lecturer's remarks respecting the city charters, said they had been put in order and properly labelled, but their contents were very little known, and he hoped Mr. Earwaker's references to them would have the desired effect in directing attention to their value and importance.

Mr. H. Taylor (Hon. General Secretary), in thanking the lecturer for his able and interesting paper, said Mr. Earwaker had shown how important and necessary it was that all public and private muniments should be catalogued and transcribed, not only for the benefit of historians, but also for the literary world, and the public in general. Few localities possessed such treasures in documentary records as did Chester and the neighbourhood. The Records of the County were removed in the autumn of 1854 from Chester Castle to the Public Record Office. They weighed thirteen tons, and filled five large luggage vans of the London and North-Western Railway Company. These documents had in a great measure been arranged and calendared, and the

contents of some portions of them have been printed in alphabetical calendars in the Blue Book Reports of the Deputy-keeper of the Public Records. These Reports threw a perfect flood of new light upon the history of the district included in the county palatine of Chester. The city of Chester possessed documents and muniments which were second only in importance to those of the county palatine itself, and it was for the corporation of Chester, as the custodians of these records, to see that their contents were properly transcribed, and the information they contained rendered accessible to the citizens, to students of history, and to the literary world in general. Mr. Taylor also remarked on the necessity for preserving all records, wherever they were found.

Saturday, 14th May, 1887.

The annual general meeting of the Society was held in the lecture theatre of the Grosvenor Museum, the Venerable Edward Barber, M.A., Archdeacon of Chester, in the chair. Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chester; the Revs. H. Grantham, S. Cooper Scott, M.A., and C. B. Griffiths, M.A.; General Ingall, C.B., J.P.; Dr. Stolterfoth, M.A., Dr. Davies Colley, J.P.; Alderman Charles Brown; Messrs. George A. Dickson, J.P., J. P. Earwaker, M.A., F.S.A., T. Cann Hughes, B.A., P. H. Fletcher, I. E. Ewen (Hon. Librarian), H. Beswick, E. J. Baillie, F.L.S., Alexander Lamont, W. E. Brown, F. D. Thomas, I. Matthews Jones, George Frater (Hon. Treasurer), and Henry Taylor (Hon. General Secretary).

It was proposed by Alderman Charles Brown, seconded by Dr. Stolterfoth, and unanimously resolved, that the Hon. Treasurer's statement of accounts, as printed in the circular convening the meeting, be passed and published in the Society's *Journal* (see p. 125).

The Honorary General Secretary then read the following report:—

My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—During the last twelve months our Society has entered upon a new epoch in its history. A general meeting was held on the 21st of June last, when its re-constitution was decided upon, but the new rules were not finally adopted or the officers of the Society formally elected until the 7th of September last. In the meantime the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland held its annual meeting in this city from the 10th to the 17th of August last. This meeting was highly interesting and instructive, and was an undoubted success. His Grace, the Patron of our Society, was President of the meeting, and, together with his Lordship, the President of our Society, contributed in no small degree to the success of the meeting. The officers and members of our Society generally rendered every assistance to those in charge of the arrangements. I venture to think that this visit of the Institute to our ancient city has been of material advantage to our Society. Immediately afterwards you did me the honour to elect me your Honorary General Secretary. I put myself in communication with the members and other friends likely to contribute papers on archæological or historical subjects, and I am glad to say, late though it was when we began to work, we have been able to hold the whole of the six monthly meetings during the last session. It is many years since this was done. His Lordship, the President, opened the session with a very highly interesting address, and the papers which have been read are as follows: Mr. G. W. Shrubsole, F.G.S., "On the Evidence of a Considerable Traffic in Coal, Lead, and Lime in Roman Times between Deva and the Coast of North Wales;" Mr. John Hewitt, "On the Crypts and Rows of Chester;" Mr. Alfred Rimmer, "On Black and White and Half-timber Architecture;" Mr. E. W. Cox, "On Wallasey Church;" and last, but by no means least, Mr. J. P.

Earwaker, M.A., F.S.A., "Upon the Ancient Charters and Deeds at High Legh."

It will be remembered that by the new rules the annual subscription of the members was reduced from one guinea to half a guinea. I am happy to say that the number of members has been increased from one hundred and twenty-seven to one hundred and ninety-seven, and many of the old members have intimated their intention to continue to pay their original guinea subscription; thus we have maintained our subscription income and have increased the number of those interested in the Society. The subscriptions of the new members do not, however, become payable until this year, so that we have not the benefit of these sums to the credit of the account now submitted to the meeting. While, however, we may congratulate ourselves that we have made a fair start, we must not shut our eyes to the fact that much remains to be done.

There are loud complaints as to the irregularity in publishing the *Journal* of the Society. Unless a move is made in this direction at once, I fear we shall lose a considerable number of our country members. Our old friend Mr. Thomas Hughes, the Editorial Secretary, to whom the Society owes much, not only as one of its founders, but also for his able efforts for its benefit in the past, is unfortunately not in robust health, and he has expressed a wish to be relieved, at any rate for the present, from the duties of office, but I am glad to be able to say that we shall always have in him a willing as well as an able adviser and member of the council. We are fortunate in having induced Mr. Earwaker to succeed Mr. Hughes for the present, if elected, and I have no doubt with him at the helm, our Society will soon recover its lost ground in this department. The library, I am glad to say, is at the present time in better condition than it has been for many years. Our Honorary Librarian, Mr. Ewen, has

devoted much time and attention to it. The books are now completely bound and catalogued, and the prints and diagrams are arranged and classified. They form a very interesting collection. I hope, however, they are only the nucleus of a much larger archaeological and historical library. We shall be glad if kind friends who are members of either of the Houses of Parliament or members of Royal Commissions will kindly see that the Government supply us with blue-book and other reports relating to archaeological and historical subjects, and I take this opportunity of saying that all contributions to the library will be most thankfully received.

As to the Museum, we have to thank Mr. Shrubsole, our Honorary Curator, not only for the very great care and attention he has bestowed upon the antiquities in this building, but also for the great watchfulness and energy he has displayed in the interests of our Society, and indeed of the citizens generally, whenever any Roman or other remains have been discovered within the limits of the city and neighbourhood. Unfortunately, however, we are very short of museum room. We hope, however, that before long we shall be able to have a large room to ourselves where our exhibits will be undisturbed, and where we can show to our American friends, and others perhaps, as fine a collection of local antiquities as can be found in any town in the kingdom. We intend ere long to join the Natural Science Society in their excursions, when they visit neighbourhoods, where there are objects of archaeological or historical interest. Possibly we may make a start in this direction in the course of the summer.

It will be observed in the accounts of the Honorary Treasurer (to whom the Society is much indebted for the clear and able manner in which he keeps the books and attends to the interests of the Society) that the Derby Palace property has cost us more by

some £7 odd than we have received from it. The average income of this property is about £40 per annum, but the whole of this year's income has been absorbed in carrying out the requirements of the sanitary officers of the corporation, and in addition to this we have had to paint the property. It is now in good order, but before long I hope that the Council will be called upon to consider a scheme for the improvement of the Palace, which is thought to be capable of bringing in a considerably increased revenue. It will also be noticed in the accounts that there is a considerable item for payments made for printing back numbers of the *Journal*. I am glad to be able to say that all our printing and other old accounts are now paid off, and the balance of the accounts presented to the meeting shows the actual amount in hand after payment of every known claim to date. In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking my brother officers and the members of the Council (especially the Archdeacon of Chester) for their cordial assistance on all occasions. I am very sorry to say that we have lost—at any rate for the present—the valuable services of the Assistant Secretary, Mr. T. Cann Hughes, who has accepted an appointment in the Town Clerk's office in Manchester, and it will be for the meeting to-day to elect someone in his place.—I have the honour to be, my lords, ladies, and gentlemen, yours faithfully,

HENRY TAYLOR, Honorary General Secretary.

It was proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Alderman Charles Brown, and unanimously resolved that the Hon. Secretary's report be entered on the minutes and printed in the *Journal*.

It was proposed by the Right Worshipful the Mayor, seconded by General Ingall, C.B., and unanimously carried, that the following lords and gentlemen be appointed the Council for the forthcoming session:—

Patron.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G.
(*Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire.*)

COUNCIL.

President.

THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF CHESTER, D.D., F.S.A.

Vice-Presidents.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD EGERTON OF TATTON.	} <i>Ex-Officio.</i>
THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF CHESTER	
THE SHERIFF OF CHESTER	
THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF CHESTER, D.D.	
THE VENERABLE THE ARCHDEACON OF CHESTER, M.A.)	
HIS HONOUR JUDGE HORATIO LLOYD, <i>Recorder of Chester.</i>	
HIS HONOUR JUDGE WYNNE FFOULKES, M.A.	
MR. THOMAS HUGHES, F.S.A.	
MR. FREDERICK POTTS.	

Hon. Secretaries.

Editorial: MR. J. P. EARWAKER, M.A., F.S.A.
General: MR. HENRY TAYLOR.
Assistant: MR. HARRY BESWICK.

Hon. Curator.

MR. G. W. SHRUBSOLE, F.G.S.

Hon. Librarian.

MR. I. E. EWEN.

Hon. Treasurer.

MR. GEORGE FRATER.

Elected Members.

<i>To Retire in May, 1888.</i>	<i>To Retire in May, 1889.</i>
MR. JOHN HEWITT.	MR. E. J. BAILLIE, F.L.S.
MR. ISAAC MATTHEWS JONES.	MR. ALDERMAN CHARLES BROWN.
MR. ALEXANDER LAMONT.	MR. F. BULLIN, J.P.
DR. STOLTERFOTH, M.A.	DR. DAVIES-COLLEY, J.P.
REV. S. COOPER SCOTT, M.A.	REV. H. GRANTHAM.

The Hon. Secretary then read the following letter:—

The Groves, Chester, May 11th, 1887.

Dear Mr. Taylor,—Our quiet conference together on Friday last, which was supplemented by an equally earnest one more recently with my son, enables me to approach with some composure a subject which has long and painfully agitated my thoughts. I refer to my honoured position for nearly thirty-five years as an officer of our venerated *Society*—during the greater part of that time, indeed, sole *editor* of its published *Journal*.

You will readily believe that, notwithstanding the severe *illness*

which prostrated me now some six years ago, I then (as indeed I have ever since) indulged the hope that I might be spared, not only to pilot volume iii. to its completion, but also to proceed at once with the commencement of volume iv.

The first of these anticipations, which included a preface and full index to the third volume, was last year happily accomplished; thus the present is, I conceive, an opportune moment for taking a step which the illness named seems, Providentially as it were, to have forced upon me.

The interests of my beloved Society which, I cannot but feel, have recently suffered more or less through my inaction, must no longer be endangered by that or any other cause, even distantly, controllable by me.

The new part of the *Journal* ought now, as we are all of us agreed, to be put quickly to press, and it may yet be some time ere your present Editorial Secretary (if indeed ever) will be strong enough to carry out the work so satisfactorily as he and you could wish.

I will ask you therefore kindly to make known to our worthy brethren of the Council, and if need be to the annual meeting, these my sentiments of affection for the old Society. And I authorise and request you to place my *Resignation* of the *Editorship* in the hands of the Council; confidently trusting and believing that, under the new *régime*, "all will go merrily as a marriage bell" with the Society, and with whatever may, now or hereafter, promote the cause of Cheshire Archeology and of Historic Research.

Finally, if in any way it may be thought that my experience can at all help in the Local Antiquarian field, such will, while I live and retain my faculties unimpaired, ever be at the service of the Society.— Believe me, my dear sir, with the warmest good will for you personally,

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS HUGHES.

Proposed by Dr. Davies-Colley, seconded by the Rev. S. Cooper Scott, M.A., and unanimously resolved that the best thanks of this Society be accorded to Mr. Thomas Hughes, F.S.A., for his valuable services during the long period of thirty-five years, and that his letter and this resolution be printed in the Society's *Journal*.

Proposed by Mr. George A. Dickson, J.P., seconded by Mr. P. H. Fletcher, and unanimously resolved that the best thanks of the members be given to the President and Council* for their work during the past year.

The Hon. Secretary then read the following suggestions as to the transcribing and printing of the Chester City Records,

submitted by the Council of the Society to the members in general meeting :—

REPORT AND SUGGESTIONS RELATING TO THE CITY
RECORDS.

Mr. Jeaffreson, in his report on the muniments of the corporation of Chester, printed by the Historical Manuscripts Commission in 1881, states that "few provincial cities possess archives so numerous and so valuable as those now in the muniment room of the Town Hall of the city of Chester." And yet these documents are practically unknown to the citizens, and very few even are aware of their existence.

At the present time, when so much attention is everywhere being directed to the scientific study of the past, and when so much interest is taken in antiquarian matters by all educated people, it seems only fitting that the corporation of Chester, who are the owners of these valuable records, should, if possible, follow the example which is being set them in all directions and have the most valuable of their archives transcribed and printed. Extracts from the Records of the City of Oxford were printed in 1880; one volume of the Liverpool Municipal Records appeared in 1883, and another is now in the press; three volumes of the Records of the Borough of Nottingham have recently appeared, and the Manchester corporation have just printed four volumes of their early Court Leet Records, and are continuing their publication down to modern times. The Municipal Records of Bath have also recently been printed, and a volume of extracts from those of Carlisle have been issued this year. Other instances might be given, but these will serve to show how much attention is now being paid to the publication of these documents, which throw light upon the quaint municipal government of days gone by, and it would be a great misfortune if such really important

records, as those relating to the city of Chester, should not be similarly made known.

Of the MSS. now in the muniment room in the Town Hall, the most important, as regards the past history of the city, would appear to be those known by the following designations: Firstly, the Assembly Books; secondly, the Mayor's Books; and thirdly, the Pentice Chartulary.

The Assembly Books are the books containing the various "orders" passed at the assemblies or meetings of the mayor, aldermen, and common council, held in the Town Hall of the city, for the transaction of municipal business. The earliest of these books commences in 1539, the thirty-first year of the reign of Henry the Eighth, and the entries extend through the reigns of Edward VI., Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, to the end of that of James I., 1624. The second covers the years between 1624 and 1684, and the third goes from 1684 to 1724. The earliest volume was for a long time lost to the city, and was only recovered some twenty or thirty years ago by the late Town Clerk, Mr. Walker, and it has since been carefully repaired and bound. Its contents are most miscellaneous, but full of interest, the various "orders" embracing such widely different subjects as the regulation of the sports on Shrove Tuesday, and the ordering of what caps, kerchiefs and hats should be worn by women; the encouragement of archery, and the regulation of the Whitsun plays; the refusal to make a person free of the city because he was far too rich for a city of poor traders; and the absolute prohibition of any stage plays being performed anywhere in the city after six o'clock in the evening, and so on. The volume abounds in quaint details of the past history of Chester, and is well worthy of having its contents made widely known. The second volume—1624 to 1684—is full of details concerning the history

of Chester during the Civil War; and the third gives an insight into the history of the city during the reign of James II., William and Mary, Queen Anne and George I.

The Mayor's Books commence much earlier than the Assembly Books, but they are not so full of matter of historical importance, and there are many gaps in their continuity. The earliest are in Latin, commencing in 1393, and they come down to the early part of this century. They supply the names of the various mayors, aldermen, &c., and the officers of the corporation for the various years for which the books exist, as well as the names of those persons who were made free of the city; and they contain much of interest relating to the city, of which there is no other record.

The Pentice Chartulary is a volume of much interest. It was commenced in 1576 with the view of entering copies and translations of all the charters, grants, and other records relating to the city, so as to ensure their preservation, and by this means many documents, the originals of which are now lost, have been preserved to us. It would be well at some period to print the greater part of the contents of this volume, as well as the many original charters, &c., now in the possession of the corporation, and this might be done after the Assembly Books have been first gone through.

It only remains to add that it is most important that all the Records printed by the corporation should be very carefully transcribed and properly edited, so as to ensure complete accuracy, and the editor should be requested to provide annotations and explanations in foot notes, so as to render the meaning of what is printed as clear as possible. If the work is judiciously undertaken, it is possible that the expense of printing might be repaid by the subscriptions of those who would wish to purchase copies of the printed volumes,

so that the only cost to the corporation would be the expense of the transcripts, and the remuneration of the editor. The latter should, if possible, be a gentleman familiar with these Records and accustomed to the work of editing them.

Proposed by General Ingall, C.B., seconded by Dr. Stolterfoth, and unanimously resolved, that this annual meeting of the Society requests the Council to take the necessary steps to bring the important question of printing the city records before the corporation of Chester.

The secretary read letters from Dr. Brushfield, Mr. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., and other old members of the Society, expressing regret at their inability to attend the meeting, and the hope that the city would be induced to authorise the publication of their valuable records, which were well known to be of such general interest that they ought to be printed *in extenso*, and offering to become subscribers.

Mr. J. P. Earwaker, being called upon by the Chairman, made a few remarks on the City Records, and also on the Registers and Parish Records of St. Mary on the Hill. The Rev. H. Grantham, the rector of St. Mary's parish, stated that as far as he was concerned he would willingly consent to the Registers being printed, and he had no doubt but that the churchwardens would consent.

Proposed by Mr. T. Cann Hughes, seconded by Mr. J. E. Ewen, and unanimously resolved, that the Hon. General Secretary communicate with the rector and churchwardens of that parish, with a view to the transcribing and printing of the Parish Registers, as well as extracts from the Churchwardens' Accounts.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

THE CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SOCIETY.

GEORGE FRATER, HON. TREASURER.

Ct. *STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1886.* **Dr.**

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
By Balance in hand from 1885	103	0	5	To Rent, &c.	20	0	0
" Subscriptions	79	12	6	" Caretaker	6	0	0
" Arrears of Subscriptions	2	0	0	" Removal Expenses	25	9	6
" <i>Journals</i> sold	3	3	0	" Printing <i>Journal</i> , part xii., division 1 and 2	95	0	6
" Balance of Derby House Rents	0	14	11	" Liverpool, London, and Globe Insurance Co.	2	0	0
" Sundries	0	7	0	" Repairs, &c.	4	15	0
" Interest allowed by Bankers	2	10	3	" Books for Library	2	15	0
				" Shorthand Report of Opening Lecture	2	2	0
				" Contract for Painting Derby House	7	8	0
				" Printing and Stationery	13	17	3
				" Secretarial and Sundry Expenses	3	10	6
				" Balance in Messrs. Williams & Co.'s Bank	8	10	4
	<u>£191</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>£191</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>

6th April, 1887. Examined and found correct,
(Signed) H. W. JONES (*Hon. Auditor*).



LIST OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED IN THE SESSION 1886-7.

At the Council Meeting held 31st May, 1886.

Alfred Rimmer, Crook Street, Chester.

At the Council Meeting held 21st June, 1886.

Hon. T. R. Brushfield, M.D., Budleigh Salterton, Exeter.

Hon. W. Beamont, Orford Hall, Warrington.

Hon. J. Paul Rylands, F.S.A., Heather Lea, Cloughton, Birkenhead.

At the General Meeting held 7th September, 1886.

Mrs. J. H. Hignett, 18, Hough Green, Chester.

Thomas Hignett, 14, Hough Green, Chester.

R. C. Drury, Abbotsfield, Chester.

Miss L. E. Brown, The Folly, Flookersbrook, Chester.

Harry Beswick, Newgate Street, Chester.

The Rev. Thos. Cox, Upton Park, Chester.

At the Council Meeting held 6th October, 1886.

Lt.-Col. Arthur Mesham, Pontryffydd, Bodfari, Rhyl.

J. Burnside Taylor, 4, Hough Green, Chester.

The Rev. George Preston, M.A., The King's School, Chester.

Mrs. G. R. Griffith, Hough Green, Chester.

The Rev. S. Cooper Scott, M.A., St. John's Rectory, Chester.

Walter G. Schroeder, 22, Chichester Street, Chester.

J. C. Stevens, 15, Abbey Street, Chester.

J. R. Thomson, Bank House, St. Werburgh Street, Chester.

John Callimore, The Friars, Chester.

F. F. Brown, Eastgate Row, Chester.

T. S. Gleadowe, M.A., Alderley Edge, Chester.

Edward W. Cox, The Old Hall, Flookersbrook, Chester.

J. G. Holmes, Curzon Park, Chester.

Col. David Scotland, Eccleston Hall, Chester.
 The Rev. Edward Marston, M.A., Rector of Holy Trinity, 82, Watergate Flagg, Chester.
 Gen. W. J. Ingall, C.B., Queen's Park, Chester.
 J. P. Cartwright, The Elms, Flookersbrook, Chester.
 Benjamin C. Roberts, Oakfield, Upton, Chester.
 Miss Helen Pitcairn Campbell, Vicar's Cross, Chester.
 George Edward Barber, St. Bridget's Rectory, Chester.
 Edward Hodgkinson, Pepper Street, Chester.
 Miss M. H. Taylor, 4, Curzon Park, Chester.
 W. H. Okell, 1, Northgate Street, Chester.
 Mrs. Wm. Pritchard, Watergate Row, Chester.
 Mrs. J. H. A. Hall, The Old Bank House, Chester.
 Hon. Mrs. Bodvel Griffith, Stoak Vicarage, Cheshire.
 W. C. Deeley, Curzon Park, Chester.

At the Council Meeting held 13th October, 1886.

George A. Dickson, J.P., Springfield, Chester.
 Thomas McHenry Hughes, M.A., F.S.A., Woodwardian Professor of Geology, Cambridge.
 Mrs. A. O. Walker, The Leadworks, Chester.
 Thomas Wakefield, Parkgate Road, Chester.
 Alexander Lamont, jun., Eastgate Street North, Chester.

At the General Meeting held 20th October, 1886.

Mrs. Pitcairn Campbell, Vicar's Cross, Chester.
 Mrs. Gamon, Curzon Park, Chester.
 Paul Price, 54, Northgate Street, Chester.
 T. J. Powell, 14, Newgate Street, Chester.
 Wm. Conway, 4, Liverpool Road, Chester.
 A. E. Ould, 3, Chichester Street, Chester.
 Miss Cummings, 9, King's Buildings, Chester.
 Miss Annette Hamel, 63, Watergate Row South, Chester.

At the Council Meeting held 3rd November, 1886.

R. Venables Kyrke, Pen-y-Wern, Mold.
 Samuel Rigby, J.P., Fern Bank, Liverpool Road, Chester.
 B. Ll. Vawdrey, Tushingam Hall, Whitchurch, Salop.
 The Hon. and Rev. W. Trevor Kenyon, M.A., Malpas Rectory, Whitchurch, Salop.
 John Phillipson, Liverpool Road, Chester.
 The Rev. F. Howson, M.A., Egerton House, Chester.
 Miss Howson, Egerton House, Chester.
 Miss A. M. Howson, Egerton House, Chester.
 W. E. Brown, Bouverie Street, Chester.

The Rev. John Williams, Cheyney Road, Chester.
E. R. Knowles, Grosvenor Street, Chester.

At the General Meeting held 8th November, 1886.

D. P. Fordham, 2, Abbey Square, Chester.
Charles Howard Minshull, Abbey Square, Chester.
Edward Thomas, Pepper Street, Chester.
Dr. Haynes Thomas, Pepper Street, Chester.
F. D. Thomas, Pepper Street, Chester.

At the Council Meeting held 7th December, 1886.

D. A. V. Colt-Williams, Richmond House, Boughton, Chester.
C. P. Douglas, 5, Stanley Place, Chester.
Wm. Trevor Parkins, M.A., Glasfryn, Gresford.
H. B. Dutton, Curzon Park, Chester.
The Rev. Matthew Henry Lee, M.A., The Vicarage, Hanmer, Whit-
church, Salop.
Thomas Bate, J.P., Kelsterton, Flint.
Michael Johnson, Lorne Street North, Chester.
R. Pinches, Newgate Street, Chester.
William Roberts, The Northgate, Chester.
James Williams, Tarvin Road, Chester.

At the Council Meeting held 31st January, 1887.

Mrs. Elizabeth Crockett, 15, Hough Green, Chester.
William Williams, Stone Bridge, Chester.

