



Obituary

HIS HONOUR JUDGE WYNNE FFOULKES

IT is with great regret that we chronicle in this number of the Journal the death of one of our Vice-Presidents, His Honour Judge Wynne Ffoulkes, who died at his residence, Old Northgate House, Chester, on June 27th, 1903.

He had retired from his judicial duties as County Court Judge at the end of 1899, having discharged them with consummate ability for twenty-four years. Of his distinguished legal qualifications we need not speak here; it is sufficient to say that they were of a very high order, and received due recognition from every quarter. It is as an archæologist and antiquary of considerable achievement that we have specially to regret his loss.

He came to Chester shortly after the Archæological Society was founded, and was elected a member in 1855, succeeding the Rev. W. H. Massie as *Secretary*. Early numbers of the Journal will show how keen was the interest he took in the Society's work, and how valuable were the contributions which he made, from time to time, to the discussions at its meetings. He was ever keenly alive to the necessity of preserving the ancient character of the buildings of our old City; and no improvements or restorations were made without his vigilant eye being turned upon them, and his careful criticism being given. This was the case, not only when "God's Providence House" was re-edified (see Vol. II., p. 405), but also quite recently, when the roof of S. Mary's-on-the-Hill was repaired. Amongst other contributions of his to the Transactions, was a Paper on the "Life and Character of Archbishop

Plegmund and on his connection with this County," which was read before the Society in January 1862.

He also took an active part in the proceedings of the Cambrian Archæological Society, and contributed a number of valuable papers to the "Archæologia Cambrensis." The late Judge was an authority on the British Camps and Earthworks, and made fruitful investigations in the mountains about the Vale of Clwyd. He was a connoisseur of old silver and china, and had a very extensive and valuable library, the catalogue of which (prepared for the sale which took place on November 10th) showed how wide and varied were his literary tastes.

He had not been able to attend the Evening Meetings of the Society for some time, but he was still a warm supporter of it, and his wise counsel and advice will be much missed.

The following "Tribute from a Friend" is worth preserving, and will be read with interest and treasured by the members of the Society:—"The late Judge's varied attainments, and his cultured mind, brought him into contact with many great men, and his acquaintance was sought, and his delightful conversation regarded as a great charm. There were few subjects upon which he was unable to speak with knowledge; and his extreme vivacity, warm hospitality, and cordial greetings were greatly appreciated. A truly Christian spirit pervaded all his actions, and he was forgiving and kind in whatever he had to do or say. An earnest Churchman all through his life, he imparted a spirit of Christian feeling wherever he went. A central figure among us all, he was much esteemed and highly regarded by those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. His removal will be a severe loss to many to whom he held out the hand of generosity in a quiet, helpful, and unostentatious manner. He loved the Cathedral and the quaint old spots of our City, and knew their history far better than most who are supposed to have a thorough acquaintance with the subject. He has delighted many a friend with his knowledge when conducting him or her around the City. When appointed a Judge, Wigan was then a part of his circuit, but the work on his circuit was so heavy that the Lord Chancellor attached that town to a less busy circuit.

On his appointment it was said of the learned Judge: 'The appointment will give the most lively satisfaction to the legal profession and the public. During his long career at the Bar the learned gentleman's high personal qualifications, have gained for him universal esteem; and in selecting him to succeed the late Judge Harden, the Lord Chancellor has not only acknowledged the just claims of a barrister of eminent ability, but secured for the administration of a most important department of law the advices of a gentleman of undoubted judicial capacity.' That was written by a leading journal in 1875. How true it has proved those who knew the late Judge's punctilious care and painstaking qualities can readily conclude. His is a very great loss to the legal profession, to the country, and to our City. The true type of a fine old cultured courtly English gentleman—now, alas! few and far between—he could ill be spared; but it can be truthfully said of him that he has passed away full of years and honours, leaving behind, in his life and actions, a great example to many, and universally mourned by all. As was said of him by an exalted personage: 'He has served the State and the public with conspicuous ability.' What finer monument can be wished for than that the record of one's life can be summed up thus!"

