



ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS, 1920-21.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE Council begs to submit its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1920.

Sessional Meetings have been held, at which the following were read:—

20th January, 1920—

Mr. Philip H. Lawson.—“ Family Memoranda of Thomas Stanley, of Alderley ” (? c. 1600).

Mr. R. H. Linaker.—“ Some notes on the life of George Clarke, once Lieutenant-Governor of New York ” (buried in Chester Cathedral).

*17th February, 1920—*Mr. Philip H. Lawson.—

“ The Commonplace Book of John Crewe of Utkinton (c. 1640—1650). ”

27th May, 1920—(At the Annual Meeting)—Rev. R. A. Thomas—

“ The Chester High Cross. ”

*16th November, 1920—*Mr. J. H. E. Bennett—

“ The Grey Friars of Chester ” (Part I.).

*30th November, 1920—*Rev. James Johnston, F.R.Hist.S.—

“ George Marsh, the Martyr—Historical Study in the 16th Century. ”

*14th December, 1920—*Mr. J. H. E. Bennett—

“ The Grey Friars of Chester ” (Part II.).

A Summer Excursion was also organised for 21st July, 1920, when over 50 Members and friends visited Tarvin Church, Frodsham Church, Norton Priory, Halton Castle, and the Chesshyre Library at Halton. At each of these

places, the party were fortunate in having an interesting account of the most noteworthy features. In spite of adverse weather the excursion was most successful and much enjoyed.

The Council desire to express warm thanks to the donors of various objects of interest during the year.

The Hon. Treasurer's Statement of Accounts annexed shows a balance in hand of £124 17s. 6d.

The Reports of the Hon. Curator, the Hon. Librarian, and the Hon. Secretary, will be submitted to the General Meeting.

Under Rule 4, the following Members of the Council retire, but are eligible for re-election:—Mr. Bell Jones, Mr. P. H. Lawson, A.R.I.B.A., Mr. C. H. Minshull, the Rev. Canon Nairne, D.D., and Mr. W. Fergusson Irvine, F.S.A.

The Council regret that Professor R. Bosanquet, M.A., F.S.A., has left this part of the country and, being no longer able to keep in touch with the Society, has felt compelled to resign his membership of the Council.

The Hon. Auditors, Mr. W. Conway and Mr. F. Skipwith, J.P., also retire, but they are eligible for re-election.

The last Annual Report gave indications of the ambitions of the Council in regard to the re-erection of the old High Cross, and the printing of the City Records, and of the close attention which the Council gave to these matters during the year now in review. For the present it is impracticable to attempt to restore and set up the High Cross. The Council have invited a very competent Historical Committee to advise them as to the printing of the City Records. This Committee has been delayed to some extent in this work by reason of the Council's request that they should in the first instance examine the Earwaker Collection in the Society's Library and make recommendations regarding the cataloguing and general care of them.

A very valuable report has been submitted to the Council by A. G. K. Hayter, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., on the Roman

Potters' Marks to be found in the Society's collection of Samian and other ware. The Council hope to print this list, as also the Catalogue of the Society's Coins made by the Rev. J. T. Davies, M.A., in the near future.

Considerable interest was aroused in the autumn by the excavations made in the Linen Hall in the course of some building alterations. Some beautiful encaustic tiles were found marking the site of a mediæval floor in the house of the Grey Friars. This discovery synchronised very happily with the reading of an exhaustive paper in three parts on the "History of the Grey Friars of Chester" by Mr. J. H. E. Bennett. This paper was the first serious attempt made to co-ordinate the historical material obtainable in regard to this house.

The Executors of the late Rev. Canon Rupert H. Morris, D.D., F.S.A., were so public-spirited and obliging as to send all his papers to the Hon. Secretary in order that the Society might examine them. In particular the Council wished to verify the impression already existing that Canon Morris had left in MS. a continuation of his "Chester in the Plantagenet and Tudor Periods." At present the Council is able to inform the Society that a History of the Siege of Chester, practically ready for the printer, has been found among the papers. The course of procedure has not yet been determined upon, but the Council hope to be able to report later that the printing of this MS. has been definitely undertaken. Such a step is at the least due on the part of the Society to the memory of one who was Hon. Editorial Secretary of the Society for some years, and who was the centre and potent stimulus of archæological research in respect of Chester and Wales. Owing to the warm co-operation of the Rev. N. K. Gaskell, one of Canon Morris's Executors, several parish registers and churchwardens' books belonging to the parishes of St. Mary-without-the-Walls, and St. Michael, Chester, which had been borrowed by Canon Morris and lost sight of, were restored to the respective parishes.

THE CHESTER AND NORTH WALES ARCHITECTURAL, ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SOCIETY.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1920.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
To Balance in hand from last Account	118	4	5	By Fire Insurance	...	...	1 0
" Subscriptions	76	2	6	" One Years Rent to 25th December, 1920	...	...	40 0 00
" Dividend on London and North-Western Railway Consolidated 4% Guaranteed Stock, £297	4	3	1	" Subscriptions to Kindred Societies	...	...	4 4 0
" Interest on East Indian Railway 4½% Debenture Stock 1935/55	3	3	0	" Printing, Stationery, and Postages	...	...	52 19 3
" Chester Corporation—Admission Fees for the Year ended 25th March, 1920	19	16	9	" Miscellaneous	...	...	2 2 0
" Donation from J. P. Rylands, Esq.	1	1	0	" Balance in hand	...	...	124 17 6
" Profit on Summer Excursion, 1920	2	10	0				
" Entrance Fees to Lecture	0	2	0				
	£225	2	9				
	£225	2	9				

We have examined the foregoing Statement of Receipts and Payments, with the Vouchers, and find it correctly recorded.

15th NOVEMBER, 1921.

FRANCIS SKIPWITH, }
WALTER CONWAY, } *Hon. Auditors.*

