



Obituary.

HENRY TAYLOR.

WE have to record the loss in 1927 of one who for long had been a leading member of our Society, Mr. Henry Taylor. Though he had reached an advanced age, Mr. Taylor up to the last took a warm interest in the Society, and when the office of Chairman of the Council was created in 1921, his outstanding services were recognised by his appointment as the first chairman.

Mr. Taylor was born at Wigan in 1845. He was educated at Shrewsbury School under the Rev. B. H. Kennedy, D.D., and afterwards studied for the law, being admitted a solicitor in 1868. In his younger days Mr. Taylor showed considerable athletic prowess in rowing and long-distance running, and was hon. secretary of the Royal Chester Rowing Club from 1871 to 1873. He was one of the famous crew that in 1867 won the City Cup, of the value of £40, after a tremendous struggle with the representative crew from Manchester.

In 1874 Mr. Taylor became Town Clerk of Flint and in the same year was appointed clerk to the justices of Flint Borough. As illustrating his high efficiency in both offices it may be mentioned that when he resigned the Town Clerkship in March, 1906, the borough was in the extremely fortunate position of being absolutely out of debt, and during the whole time of his service as clerk to the magistrates no decision was reversed by appeal on a point of law. In March, 1900, Mr. Taylor was presented by the borough of Flint with a valuable service of plate, and this gift was

accompanied by his portrait in oils, which now hangs in the council chamber at the Flint town hall. In 1924 the bench of magistrates presented to Mr. Taylor a handsome illuminated address to commemorate the completion of his fiftieth year as clerk to the justices.

Mr. Taylor was at his death the senior partner of the firm of Boydell and Taylor, solicitors, of Chester, having joined that old-established firm in 1873. He was president of the Chester and North Wales Incorporated Law Society in the year 1907. For many years he was clerk to the Chester Port Sanitary Authority, registrar of the Mold and Flint County Courts, clerk to the justices of the Broxton division, and to the Commissioners of Taxes of the same district. Amongst his many other activities Mr. Taylor was a prominent Freemason and served as W.M. of the Cestrian (425) Lodge in 1893; and in 1900 he was appointed Provincial Grand Registrar. On his celebrating his jubilee in Freemasonry in 1923, the members of the Cestrian Lodge made him a presentation of a silver salver as a mark of their appreciation of the high services he had rendered to Freemasonry.

Besides being an ornament of the legal profession, Mr. Taylor was for long years a leading authority on antiquarian lore and genealogy in Cheshire and North Wales. His work, "*Historic Notices of Flint*," which was highly spoken of by Bishop Stubbs, formerly Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, led to his election as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1888. He was a prolific writer on archæological subjects, his production of chief importance being the "*History of the Borderland of North Wales and Cheshire*." A fitting recognition of Mr. Taylor's scientific and literary work was bestowed upon him seven years ago when he received from the Manchester University the honorary degree of M.A.

Mr. Taylor joined the Chester and North Wales Archæological Society in 1870. He held the honorary secretaryship in succession to the late Mr. Thomas Hughes, F.S.A., till 1891, and was made a Vice-President in 1905. He was the

founder of the Flintshire Historical Society, becoming a Vice-President and Chairman of the Executive, and latterly Acting President.

Mr. Taylor was in various respects an outstanding personality amongst the citizens of Chester, well-known and greatly esteemed, not only in the city itself, but in the county and in North Wales. The writer of this little notice made Mr. Taylor's acquaintance only a few years ago, but the acquaintance ripened into friendship. It was always a pleasure to be in his company, and one learned from intimate talks to look with admiration on his wide and accurate knowledge, and his acute intellectual power. Mr. Henry Taylor will be remembered by his many friends not only for his attainments, but for his attractive personal qualities, notably his geniality and kindness and his old-world courtesy.

In addition to the works mentioned above, and his "*Guide to Flint Castle*," Mr. Taylor published various papers and articles of which the following were printed in the Journals of the Chester Archæological Society, and of the Flintshire Historical Society.

CHESTER ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY (New Series).

"*Letter in reference to the Cannel Coalfields of Flintshire and the question of the Romans having worked the coal at Pentre, near Flint*," i, 106; "*Notes upon some early Deeds relating to Chester and Flint*," ii, 149-185; "*An unpublished Diary of the Rev. Peter Walkden, in 1733-4*," iii, 151-161; "*The Flintshire Militia, with a short Biography of Sir Roger Mostyn, Kt. and Bt., its first colonel*," iv., 54-67; "*Notes on some Mediæval goldsmiths in Chester*," iv, 178, 185; "*The Chester City Companies*," v., 16-27; "*Sir Nicholas Hauberk, Kt., Constable of Flint Castle, 1396-1407*," v., 84-8; "*Popish Recusants in Flintshire in 1625*," v., 304-312; "*History of Diserth Castle*," v., 380-383; "*A Transcript of old Chester Deeds (relating to the family of Doncaster)*," v., 426-432; "*Effigy in Holy Trinity Church, Chester*," vi., 45-48; "*Six Early Deeds relating to property in Northgate Street, Chester*," vi., 49-59; "*On some Early Deeds relat-*

ing to the Families of Hoton of Hooton, and Stanley of Storeton and Hooton," vi., 167-216; "Early Lead Miners brought from the High Peak to work in Flintshire," viii, 112-114; "Ten Early Chester Deeds, 1270-1490," x., 101-116; "A Roman Centurion of the 20th Legion," xx, 215-219; "Chester's Oldest Newspaper," xxi., 25-29; "A Deed of Transfer of family property by Randle Holme III and Randle Holme IV, in 1690," xxii, 5-11.

FLINTSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY :—

"A Flintshire Royal Princess," v., 91-94; "The Lords of Mold," vi., 37-62; "Articles for the surrender of Flint Castle, in 1646," vi., 85-89 "An early Caergwrle Deed," vi., 101-2; "The Mostyns of Maesmynan," vi., 103-4; "Sir George Wynne, Bt., M.P. (Flint District Borough, 1727-1741)" ix., 1-29.

W. L. P. C.

