



Obituary

THE VEN. WILLIAM LANG PAIGE COX, M.A., B.D.,
ARCHDEACON OF CHESTER.
(Died 14th March, 1934)

To the world at large Archdeacon Paige Cox was the holder of a high ecclesiastical office in the conduct of which he commanded the deepest respect. There was an Archdeacon of Chester at least as early as A.D. 1070, and thus the office is in more senses than one "venerable." Many men of personality and learning have held it, and in that distinguished line our late Archdeacon takes a place that compares honourably with the greatest. Throughout his clerical career he used to acknowledge the abiding advantage which was his of an early business training, but it was still more clear that his personal gifts of insight, patience, caution and courage gave to all his judgments a value impressive and unquestioned.

He was a sound and careful scholar who maintained not only an informed acquaintance with modern thought but also his affection for the great classical literatures of the ancient world. He was well known as a writer on questions of Church History and Prayer Book. He was a contributor to *The Dictionary of National Biography*, and special reference may be made to his article therein on Bishop Jayne.

It was therefore an encouragement to all the students and friends of Archæology in Chester to find that, like his predecessor, Archdeacon Barber, Archdeacon Paige Cox cared intensely for the fostering of local interest in historical remains and for their jealous safeguarding. As Archdeacon of Chester he was *ex-officio* a Vice-President of the Chester

and North Wales Architectural, Archæological, and Historic Society. He brought with him into the Society not only a sense of responsibility and of respect for its objects but also a personal sympathy which greatly overstepped the limits of an official connection. The Society gained immensely by his acceptance of the Chairmanship of its Council. He attended meetings with exemplary regularity, exercising always the authority of that office with characteristic thoughtfulness and thoroughness. It was remarkable in him that while in his rare personal interventions in the course of Committee business he showed a perfect grasp of all the facts under consideration he obtruded his own views to a minimum extent. Indeed he was an ideal Chairman, combining judgment and dignity.

Those members who were present in the Cathedral at his funeral service will remember the wonderful, yet well-merited, tribute paid to his memory by the Bishop of Chester. The Archdeacon leaves a picture in our minds of a man of singular brotherliness, who knew in a rare degree when and how to speak. Out of that kindly heart and sound judgment the Committee, and the Society at large, gained immeasurably. They shared with countless other interests in the City and Diocese his benevolent care and thought, but they venture to believe that they had a special place in his affection, and their sense of bereavement is keen. Our Society has many great names on its roll of past officers and members, but none more honoured and beloved than that of Archdeacon Paige Cox.

R. A. T.

CHARLES HOWARD MINSHULL.

By the death of Mr. Minshull on 20th September, 1934, the Society has lost one of its oldest and best-known members.

Mr. Minshull, who was 76 years of age, was born at the Wishing Steps, City Walls, Chester, the son of Mr. Edward Minshull of Messrs. Minshull and Hughes (later Minshull and Meeson), booksellers, of Eastgate Row. He was

educated at the King's School in the days when it was housed in the Cathedral Refectory, and was Gold Medallist for the year 1873. Of a highly artistic temperament he was articled in the following year to the late Mr. John Douglas, the brilliant Chester architect, and in course of time was taken into partnership by him. Later he became senior partner in the firm of Douglas, Minshull, and Muspratt, (now Douglas, Minshull and Williams). One of his earliest duties as a youth involved the sketching of the beautiful roof of Cilcen Church, and from that time his chief professional interest lay in ecclesiastical architecture.

During his long association with Mr. Douglas, the firm built many churches in all the neighbouring counties, notably St. Andrew's, West Kirby; St. John's, Barmouth; St. Paul's, Colwyn Bay; Christ Church, Chester; the Congregational Church, Great Crosby; and the church at Old Colwyn. Mr. Minshull also carried out schemes of restoration or decoration in a large number of churches, the most recent of which were at St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, Chester; St. Chad's, Over; and at Weston-Rhyn and Delamere Churches. Amongst secular buildings for which the firm was responsible may be mentioned Longden Manor, Shropshire; the Technical School, Glossop; and Friar's School, Bangor. Much work was also done on the Eaton Estate and also at Hawarden, where the firm designed St. Deiniol's Library, opened in 1902 as a National Memorial to Mr. W. E. Gladstone.

Mr. Minshull became a member of the Chester and North Wales Archaeological Society on 8th November, 1886, and was thus almost the oldest member of the Society. He was elected to the Council of the Society on 22nd May, 1895.

He was also a member of long standing of the Chester Society of Natural Science, Literature, and Art, at whose Annual Conversazioni he frequently organised exhibitions of pictures, portraits, and works of art.

He was also for many years nominated by the learned Societies of the City as a member of the Public Library Committee of the City Council.

In spite of his membership of these various Societies, and of the valuable work which he performed in connection with them, Mr. Minshull shrank from publicity of every kind. He was a man of such essential modesty and sensitiveness of character that publicity, with its tendency towards vulgarity and self-advertisement, was abhorrent to him, as was also snobbery, if indeed he understood the meaning of that vice.

It was in his individual contacts with his friends in all classes of society that the nobility of his character was best known, and will continue as an example and inspiration throughout their lives. Highly cultured, widely read and of great artistic ability, Mr. Minshull was, nevertheless, a man of wonderful simplicity and kindness of character, whose deeds of charity were innumerable but known only to the recipients. He honoured all men and women, however humble their position, and was unremitting in his devotion to the highest dictates of the Christian life.

D. J.

