





THE LATE REV. W.H. MASSIE,

RECTOR OF ST. MARY'S, CHESTER.

[Reduced from the original Photograph by Capt. Inglefield, Royal Artillery.]

JOURNAL
OF THE
Architectural, Archaeological,
AND
Historic Society,
FOR THE
COUNTY, CITY, AND NEIGHBOURHOOD OF
Chester.

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CHESTER:
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FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

MDCCCLVII.

CHESTER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY.

Architectural, Archaeological, and Historic Society,

FOR

The County, City, and Neighbourhood of Chester.

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Ladies or Gentlemen desiring to become Members, are invited to send in their names to any of the Secretaries, under the above addresses, or through any Subscriber.

Subscriptions are due from January 1st, and should be paid by March 25th in each year, to Mr. THOMAS HUGHES, Northgate Street, (opposite St. Peter's Church).

The Council wish it to be clearly understood, that the Authors of the several Papers, printed in this JOURNAL, are alone responsible for the statements contained therein.

R U L E S .

Objects.—The leading Objects of the Society shall be—

- 1.—The improvement of Architectural Taste, Science, and Construction :
- 2.—The illustration and preservation of the remains of antiquity and other objects of interest, in the city, neighbourhood, and county :
- 3.—The recommending of plans for the restoration, construction, and improvement of buildings and other works :
- 4.—The collecting of Historic, Archæological, and Architectural Information, documents, relics, books, &c.
- 5.—The mutual suggestion and interchange of knowledge on these subjects.

Constitution.—The Society shall consist of Quarterly Members, Associates, Full Members, Life, and Honorary Members.

The QUARTERLY MEMBERS shall consist of all Subscribers of One Shilling per Quarter, and shall have free admission to all Lectures, Exhibitions, and Ordinary Meetings *only*.

The ASSOCIATE MEMBERS shall consist of all Subscribers of *Ten Shillings* per annum, and shall have, as above, the right of attendance at all Lectures, Exhibitions, and Ordinary Meetings, and shall also have *the benefit of the Library*, a copy of the Society's Illustrated *Journal*, as published, and be invited to join the occasional Excursions.

The FULL MEMBERS shall consist of all Subscribers of *One Pound* per annum. These shall enjoy *every right* and advantage of the Institution, be eligible into the Council, and have the privilege of introducing Visitors, under restrictions hereafter named.

LIFE MEMBERS.—Donors of Ten Pounds or more shall be Full Members for life.

LADIES may also be Members of this Society on subscribing Five Shillings per annum, and shall have a right to attend all Lectures, to purchase the *Journal* at a moderate price, and to present Communications through the Secretaries.

The Visitors to be admitted by any Full Member shall be either the ladies of his family, children between 10 and 15 years of age, or strangers from such a distance as the Council shall specify.

Honorary Members shall be chosen by the Council.

Management.—The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Council, to consist of the following persons, being Subscribers of One Pound per annum :—The Presidents and Officers of the Society ; the Archdeacon of Chester ; the Chairman of the Improvement Committee of the Chester Town Council ; the Canon in Residence ; the Principal of the Training College ; the Secretary or Treasurer of the Diocesan Church Building Society ; the Secretary or Treasurer of the Rural Chapel Society ; and four Architects or Builders. To these shall be added other Laity and Clergy in equal numbers, not exceeding six of each, to be elected by the Full and Associate Members from among the Subscribers of One Pound per annum.

Two of these elected classes, viz. Laity and Clergy, and two of the Architects or Builders, shall retire from the Council yearly, in rotation, but shall be immediately re-eligible. Five Members of the Council shall constitute a quorum. The Council shall re-appoint the Secretaries annually, or choose others in their room.

The Council may appoint Sub-committees for special purposes, or make Bye-laws, yet so as not to violate any of the fundamental principles of the Society, in which no alteration shall be made without the further concurrence of a General Meeting, and sanction of Patrons and Presidents; and if any Full or Associate Member shall be desirous of altering any Rule, he shall propose such alteration to one of the Secretaries, who shall submit it to the discretion of the Council; and before any Bye law shall be passed by the Council, notice thereof shall have been given at a previous meeting, or specifically in writing to each Member of the Council.

There shall be an Annual General Meeting, Quarterly Meetings, and also Monthly Meetings, if the Council see fit, for the specific objects of the Society. There shall also be as many Extraordinary Meetings as the Council may appoint, at which Lectures may be given on any literary or scientific subject, with the sanction of the Council.

Property.—When the Council shall consider any Paper read at a Meeting of the Society worthy of being printed in the *Journal*, they shall request the Author to furnish the manuscript for that purpose.

FULL MEMBERS will receive a copy of the *Journal* gratis, and the remaining copies shall be sold at a sum to be fixed on by the Council for the benefit of the Society.

The Author of any Paper printed in the *Journal* may receive 25 copies of his own Paper gratis.

All Books, Prints, Relics, &c. which may be purchased by or presented to the Society, shall be preserved for the use of the Members in such place and custody as shall be appointed by the Council; and all orders for payment, &c. shall be signed by the Chairman, and counter-signed by the Secretary; and accounts audited in Council by persons appointed for the purpose, preparatory to confirmation at the Annual Meeting.

The Library and Museum of the Society are at present deposited in the large room of the late City Library, in St. Peter's Church-yard.

Admission of Members.—All Subscriptions shall be counted due on the First day of January, and shall be paid within three months of the date of admission; and, in all future years, between the 1st day of January and 25th of March. The Council shall also, if they find it desirable, appoint a certain amount of Entrance Money, to be paid on admission.

The Society may be connected with other Literary or Scientific Associations, on such terms as to the Council may seem fit; provided always, that the foregoing fundamental Rules of this Society shall be consented to as essential to the union; and that every new Member shall acknowledge the same as the conditions of admission.

Ladies or Gentlemen wishing to become Members, are requested to communicate with either of the Secretaries, or with any Member of the Council.

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P R E F A C E .

THE Council of the Chester Architectural, Archæological, and Historic Society, in bringing to a close the first volume of their printed *Journal*, have thought it advisable to prefix some account of the origin of the Society, as well as a short abstract of its early proceedings.

Experience having shewn that no *more distant* substitute can supply the want of *local* investigation, and the necessity for something of the kind having been often suggested, at length a few individuals representing the Architects, Artists, Laity and Clergy of Chester met at the Rectory of St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, on Friday, March 16th, 1849, as a preliminary step to the establishment of an Association, 1st, for the improvement of architectural taste, which was felt to be much wanted; 2nd, for the preservation of remains of antiquity, with a view to selecting the best models from that rich treasury; and 3rd, for the extension of knowledge and registering of information in the details of local history, the evidences of which were in danger of being soon altogether lost beyond recovery.

Though the commencement of this movement was very properly made first in the Cathedral City and chief town, yet the design was to embrace the whole county and neighbourhood by the gradual expansion of its machinery as well as operations. The patronage of the Lord Lieutenant and Lord Bishop of the Diocese was at once obtained, the Mayor, the Dean, and other official persons heartily consenting to co-operate. A Provisional Committee was then appointed, who drew up an outline of general principles on which the constitution of the Society should be framed, and which will be found embodied in the code of Rules at pp. v—vi of this present volume.

Many persons having speedily answered to the call thus put forth, the Society acquired a definite existence, and a general meeting was accordingly called by advertisement on the last day of the year 1849, to which the public generally were admitted, though, of course, only Members spoke on the occasion.

Agreement has been entered into with the proprietors of the Commercial News Room for the renting of the room, formerly occupied by the City Library, for the monthly evening meetings of the Society, as well as for the purposes of its Library and Museum. All Full and Associate Members of the Society have accordingly liberty to avail themselves of the latter privileges at any hour between eleven and four daily. The site is convenient, viz. in St. Peter's Churchyard, near the Cross.

Lectures have been given and Papers read on a great variety of subjects; on Ancient Chester,—on the Source and Course of the Dee, and its Fisheries,—on Christian Monuments,—on the Norman Remains of the Cathedral,—Roman Stations and Roads in Cheshire,—Mediæval Tiles,—

Seals,—Timber Houses and Churches of Cheshire,—St. John's Church,—County Records,—Foundation Charter of St. Werburgh's Abbey,—Coins, &c. &c., most of which are printed, with many Illustrations, in this volume.

Communication has been established with the Secretaries of other Societies in London and elsewhere, who are always ready to answer questions and explain points of difficulty. Antiquaries and architects coming from a distance have found here assistance and willing guides to all that is worth seeing. Advantage has been taken of every opportunity to investigate subjects which have long been debated (such as the underground passages, &c.); workmen have been liberally encouraged to save relics which would otherwise have been broken up or lost; some very rare examples, together with coins in considerable quantity, tiles with the mark of the 20th legion upon them, and various minor relics of Samian ware, bronzes, &c., have thus been preserved for the Society's Museum.

And lastly, above all, good-will and social feeling have been promoted between parties who otherwise would rarely meet except on business, but who are mutually glad of an opportunity for the interchange of what information each chances to possess, and so to extend the circle of improving taste, as well as to cultivate the kindly feelings of their common nature.

We may gather beyond doubt, from all these hints, that such a Society is *capable* of being made most useful, and *may* contribute to the cultivation of knowledge, of taste, and entertainment, though the amount or continuance of the benefit will be proportionate to the actual aid given by the architects, artists, and antiquaries of the neighbourhood or county, on whose enlightened liberality the result must obviously much depend. If any individual then has any singular records, relics, or rare examples of archæology, let him bring them forward to be exhibited and registered as a valuable possession of his own and as worthy of reference to others, and thus contribute to the stock of information so greatly wanted. You that have, whether lady or gentleman, far or near, the gift of drawing, send sketches of your buildings and churches, or notable parts thereof, from which it may be seen whether they call for a more exact and detailed delineation. Come you, whose disinterested pleasure it is to promote every undertaking which promises general advantage to the locality. Come, above all, citizens of Chester, residents of one of the most ancient and characteristic cities of the land, despise not those tokens of history and devotion, amidst which providence has specially cast your lot. Come all, who have any of the noble sentiment of veneration for what is venerable, contribute your ability, and partake, it may be, of some little in return.