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JOURNAL

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

VOL. III.



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FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

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# Archaeological, Architectural, and Historic Society,

FOR

The County, City, and Neighbourhood of Chester.

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Subscriptions are due from January 1st, and should be paid by March 25th in each year, to Mr. GEORGE FRATER, The Old Bank, Chester.



## P R E F A C E .

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AFTER numerous delays and disappointments,—for many (probably all) of which, the EDITORIAL SECRETARY fears, he must himself alone be held responsible,—the MEMBERS of the CHESTER ARCHITECTURAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, AND HISTORIC SOCIETY are here presented with the Third VOLUME of its PROCEEDINGS.

For all those at first sight unseemly and unreasonable delays there is but one excuse to offer, viz:—long protracted Illness of a most dangerous and distressing kind, and from which it cannot be said that he is even now more than partially recovered. And yet this one plea, it is hoped, will be regarded as valid and sufficient by that always friendly and sympathetic tribunal of critics,—his brother MEMBERS. And now along with a gradual, even if but temporary, return to rather better health has come the desire to prove of some little further service to the Cheshire Antiquarian Cause; and as an earnest of that wish, this completion of VOLUME III. of the *Journal* will he trusts be generously and lovingly accepted.

Of the Contents of the present VOLUME it will not be necessary to say much by way of PREFACE. Prominent as a contribution to Archaeological Literature generally, but to that of this COUNTY and CITY OF CHESTER in particular, we have the learned and exhaustive Paper by DR. BRUSHFIELD on “the ROMAN REMAINS OF CHESTER,” as exemplified by those discovered in BRIDGE STREET in 1863. Of that Lecture (or rather Lectures, for it had perforce to be divided in twain and so form the material for two consecutive Meetings,) it is only due to record that no previous work done for our Society had drawn larger audiences, or received from outside critics such high and well-deserved encomiums.

MR. WORTH HOARE'S Lecture on “the OLD ENGLISH MANOR OF STALEY or *Stayley*” (now largely merged in the Borough of STALYBRIDGE), was the first attempt, and that a successful one, at a History of the Modern town, traced from its Roman origin through its *Bucton Hill* and the not far off *Milandra Castle*, and so, by occasional glimpses at its modest life in the middle ages, leading us down to the more ambitious ‘Cheshire Cottonopolis’ of to-day.

MR. BEAMONT'S Lecture on “RICHARD III.” forms a scholarly chapter of English history, based on the dramatic story immortalised

by *Shakspeare*, and rendered charmingly local to us Cheshire readers by the poetic prose of a venerated friend,—one of the few still living Original Members of our SOCIETY!

But perhaps the chief literary treasure of the Volume is, and will continue to be, the Lecture on “the ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL,” by England’s greatest authority on the later Gothic Revival,—SIR GILBERT SCOTT, R.A.. Nothing could exceed the graphic power of the gifted Lecturer, as he first of all described in lecture-form to his large and influential audience, the Architectural History of the sacred structure which had been confided to his “restoring” care. Nor could anything have rivalled the wondrous minuteness with which, in his after perambulation of the Cathedral itself, he pointed out the leading features and structural peculiarities that had been made manifest, some of them for the first time for centuries, in the grand work of the original Architects, as well as in the efforts—not always so uniformly happy—of the successive Restorers. All this has been preserved to us in these pages, and illustrated by a native architect, MR. EDWARD HUGHES, under the watchful eye of the late SIR GILBERT himself, in a manner that could not possibly be improved upon.

The Papers respectively of DRs. ROBSON and KENDRICK,—the former on “THE ROMAN ROADS OF NORTH CHESHIRE, and the latter on “THE ROMAN STATION regarded as the semi-classical *Condute*,” and by those two industrious but now alas! deceased Antiquaries set down as at WILDERSPOOL, on the Cheshire confines of Warrington,—are alike Papers of great intrinsic value to the local Archaeologist and Historian of the future. MR. BEAMONT’S Paper, again, on Shakspeare’s “HENRY IV.” forms an excellent local sequel to his “RICHARD II.” above referred to.

Then follows “CHESTER IN ITS EARLY YOUTH,” in which an attempt has been made by its author to depict some of the characteristics and a few of the relics of our Roman “DEVA.” CANON BLOMFIELD, too, in his “PURITANISM IN CHESTER IN 1637” tells us, as few save he could have presumed or been able to do so well, what the old City’s life, religious and social, was like in the 17th century: while *en suite* to this, Dr. KENDRICK’S “WARRINGTON LOCAL SKETCHES” form an appropriate variety to the more severe and solid Papers which go to make up the Volume.

MR. EWEN, in an interesting and well-thought-out Paper on "ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHESTER," has given the cue to other students and labourers in the local Antiquarian field, as to the infinity of Historic material lying almost untouched in the Parish Chests of the city and county. He has pointed out—from the example of ST. PETER'S,—the whereabouts of documentary and other evidence which, judiciously handled, would make the old churches and mansions, the picturesque farmhouses and even the quaint village streets and cottages in and about Cheshire, scenes of living interest in the world of Local By-gone.

Full of deep research, equally so of ripe scholarship and charming poetic truth, is MISS EMILY S. HOLT'S article on "ELIZABETH, DUCHESS OF CLARENCE," daughter-in-law to King EDWARD III. In this little cameo from English history in the 14th century, the life and fortunes of a spendthrift royal lady are set forth, by means of the original Public Records of the period, down to her death in Ireland and the passage across the channel of her body to its first resting-place at NESTON in this county, and thence by way of CHESTER to its final home in Suffolk. No more accurate Paper has ever graced the annals of an Antiquarian Society.

DEAN HOWSON'S Lecture on "MILTON AND THE RIVER DEE," valuable and instructive as it was of itself at the date of its delivery, has acquired an additional and a melancholy interest for us his associates by the fact of his recent and lamented decease,—just at a time too, when every one hoped there might be reserved for him a few more years of that intelligent and thorough "work" which had through his life so eminently distinguished him!

A Paper entitled "THE CITY AGAINST THE ABBEY," treats of certain misunderstandings and disputes rife in the middle ages between the CATHEDRAL and the CORPORATION Authorities of CHESTER. Other Lectures, contributed by staunch friends of the Society, appear in the Volume; among which may be named Mr. THOMAS RIGBY'S valuable compilation on "the Ancient CHESHIRE BOROUGH OF OVER."

The concluding Paper in Volume III., by the SOCIETY'S and CHESTER'S revered friend, the late CANON KINGSLEY,—on "PRIMÆVAL MAN,"—will of course be regarded by our brethren merely as a newspaper digest of his remarks; and as simply a

skeleton of what we might have expected, had not the good Canon's death prevented the completion of an important scientific Essay. But meagre though it is, it will serve to keep us sensible of the mine of wealth we have lost, and of the genial fellow-worker and helper we once had, in the universally beloved CHARLES KINGSLEY!

During the progress of the Volume, numerous and valuable Additions have been made to the SOCIETY'S Collection of LOCAL ANTIQUITIES, especially those of the ROMAN period. For these the COUNCIL are indebted to the generosity of the MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF CHESTER, the DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, the DEAN AND CHAPTER OF CHESTER, the UNITED GAS COMPANY, MESSRS. FREDERICK POTTS, F. BULLIN, Miss PEACOCK, and numerous others. Nor must it be forgotten, neither left unsaid that, during the last few years, the duty of securing and caring for the large proportion of the Roman Antiquities brought to light in "underground CHESTER" has been mainly performed by the SOCIETY'S Honorary Curator, MR. G. W. SHRUBSOLE, F.G.S. To him has been chiefly due the careful storage and arrangement of that COLLECTION, the public exhibition of which, as well to citizens as to strangers, will henceforward be one of the prominent SIGHTS OF CHESTER. Let us here express an earnest hope that Owners of Property, the Clergy, Architects, Contractors, and Builders, will each loyally aid us in preserving to our old City, and to Archaeological and Historic Science generally, every Object of Antiquarian interest that may occur in Excavations from time to time in CHESTER and its Neighbourhood, thus adding greatly to the usefulness, popularity, and glory of the Collection!

VOLUME III. by the way, reaches its conclusion just at the Opening of The NEW "GROSVENOR MUSEUM," a Building which,—by the munificence of His Grace the DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., supplemented by other valued Friends and Subscribers,—the CHESTER ARCHITECTURAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, AND HISTORIC SOCIETY is hereafter, side by side with the NATURAL SCIENCE SOCIETY and SCHOOL OF ART, to have and enjoy as its truly palatial HOME! As, however, the Ceremony of Opening has, at the time we write, not actually been performed, and as the whole story will doubtless hereafter be more circumstantially put on record, we refrain from further reference to it here.

*July, 1886.*



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