

XVI.—A MEMOIR OF
MABERLY PHILLIPS, F.S.A.

BY SIDNEY STORY CARR, A SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY.

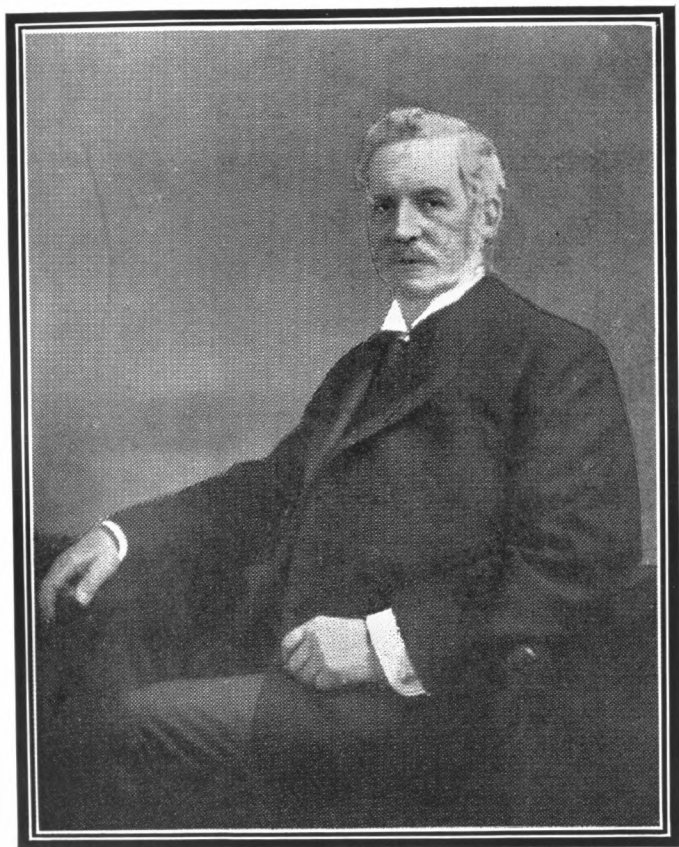
[Read on 27th May, 1925.]

In the subject of our memoir we had a fellow member who applied himself to the study of men, their businesses and habits in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries rather than to the elucidation of those objects of remoter times which have occupied the thoughts of so many of us. Once or twice he diverged into the darker past; one of these occasions was when, in 1897, he discovered the portion of a cross in a rockery in the grounds of Mr. William Orde, and wrote his paper *A pre-conquest cross shaft at Nunmy-kirk, Northumberland*, read in the Castle on 25th August, of that year.

Maberly Phillips was born at Clapham on 16th June, 1838, being the son of Thomas Phillips of the Bank of England, London, who had married Esther, daughter of Apsley Pellatt, of St. Paul's Churchyard, and sister of Apsley Pellatt, M.P.

After passing through private schools at Witham in Essex, and at Clapham, he was, at the age of sixteen, placed in the office of the Official Receiver in London. An age in those days not considered too young for a youth to begin seriously the work of a commercial career.

A love of banking and all concerned with it, however, appears to be inherent to the Phillips character, at any rate so far as three or more generations have been concerned. So after two years with the Official Receiver he resolved to follow his father's profession and obtained a post in the Bank of England, London, from whence fortunately for our Society he was transferred to Newcastle where he completed the long period of thirty-eight years service. In 1898, in accordance with the custom of the



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Bank of England, the offer of further promotion conditional to taking up work at the bank in London, came to our late member. After mature thought he resolved to leave the north, and from that time until his death resided at Enfield. When one of our members asked him if he would return when he retired, he replied "I don't know, I'll see how I like it." But like the majority of those of our friends who migrate to the south he did not return.

Maberly Phillips joined the Society on 24th September, 1884, and soon became an active and prominent member, being elected to the Council in 1892. The first paper from his pen in our Transactions was contributed in April, 1887, the title being *The Meeting House at Horsley-upon-Tyne*. This was printed in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 2nd Ser., vol. xiii.

Like so many who have become intimate with members of the Society of Friends, he began to take a keen interest in the history of that society. This is shown by many of his contributions to our publications, and to other literature.

The subject of this paper will always be best remembered by antiquaries, bankers, and *literati*, by his work: *A history of Banks, Bankers, and Banking in Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire*, illustrating the commercial development of the North of England from 1755 to 1894. This valuable work gives a detailed account of about 76 local banks all of which have closed their doors, or been absorbed by the present existing companies. The two parts comprising this history are illustrated with reproductions of old bank notes, portrait groups, and other matter. One of the groups depicting the partners in Hodgkin, Barnett, Pease and Spence, in their bank parlour, has an especial interest for us, as amongst them are two prominent members of this Society in the past; namely Thomas Hodgkin, for many years one of the secretaries and then a vice-president, and Charles J. Spence a curator and afterwards also a vice-president. When Mr. Phillips presented a copy of his book to the

Society at the annual meeting in 1895 a letter was read from him, from which the following is extracted: "It is one of six quarto copies upon toned paper for private circulation. The book is in sheets and I trust the Council will have it interleaved and bound in such manner as may be deemed most suitable. I make this suggestion in the hope that other members who are in the possession of old notes, letters, or documents relating to the subject, may be induced to present them to the Society to be inserted in the book when so interleaved."

In the year 1900 he published another valuable book, *The Token Money of the Bank of England*, with many illustrations of the coins.

Collecting old bank notes began to lay a fascinating hold on our late member. He made an extensive collection which was especially interesting to us, as such a large number of notes of local banks were included in it. For the purpose of affording our members an opportunity of inspecting this collection at his residence at Whitley, he arranged a meeting at Monkseaton, Cullercoats and Whitley in 1896. Some years afterwards he made over to the Institute of Bankers 800 different bank notes these are now in the Library of the Institute under the name of the "Maberly Phillips Collection," they have been greatly added to since he presented them. At a later date than we have been reviewing he began to collect personal and domestic articles of the times of his grandparents.

It is pleasing to think that after he took up his residence in the south he always arranged his visits to the north so that he could include one of our monthly meetings. On these occasions he always brought, some of the objects just referred to, to exhibit.

He was a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and an Associate of the Institute of Bankers, for whom he lectured several times at the London Institute. He was also a member of the Sussex Archaeological Society to which he contributed *The Pedigree and Genealogical Memoranda relating to the Family of Pellatt of Steyning*, an old Sussex family. For fourteen years he

organized each winter a series of popular lectures which drew large attendances to the Enfield Assembly Rooms.

He retired from his profession in 1903 and henceforth devoted himself chiefly to lecturing, and antiquarian work. The latter for many years before his death included papers to the quarterly *Journal of the Canadian Banker's Association*.

In 1912 he was made a magistrate for Middlesex, in which capacity he did valuable work.

Maberly Phillips was twice married, in 1862 to Drusilla, eldest daughter of T. G. Pocock of Clapham by whom he leaves four sons and two daughters. One of the former now occupies his father's old position in the Newcastle branch of the Bank of England. His second wife who survives him is a daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Ogilvie of North Shields.

Maberly Phillips was an ardent cyclist; unfortunately while riding he was thrown from his machine by a motor cyclist; this impaired his walking powers, so that latterly he had to use a self-propelling chair. He died somewhat suddenly at home on 10th November, 1923.

In him, the two or three, that are left, who came to our meetings with him month after month, lost a kind, courteous, and beloved friend, the community an ardent antiquary and a fine old English gentleman.

List of papers, notes, etc., by Maberly Phillips in the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne:—

Archaeologia Aeliana, 2nd Series.

Vol. XIII.

"The Meeting House at Horsley-upon-Tyne," pp. 33 ff.

"Disused Graveyards in Northumberland," pp. 65 ff.

"Another disused Graveyard, The Quicks' Buring Plas in Sidgatt, Newcastle," pp. 234 ff.

Vol. XV.

"Brass Tablet at Barnard Castle and the Rev. John Rogers," pp. 37 ff.

Vol. XVI.

"Notes on some forgotten Burying Grounds of the Society of Friends," pp. 189 ff. and pp. 274 ff.

"The Old Bank (Bell, Cookson, Carr and Airley) Newcastle-upon-Tyne," pp. 452 ff.

Vol. XIX.

"Pedigree of the Family of Dove of Tynemouth, Cullercoats, and Whitley," pp. 125 ff.

"The escape of two French prisoners of war from Jedburgh in 1813," pp. 163 ff.

"A pre-Conquest Cross Shaft at Nunnykirk, Northumberland," pp. 192 ff.

Proceedings, 2nd Series.

Vol. V.

"On the Milbourne family."

"Some forgotten burying grounds of the Society of Friends."

"The Society of Friends, Gateshead."

Vol. VI.

"The Biddenden maids."

"On seventeenth century letters relating to Newcastle."

"A bull of Clement VI."

"Sparrow Hall, Cullercoats, etc."

"Portugal gold circulating in England."

Vol. VIII.

"A wooden exchequer tally."

"On a large collection of tokens and bank notes exhibited by him."

Proceedings, 3rd Series.

Vol. I.

"Straw splitters."

Vol. II.

"John Lomax."

"Local non-parochial registers."

"A catalogue of old bank notes recently given to the Institute of Bankers."

"Dog spits, etc."

Vol. III.

"Manners and customs of our grandfathers' days."

Vol. IV.

"The Brandon flint pits."

"Notes on false feet."

"Scotch snuff mulls."

"Powder Puff."

Vol. VI.

"Cheque tickets for toll gates."

"Licences to use hair powder."

Vol. VII.

"Isolated burials in Northumberland and Durham."

Vol. IX.

"Notes on three exhibits."

Vol. X.

"An abstract of title, 1737 to 1793, to premises in the Broad Garth, Newcastle,"