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RELATING TO THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE COUNTY.

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TO THE MEMBERS.

THE Council congratulate the Members of the Society upon the completion of Vol. VIII of the "Collections," which they have thus been enabled to effect by reason of the quantity and value of the materials supplied. They trust that this Volume will be found fully equal to any of the previous issues of the Society, and will lead to a considerable increase in the number of Members, which, indeed, its extent demands. They have again to congratulate the Members upon the success which continues to accompany the Society.

With sincere regret they have to report the decease of three Members of their body since the publication of Part I of the present Volume—viz., John Robert Daniel-Tyssen, Esq., F.S.A. (an old, active, and much-esteemed colleague); Major-General Stewart Allan, F.S.A. Scot., F.R.H.S., &c.; and Colonel Chester, D.C.L., LL.D. The vacancies caused by the lamented decease of these gentlemen have been filled up by the election of other well-known Members of the Society.

The Council desire again to call the attention of the Members to the great advantage which would accrue from the foundation of a fund for providing further illustrations to the "Collections," whereby may be placed on permanent record many interesting memorials in the County which are gradually disappearing, and some of which will shortly be altogether lost unless preserved by the aid of the engraver.

It having come to their knowledge that the Ancient Free Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, at Kingston-upon-Thames (a building of great architectural and local interest and now belonging to the Grammar School), was in immediate danger of destruction, the Council convened a Special General Meeting of the Society, which was accordingly held on the spot, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Viscount Midleton (a Vice-President of the Society), which led to the formation of an influential Committee, composed of the Governors of the Grammar School and local authorities and others (including seven Members of this Council), through whose efforts there is reason to expect that the ancient edifice will be preserved.

The Council again beg to remind the Members and their friends that one of the objects for which this Society was founded is to collect and publish Papers and Essays on all matters of Archæology known to exist or which may be discovered in the County of Surrey, and which will form a continuation and extension of the grand works of the old County historians ; and they especially invite the aid of the Members of the Society and all others who are interested in the history and antiquities of the County and kingdom.

The Council have again to express their regret that the proposal to found a County Museum is still in abeyance, but sincerely hope that the Members will see the utility of establishing so useful an Institution, and come forward with substantial assistance in furtherance of that object. The Society possesses a series of Archæological objects which would form a valuable nucleus for the Museum, and there are no doubt many Archæological friends resident in the County who would gladly contribute objects of interest from their collections if a suitable locality and building can be decided upon.

The Annual Excursions of the Society continue to prove highly successful, and are the means of providing most interesting and valuable contributions for publication in the "Collections" of the Society, as well as the means of making its objects more generally known, and thus enrolling as Members many persons to whom the existence of the Society might otherwise remain unknown.