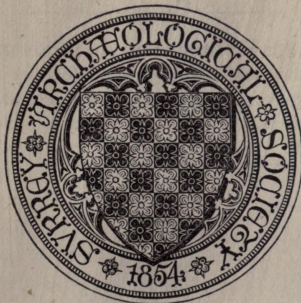


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RELATING TO THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE COUNTY.

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CONTENTS OF VOLUME VIII.

	PAGE
Report of Proceedings at Danes Inn, in July, 1880	ix
" " at Farnham, in July, 1880...	xii
" " at Dorking, in July, 1881 ...	xv
" " at Danes Inn, in July, 1881	xv
" " at Kingston-upon-Thames, in March, 1882	xviii
" " at Guildford, Sutton Place, and Clandon Park, in July, 1882	xix
" " at Danes Inn, in July, 1882	xx
List of Members	xxv
Rules	xliv
Form of Application for Admission of Members	xlviii
1. Historical Associations connected with Farnham Castle. By the Hon. W. ST. JOHN BRODRICK, M.P.	1
2. Early History of the Church of Kingston-upon-Thames, with Notes on its Chapelries of East Moulsey, Thames Ditton, Petersham, and Shene. By Major ALFRED HEALES, F.S.A., M.R.S.L.	13
3. On the Abbey of the Blessed Mary of Waverley, in the County of Surrey. By FRANCIS JOSEPH BAIGENT	157
4. A Brief Memoir of Admiral Sir Edward Whitaker, Knt. By H. W. KING	211
5. Pedigree of Whitaker of Carshalton, Co. Surrey, and Soho Square, London. By H. W. KING	218
6. Shere and its Rectors. By GRANVILLE LEVESON-GOWER, Esq., F.S.A....	219
7. Horley Church "Restoration." By Major ALFRED HEALES, F.S.A., M.R.S.L., Hon. A.R.I.B.A.	240
8. On the Early Churchwardens' Accounts of Horley, 1507—1702. By ALFRED RIDLEY BAX	243
9. The History of the Free Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, Kingston-upon- Thames, Surrey, and the Foundation of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, in the Town of Kingston-upon-Thames, as extracted from Early Records. By Major ALFRED HEALES, F.S.A., M.R.S.L., Hon. A.R.I.B.A.	255
10. The Visitation of Surrey. By J. J. HOWARD, Esq., LL.D., F.S.A.	357
11. INDEX	369

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

		PAGE
1.	Church of Kingston-upon-Thames	<i>face</i> 13
2.	" " Ground Plan	39
3.	" " Piscina in N.E. Pier of Tower	40
4.	" " Details of Mouldings in	43
5.	" " Interior View of	<i>face</i> 44
6.	" " Wall Painting of St. Blaise in	<i>face</i> 60
7.	" " Monumental Brass of Robert Skerne and his Wife in	<i>face</i> 61
8.	" " Monumental Brass of John Hertcombe and his Wife	<i>face</i> 63
9.	Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, Kingston-upon-Thames, Interior View of <i>face</i>	255
10.	" " " Ground Plan... ..	<i>face</i> 294
11.	" " " Interior Elevations	295
12.	" " " Exterior Elevations	295
13.	" " " " Bracket, springing from Mullion	296
14.	" " " " South-east Doorway and Piscina	297
15.	The Visitation of Surrey Arms of Burgh—Richardson—Goodwine—Browker.	357

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.