

## OBITUARY.

THE LATE HENRY WAGNER, M.A., F.S.A.

I have much pleasure in contributing a few words to a memorial notice of our late member, Henry Wagner. I went to Oxford in 1861 as a student at Merton College, and found him there also, he being some two years senior to me. He occupied a pleasant room in the front quad. called the Bay-tree Room. He showed his aesthetic tendencies by decorating and furnishing the room in good taste, and his archæological tendencies by routing up the names of previous occupants of the room for a good many preceeding years. When he moved out of college I succeeded him as occupant of the Bay-tree Room, and his list came to my hands. I copied it into a book, and entered a few more particulars respecting the men mentioned, and left the book for my successor. However, a few years later I heard that the book had disappeared, and an attempt to trace it had proved ineffectual. The result of Henry Wagner's early researches was thus unfortunately lost. I knew him at Brighton as well as Oxford. My family resided there, and his father was vicar of the old parish church; and one of his brothers, by name Arthur Wagner, was the incumbent of S. Paul's, West Street. On one occasion during an election, Henry Wagner was hustled by a mob and a scarf-pin was snatched from his necktie. On another occasion I presented a petition to his father on behalf of the bell-ringers, whose company I had joined. I was rather coldly rebuffed, and soon afterwards Henry Wagner called on me and begged me to accept a little present. It was clear to me that he knew what had happened, and wished to show a little extra friendliness to make up for his father's deficiency. He did not indulge in

the athletic mania at Oxford; but he was strong and healthy. I can remember seeing him perform some strenuous exercises at the gymnasium; and once when examining an hotel book in Switzerland I came across a record of a notable ascension which he had accomplished. Our friendship lasted through life, although at times we were located far apart, and saw little of each other. In recent years I frequently visited Brighton and always looked him up, besides meeting him at times at weddings. His strength gradually failed. I can remember when he ceased taking tea in his garden; afterwards he engaged a nurse, and was glad of her assistance to help him to take a seat in an easy chair. The next year he was confined to his room, and a year later to his bed. Still he kept up a hard struggle with death for a year or two longer, and only succumbed at the advanced age of 85. I am glad to pay a tribute to his memory, and testify to the good sense and good feeling which he always manifested. His public work in church building is doubtless well known.

AMHERST D. TYSEN.

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