

RECORDS
OF
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE,

OR PAPERS AND NOTES ON THE
HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES, AND ARCHITECTURE
OF THE COUNTY ;

TOGETHER WITH TRANSACTIONS OF THE
Architectural and Archaeological Society
FOR THE
COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.

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1854.

RECORDS
OF
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE,

BY THE

Architectural and Archaeological Society
FOR THE

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

PART I.

AYLESBURY :

PRINTED BY JAMES PICKBURN, TEMPLE STREET.

1854.

P R E F A C E .

In issuing the present series of papers as recommended in the Report read at the General Meeting of the ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM, Jan, 2nd, 1854, there are two objects which the Committee especially desire to promote, viz.—

1. The diffusion of correct information on all subjects which fall within the cognizance of such a Society, and

2. The collection and preservation of such materials as may serve to illustrate the history of the County.

For this purpose, the papers will not only contain accounts of those features of Architecture, or Antiquities, to which attention has already been drawn, (though many of these are but partially known,) but also, and more especially, of those which have hitherto been almost or entirely overlooked, or which shall from time to time be discovered. "

Many such have to our own knowledge been brought to light in the restoration of Churches, or removal of parts of ancient Buildings; many by the plough and spade of the agriculturist, or excavator : many more, doubtless, have perished unnoticed, or

forgotten, for want of sonic storehouse in which at least their memory might have been preserved. Such discoveries are now especially likely to be made, at a time when Church restoration is daily progressing, and new railways are contemplated through the County. Nothing need be said to shew the interest which these must possess, nor of their value to the Architect or Antiquarian. Besides this however, they may be of the utmost importance to the landed proprietor, or to the historian, by bearing independent testimony on some doubtful point; while a collection of such isolated facts, though some might appear unimportant in themselves, may form the nucleus of a County history, which could not be gathered with accuracy from other sources.

A great amount of such information has already been collected in the form of papers read at the General Meetings of this Society : more has been gathered by individual Members, and others who have communicated the result of their researches to the Society : and much also that is interesting and useful has been culled from curious and scarce documents, and other records which would not otherwise have been likely to reach those by whom it will be most valued. Hitherto however this information has scarcely been used by Members of the Society; still less by others who might be interested in it; and it has never appeared in such a shape, that any person might collect and pre-

serve it for himself. It is hoped that this may be remedied by the present series, which is intended to circulate at least the most valuable of the materials alluded to, those especially which possess the greatest *local* interest.

Besides the above, which will generally supply the longer articles, it is proposed to reserve a space in each number for *shorter* communications. This portion is intended to contain authentic information on all subjects bearing upon the History, Antiquities, or Architecture of the County. Here will appear notices of all Archaeological discoveries, of Churches or other edifices built, wholly or partially restored, or (if from any circumstance it should so happen) destroyed. Objects worthy of note in each locality in the County, will in turn be pointed out. Here will be published such extracts from old Registers as may contain curious and important information ; while matter of a lighter and more amusing, though often not less valuable kind, may be found in the accounts of local phrases, customs, and traditions.

Enough has already been said to shew the importance of such a collection of facts connected with the County. It only remains now to state, that after all the exertions of the Committee to attain completeness, the success of the undertaking must depend mainly upon the co-operation of those who are able to furnish information on the points

which have been mentioned. Most, it is believed, will gladly avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded of so easily turning to good account the information that may be at their disposal; and there are few, who are not at some time or another able to contribute *something* to such a store of materials. Only, let none be deterred from making their communications by an idea that information on the same subject *may* possibly be obtained from other sources, or that it is not sufficiently important, or from their own inability, real or fancied, to give a *learned* account. What the Committee chiefly desire, is a plain clear statement of every matter of fact in any way connected with the objects of the Society. In obtaining these, they earnestly solicit the aid and co-operation of the inhabitants of the County, and more especially of their own Members.

REPORT

READ AT THE GENERAL MEETING

OF THE

Architectural and Archaeological Society

FOR THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM,

JANUARY 2nd, 1854.

THE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM having now existed six years, it has been thought desirable to deviate from the usual practice, and to give a general summary of the objects of the Society, and of its operations during that period. Indeed, in consequence of the resignation of one of the Secretaries, and the illness of the other, it has been found impracticable to draw up a satisfactory Report of the proceedings of the past year.

The objects of the Society are clearly indicated by its name. It appears to have had its origin from a desire expressed in various quarters, that on the one hand our County might not be negligent in preserving those relics of antiquity with which it abounds, or in collecting accurate information respecting them ; and on the other hand that a misguided zeal for restoration might not lead to the spoliation of our ancient Ecclesiastical and other Edifices, or to the erection of modern buildings unworthy of those examples which surround us, or unsuited to the purposes for which they might be intended.

It appears to have been with feelings such as these, that a number of gentlemen met together in the Vestry of Aylesbury Church, Nov. 16, 1847, to consider the best mode of carrying their desires into effect. That was the nucleus of our Society.

The first General Meeting was held in January, 1848; and in its first year the Society numbered 55 members,

including the LORD BISHOP OF THIS DIOCESE as its President, the then ARCHDEACON OF THE COUNTY, a number of the more influential Clergy, and many of the Laity, amongst whom should be mentioned the late T. TINDAL, Esq., as its first Treasurer. Since that time its numbers have gradually increased, and it has continued to hold General Meetings periodically. At the close of 184!), the Society received a check by the resignation of its Secretary, the Rev. ARTHUR BAKER, who had held that office from the first, and to whose ability and untiring energy in the cause, the prosperity, if not the very existence, of the Society was mainly attributable. His colleague, G. L. BROWN, Esq., retiring shortly afterwards, three new Secretaries were appointed - the Rev. T. EVETTS, W. HASTINGS KELKE, and W. B. GALE. Mr. Gale retired in 1850; and now your Committee have to record with great regret the resignation of Mr. Evetts, who most kindly undertook at great personal inconvenience, and has for four years most ably fulfilled, the duties of the office. In addition to other losses since its commencement, the Society has during the past year been deprived of one of its Vice Presidents, by the lamented death of ARCHDEACON JUSTLY HILL, and of its Treasurer, by the departure from this neighbourhood of the Rev. J. R. PRETTYMAN. To this latter gentleman the special thanks of the Committee are due, I'm the uniform interest which he has manifested in behalf of the Society, and for the kindness and ability with which he has promoted its objects.

While, however, we regret such losses from among the leading officers of the Society, your Committee cannot but congratulate you upon the acceptance of the office of Vice-President by one who, independently of his position, is so admirably qualified to take a lead in a Society such as ours, as the present ARCHDEACON OF BUCKINGHAM; one whose ability and interest in the work of ecclesiastical architecture have been so practically manifested, as well in the valuable suggestions offered by him relative to the

Churches which he has visited in all parts of the county, as in the active part he has taken for the completion of his own Church in the County Town, the restoration of which had been most judiciously commenced by the late Vicar.

The Committee have the pleasure to state that the other vacancies in the official staff now only require the approval of this Meeting in order to their being satisfactorily filled up. Mr. BAYNES, a member of the Society from the first, having expressed his willingness to accept the office of Treasurer, and the Rev. A. NEWDIGATE, one of the Curates of Aylesbury, having consented to succeed Mr. EVETTS as Acting Secretary.

A feeling of disappointment has arisen rather extensively amongst its members, that the Society has not publicly exhibited more fruits of its labours. And it is candidly admitted that it has not made that effectual progress which might have been expected. Various circumstances have hindered its progress. The change of its officers, combined with the known difficulty of assembling its members in sufficient numbers, — the deficiency of funds, which from the small amount of the subscriptions can scarcely ever suffice to carry out any important object—these may be mentioned as the principal discouragements and hindrances with which the Society has had to contend. Still it has never ceased to exercise some of its most useful functions. Those members who have been present, will not soon forget the very interesting papers which have been read at its meetings, many of which have since been published. Few words might suffice to remind you of the joint meetings with sister Societies which have been held in neighbouring towns, and of pleasant and profitable excursions on those occasions. Such instances as Princes Risborough and Leighton Buzzard and Banbury will readily occur to the members of the Society.

The benefit of such meetings does not pass away with the occasion, nor is it confined to those members who

attend them. For not only do we thus add to our own information by what we hear, and to our own stock of examples by what we see; but the fact of such visits being made by the Society often creates an interest in its objects where it had not existed before, or revives it where it had languished. In this respect the meetings at Leighton Buzzard and Banbury have been very successful. In the former case it promoted the restoration of the very interesting Market Cross of that town; and in the latter it led directly to the institution of a local Society of the same character.

But such are only what may be called the more external and apparent operations of thin Society. It has also been working in another direction in a less obtrusive but no less useful manner. One of its chief fundamental objects has been to collect such materials and promote such measures as might assist in the compilation or illustration of a complete history of the County. This has ever been kept in view by your Committee. They have lost no opportunity which presented itself of increasing the stores both of its museum and library. The result is, that it is now in the possession of various records, manuscripts, books, drawings, plans of Churches, Schools, and other buildings; ancient and scarce prints; coins and other relics of antiquity; portions of parochial and manorial history; genealogies of County Families, &c. &c. A Society which has accumulated such a store, if of no other service, has not existed in vain. Nor let it be supposed that this collection will be useful only to the County Historian, or the Antiquary. The possessors of landed property, and indeed various other persons connected with the County, may find such a store of real value.

This collection, however, may be considerably enlarged and enriched, if all the members will endeavour to aid its designs, by communicating information relative to antiquities, or objects of interest in their respective localities.

To awaken a more general interest in the Society, and

to preserve a more extended record of the fruits of its labours, the Committee desire and recommend the publication of a Journal, to be issued quarterly, (should the interest shewn in it justify them in so doing), which should consist of papers and notes illustrative of the History and Antiquities of the County, and Architectural notices, as well as a record of the Society's transactions. The documents of the Society, together with such information as may from time to time be furnished, will, it is believed, be found sufficient to supply the materials for such a Journal.

In order to promote this object, the Committee undertake to collect information in any way bearing upon the objects of the Society, in the various parts of the County in which they reside; and to communicate such information to the Secretary resident at Aylesbury. It is hoped that members of the Society, and others who may have the opportunity, will aid the Committee by collecting and furnishing information of this kind. With a further view to the gaining and diffusing information, it is intended to revive and continue the practice of holding Annual Meetings of the Society within the County.

In conclusion, your Committee beg to remind the members of this Society that their aims and objects are *practical* throughout. In the study of Archaeology their chief design is, as has already been stated, to collect such material as may aid in the compilation of a complete history of the County. While aiming at this, they hope that a profitable experience may be gained from the intimate knowledge of the actions, habits, and motives of our ancestors, which such study alone can impart. In their pursuit of Architecture they seek to gain and diffuse information as to the best and purest models in each successive period of the science. This will lead them to mark those innovations which may be more or less identified with corruptions in doctrine, and to gather from each style its own peculiar merits. Thus, while they

shun the defects, they become better able to take advantage of the excellencies, of the ages which are past.

Pursuing its labours in such a spirit, the Society will best guard itself against the abuses to which they are liable, and which are so well pointed out in the Inaugural Address of the Right Rev. the President. No efforts of the Committee shall be wanting in order to secure harmony and united action in promoting the objects, of the Society. And as the fruit of their labours they look not only for a harmless recreation, but for mutual and general edification; and, above all, for the happiness (if it may be so) of having promoted, in however faint a measure, the progress of that Spiritual Temple, the foundations of which are eternal.