

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting was held August 8th, 1865, at Monks Risborough, an excursion having been first made to Bledlow Cross and Church, Prince's Risborough Church, White Leaf Cross, and Monks Risborough Church. Luncheon was provided in Monks Risborough National School-room; the Rev. T. Evetts, who had hospitably sent an ample supply of wine for the refreshment of the guests, was requested to preside. The Chairman proposed the first toast, "The health of the Queen."

The toast having been duly honoured, the chairman said—Allow me as rector of this parish, representing the clergy of this district, to express the hearty welcome which, as individuals and as a parish, we should wish to give to the meeting of an Archæological Society within our boundaries. It is not for me to enlarge on the merits of Archæological Societies; we know sufficiently well that it must be a good thing for us in the midst of modern haste and the hurried movements around us, to take a little time to look backward to the movements and circumstances of the past. On that ground alone, it must be a wholesome element in our ordinary life that we should have such a meeting as the present. I beg, therefore, without further words, to propose "Success and prosperity to the Archæo-

logical Society," coupled with the name of Archdeacon Bickersteth, as the living embodiment of the Society.

Archdeacon BICKERSTETH, in responding, said—I thank Mr. Evetts very cordially for the kind way in which he has mentioned my name, and you, ladies and gentlemen, for the kind welcome you have given to me on this occasion. It is quite true that I take a deep interest in the success of the Architectural and Archæological Association with which my name is associated. I believe the cultivation of studies like these has a tendency to elevate and purify the mind. We do well, in these days of rapid march, occasionally to pause and look back to other times, and correct our progress in some degree, by such observations. I suppose that of thoughtful, intellectual men, there are some who look always backwards, and others who look sometimes forwards. I believe, myself, that the best condition of mind is that which does look forward, with a due regard also to that which is past, and that it is in that combination that we find the most happy and satisfactory results. A man who always looks to the past, and thinks nothing new worthy of consideration, becomes himself a sort of archæological specimen, to be consigned in due time to the limbo of antiquity. On the other hand, the man who is always looking forward, who has no information from the past to guide his steps, can never preserve a well-balanced course. The man who can bring the light of calm discussion to bear on the past, can eliminate that which is true for all time, and use that as the material out of which to build up the future, is the man best adapted for life in every age. That, I apprehend, is the object of our Society. We are not mere cut and dried specimens, continually looking back to the past. I flatter myself we have some power of looking forward into the future, and that we are able with some success to apply what we have learnt to the purposes of which I have spoken. I cannot but take this opportunity, under this roof and at this board, of congratulating our excellent friend, Mr. Evetts (cheers), most earnestly on the success which he has achieved. He appears to have combined in a remarkable manner the two qualities of mind which I have just now named. Evidently, looking at the noble restoration of his church, which he has effected, he has an eye for the past; and I know that he can look forward to the future when I see how he has enlarged this school-room in order that he may bring the influence of his own cultivated mind to bear as far as possible on the young people of his flock. We should be wanting in kindness and in due regard towards him if we did not on this occasion congratulate him heartily on the great results he has achieved during the two or three years in which he has been residing in this place. If I am not out of order, I will venture, in the name of the Society which I have the honour to represent to-day, to congratulate Mr. Evetts on what he has done here, to express, as archæologists, our utmost approval of the work he has performed, and our earnest desire that it may please God to continue him to be a blessing to this neighbourhood, and that His choicest blessings may rest on himself, on Mrs. Evetts, and his family (cheers).

The Rev. T. EVETTS said—I rise at once to return thanks for the very kind and handsome manner in which my name has been brought before this meeting. I assure you it is a matter of pride and satisfaction to me to have this meeting held in this parish, to find a body of ladies and gentlemen engaged in pursuits so elevating as architecture and archæology, and to find also that they approve of the work which has been done within this parish. The Archdeacon reminded me of a distinction which I heard propounded some years ago, that men are divided into men of hope and men of memory. Perhaps when one is young, one is rather inclined to hope; but when one reaches mature age (though I do not claim to be in

this sense much of an antiquity myself), one is more inclined to dwell on memory than on hope; but whether it be memory or hope that predominates, allow me to say that I heartily recognize the teaching of the brave old English admiral, his last battle signal, "England expects every man to do his duty." Whatever circumstances I find myself in I wish to carry out that teaching; and while the memory of your kindness will dwell with me, there will always be in it likewise an element of hope, the hope of being in some measure worthy of it (cheers).

THE PUBLIC MEETING.

Immediately after luncheon, the General Meeting of the Society was held, the Ven. Archdeacon Bickersteth, D.D., in the chair.

The Secretary, the Rev. C. Lowndes, read the report of the Committee as follows:—

"Your Committee have great satisfaction in coming before the members at their annual meeting with the assurance that the Society is progressing favourably. It has now arrived at the termination of its seventeenth year; and although it has lost a few members by death and resignations, still its numbers annually increase by the influx of new members.

"Amongst those removed by death, since the last annual meeting of the Society at Doddershall, are three of the officers, viz.—G. G. W. Pigott, Esq., vice-president, the Rev. H. Roundell, and the Rev. W. H. Kelke, honorary secretaries—of each of whom an obituary memoir will appear in the next number of the 'Records.'

"Your Committee, after some anxiety and trouble, have much pleasure in recommending for election as Honorary Secretaries the Rev. A. Baker, of Addington, well known and valued in the annals of the Society, and the Rev. W. T. Sankey, of Stony Stratford, who have kindly offered their services.

"Your Committee have received an offer from Mrs. Roundell, widow of the late Honorary Secretary, to place in the Society's Museum, in Aylesbury, on loan, during her life, several articles of local antiquarian interest, a great many books, and a few cases of stuffed birds. They have gladly availed themselves of Mrs. Roundell's kind and generous offer, and given instructions to the Rev. C. Lowndes to express their gratitude and thanks, and to communicate with her on the subject of their removal.

"Your Committee issued in January last a number of the 'Records,' and hope shortly to issue another, which has been delayed in consequence of the printer resigning his post. The three last numbers which have been issued, and which form the commencement of vol. iii., have well sustained the reputation already earned by the Society's 'Records,' a reputation evidenced by the fact that the trade value of the two first volumes, when appearing in booksellers' catalogues, is double the original cost to members."

The Report was adopted.

The Rev. C. Lowndes was appointed treasurer.

The Rev. A. Isham and Z. D. Hunt, Esq., were re-elected Auditors.

The Rev. A. Baker and the Rev. W. T. Sankey, were elected Honorary Secretaries, together with the Rev. C. Lowndes.

The Committee for the past year were re-elected.

The following gentlemen, having been duly proposed and seconded in committee, were elected members of the Society:—Sir A. de Rothschild, Bart., Aston Clinton; Hon. Percy Barrington, Westbury Manor; James Boord, Esq., the Abbey, Great Missenden; Rev. A. C. Green, Loughton;

Rev. G. H. Bullock, Chalfont St. Peter ; Rev. A. F. Birch, Edlesborough ; Rev. E. T. Drake, Amersham ; Rev. T. Little, Princes Risborough ; Rev. C. F. Wyatt, Forest Hill, Oxford ; Rev. J. Graves, Brandenham House ; Rev. J. Baines, Little Marlow ; Rev. G. W. Cruttenden, Little Kimble ; F. Straw, Esq., the Abbey, Aston Abbotts ; L. W. Wethered, Esq., O. P. Wethered, Esq., T. O. Wethered, Esq., Great Marlow ; T. A. Warren, Esq., Princes Risborough ; Joseph Parrott, Esq., Aylesbury ; Mr. J. Reynolds, Aylesbury.

A letter was read from Colonel Astley stating that Lady F. Russell would be very glad to forward the wishes of the Society should they visit Chequers' Estate, and specially directing attention to Piccadilly Hill.

The ARCHDEACON, referring to the name Piccadilly, said we were familiar with it chiefly as the name of an important street in Westminster. As this was formerly a fashionable promenade, some persons had derived the name from the "piccadell" (dim. of "picca"), the term applied to the small spear-like ornaments embroidered of old on the collars of gentlemen's doublets, or on ladies' flounces. But, as a common-sense body of inquirers, they might find a more simple and natural interpretation. He was not aware till recently that there was another Piccadilly in the Chilterns, the centre one of the three conical hills near Ivinghoe. The Vicar of Ivinghoe, Mr. Hamilton, told him that he had heard it called by the old people "Peaked Hill;" and this he thought was something like a reasonable etymology, which would equally apply to Piccadilly in London, for any one who looked from the Thames up the slope of the Park would see that Piccadilly was in fact a very elevated ground. It might be noticed that the Peak, in Derbyshire, is not a single point, but an elevated tract of country, embracing two or three parishes.

Some books were exhibited which had been discovered in the chancel of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Addington, during the restoration about five years ago. One of them was the last edition of Henry VIII.'s revised Primer (1540), the only other known copy being in the Roman Catholic College at Stonyhurst. A detailed account of this discovery will be given in a future number of the "Records."

The Rev. C. Lowndes read a letter from Admiral Smyth on the subject of "Robberies in Sacred Edifices." The Rev. T. Evetts gave an account of the "White Leaf and Bledlow Crosses," and "Monks Risborough Parish and Church;" and Mr. J. E. Payne read papers on the "Roman Villa at High Wycombe," and on "Local Etymology."

The Rev. B. Burgess said that the excavations at the Roman villa at High Wycombe were specially interesting to him, for last year he assisted in discovering a villa at Latimers. One room had a margin of white tesserae, but the middle was gone; there were the remains of a large hypocaust; he found only two coins—one of Constantine, and the other a British imitation of a Roman coin; and an ivory hair-pin.