

Proceedings of the Society.

A COMMITTEE MEETING was held, July 5th, 1880. The Rev. C. Lowndes stated that, having met and been introduced to the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster, he asked him if he would be kind enough to conduct the members of our Society over the Abbey. His reply was in the affirmative, and "with pleasure." He also stated that he had written to the Archbishop of Canterbury to ask permission to visit Lambeth Palace. His reply was also in the affirmative, provided the day fixed would not interfere with their arrangements there. He had also written to Dr. Vaughan, the Master of the Temple, to ask for permission to visit the Temple. Dr. Vaughan was sorry he was in residence at Llandaff, but he would instruct the Under-Treasurer to show the Society every attention.

Resolved—That an excursion be made to Westminster Abbey, Lambeth Palace, and Temple Church, and that the Annual Meeting be held on a day that the Dean of Westminster might fix.

The Rev. C. Lowndes was directed to make arrangements for carrying out the above resolution. Several new members were proposed and seconded, and will be offered for election at the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting and Excursion were fixed for Monday, July 19th, 1880. The Members and their friends assembled at eleven o'clock in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey, where they were met by the Very Rev. the Dean. He said he was very pleased to meet the Members of the Architectural and Archæological Society for the County of Buckingham, but he was very sorry he had unexpectedly received a summons to attend a meeting at Lambeth Palace, at twelve o'clock. He would, however, make a few introductory remarks on the Chapter House, and then put them in the hands of his Verger, who was as well acquainted with the Abbey as he was himself. He said it was founded in the time of Henry III., and referred to its architectural features, and to the paintings on the walls, which represented the History of St. John; but its chief interest consisted in its having been, as it were, the cradle of the British Constitution, for the House of Commons held its sittings here for the first three hundred years of its about six hundred years' existence—at least, it is an historical fact that the Commons assembled here in 1377, and continued to use the Chapter House as their meeting-place till the reign of Edward VI., when it was removed to St. Stephen's. The Dean then took leave of them, and said the Verger would show them over every part of the Abbey, particularly those parts not usually open to the public. They would, no doubt, like to see the wax-work figures, which, though poor

things in themselves, and of no historical interest, were nevertheless curious. The Hon. T. F. Freemantle proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean for his kindness in giving them an account of the Chapter House. It is needless, in a provincial publication like this, to give any detailed account of the tombs and monuments to be seen in the Abbey. It is sufficient to state that the Verger led the party, according to the Dean's directions, over the Abbey, and admirably performed his part, receiving the thanks of the Members.

On leaving the Abbey, the party proceeded to the Westminster Palace Hotel, where an excellent luncheon was provided, and presided over by the Hon. T. F. Freemantle. After the repast, the

ANNUAL MEETING

was held.

Mr. FREEMANTLE rose and said: I have taken upon myself to sit at the head of the table by the kind invitation of your excellent Secretary, Mr. Lowndes. I am glad of the opportunity of meeting the Members of the Bucks Archæological Society on this occasion. You have come a long distance, while I have come but a short one, over a road with which, thanks to the kindness and confidence of my Buckinghamshire friends, I am now very familiar at all hours of the day and night. We have heard some very interesting remarks from the Dean of Westminster, and I regret that urgent business at Lambeth Palace prevented Dr. Stanley going over the Abbey with us. He had, however, kindly given them the opportunity of seeing certain things which were not usually to be seen without his permission; and we are very grateful to him for that permission. I must not take up the time of the meeting by a long speech, because we have a great deal still to see, but will pass at once to the general business, the first of which, according to the agenda, which has been put in my hand by your Secretary, is the election of Vice-Presidents.

The Rev. T. EVETTS proposed, and R. ROSE, Esq., seconded the re-election of the Vice-Presidents, as follows:—The Ven. Archdeacon of Buckingham, the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Beaconsfield, Sir Harry Verney, Bart., Sir P. D. P. Duncombe, Bart., Sir T. T. Bernard, Rev. C. O. Goodford, D.D., Rev. J. J. Goodall, F. D. Hibbert, Esq., J. G. Hubbard, Esq., C. G. Du Pre, Esq., W. Lowndes, Esq.

It was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. ROSE proposed the re-election of the Hon. Secretaries, the Rev. C. Lowndes, Rev. B. Burgess, and Rev. J. Wood; of the Treasurer, Rev. C. Lowndes; and of the Auditors, Messrs. J. E. Bartlett and T. Horwood.

Mr. BODE seconded it, and it was also agreed to.

The TREASURER then made his financial statement. He was happy to say that their funds were in a much better position than they were last year, because at that time there was a balance of £12 due to the Treasurer, which had now been reduced to 1s. 9d. He read over the balance sheet, which was as follows:—Receipts, £60 17s. 9d., including £5 from a life member, and a donation of £5 from C. G. Du Pré, Esq.; payments, including balance of £12 0s. 9d. due January 31st, £60 19s. 3d.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that this was a very satisfactory state of things, and the report was adopted.

The following new Members, who had been proposed and seconded at a Committee Meeting, were then elected, viz.:—W. Nash, Esq., 39, London Road, Reading; Rev. J. M. Guilding, St. Laurance, Reading; Rev. F. G. Kiddle, Buckingham; W. Crouch, Esq., Walton, Aylesbury; Rev. H. M. Wells, Pristwood Common, Great Massenden; Rev. M. P. Nepean, Great

Brickhill; Rev. J. H. Garde, Shenley; Rev. T. W. D. Brooks, Great Hampden.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary for the excellent way in which he had carried out the arrangements of the meeting.

The Rev. C. LOWNDES returned thanks.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings of the Annual Meeting.

The Members then proceeded to the Westminster Bridge Pier, and crossed the Thames in a steamboat to

LAMBETH PALACE.

On entering the gateway, the Members were welcomed by C. B. Harcourt, Esq., private secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Having conducted them to the guard-room under the gateway, he said he was very pleased to see his friends from the county in which he and his family resided. He gave them an account of the foundation of the Palace, and its history down to the present time, especially referring to the Lollards' Tower, which they would have an opportunity of seeing. He then led them through the old part of the Palace, which contains the muniment room, and a room stated to have been the bedroom of the Archbishop, and through the dining and drawing-rooms. The dining-room contains many historical portraits, also portraits of the Archbishops, from an early date down to the present Primate. Mr. Harcourt then took them into the Chapel, where they were met by the Rev. Mr. Davidson, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Mr. Davidson gave a history of the chapel, explaining the many changes to which it had been subject. During the civil wars the windows were very much broken, and Laud mentioned in his diary that he found them patched "like a poor beggar's coat:" the glass was replaced, and again broken, after which a common pattern was supplied. Recently, however, the very beautiful windows *fac-similes* of the original have been instituted. Mr. Davidson especially called attention to the window at the east end, which represents the Crucifixion. This was referred to in the first indictment against Laud, viz., that "he had the figure of a crucifix over the altar in his chapel." Parker's consecration was stated to have taken place in the chapel; he had been accustomed to pray on the right of the altar, and there he was buried. The tomb was broken open in Cromwell's time, and Parker's bones were thrown away, and the Chapel turned into a dining-hall. After the Restoration, Archbishop Sancroft restored the tomb, and the bones were collected and re-buried in the Chapel. From the Chapel the Members were conducted to the Lollards' Tower, at the top of which is a wainscoted chamber, carved all over with the names of the poor victims who were confined there and tortured for presuming to think for themselves; the roof is low, the window narrow, and a small grate on one side served not only to warm the captives, but to suffocate them too when they became too numerous to exist in so limited a space; many iron rings to which the prisoners were chained are still in existence. In connection with this dungeon, there were a rack and other implements of torture, but these were ordered to be burnt by an Archbishop of recent times. After the inspection of the Lollards' Tower, the Members were conducted into the Library, which contained many valuable works. The librarian selected many illuminated manuscripts for the inspection of the Members; he stated that the Library had been demolished during the Civil Wars, and the books were removed for security to Cambridge, and were afterwards restored. The present

Archbishop had kindly thrown open the Library to the clergy and laity of his diocese four days a week, which has proved a boon to many.

Dr. PITMAN then proposed a vote of thanks to the Librarian, which was duly acknowledged.

The Members, after thanking C. B. Harcourt, Esq., for his kind attention, and for the excellent arrangements he had made for their visit to the Palace, left, and recrossed the river to the

TEMPLE CHURCH.

Here they were met by the Under-Treasurer, whom Dr. Vaughan, the Master of the Temple, had kindly requested in his absence to show them every part of the building. The Church was founded in the middle of the twelfth century, and was built after the model of the Church of the Order of the Knights Templars at Jerusalem. It has lately been completely restored, at an expenditure of £74,000, defrayed by the Legal Society of the Temple. Externally it has not a very imposing appearance; internally it is most beautiful. The monuments of Edmund Strongbow and other Knights Templars are some of its principal attractions; these recumbent figures of black marble are clad in the complete armour of the period, with the ponderous sword of the Crusaders by their sides. The polished Purbeck marble pillars, freed from their incrustations of white-wash and plaster, appear in their former splendour. A magnificent stained glass window, a beautiful roof, handsome carved oak seats, and other adjuncts, complete the restoration of this fine church.

The day's investigations being now at an end, the Members and their friends returned to their respective homes.