

## OBITUARY NOTICE.

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### THE LATE REV. THOMAS WILLIAMS.

This Society has to mourn the loss of the Rev. Thomas Williams, Rector of Aston Clinton, whose death occurred on the 18th September of this year. Mr. Williams was a scholar and Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. In 1852 he became Vice-Principal of St. Mark's Training College. In 1864 he was elected to the Head Mastership of Cowbridge Grammar School. In 1871 he became Rector of Rotherfield Peppard, Oxfordshire, and in 1881 accepted from Jesus College the living of Aston Clinton, which he held till his death. It will be remembered that Mr. Williams, as a member of our Society, contributed a paper to "The Records" on "The origin and first growth of Christianity in Bucks" (Vol. VII., p. 343 et seq.). A careful perusal of this paper will disclose the grasp of knowledge of our early history acquired by Mr. Williams. It is only by close research that any connected conclusions can be formed of the history of this country before and at the period after the Saxon invasion. Nothing can be more difficult and puzzling than the tracing out the rise and fall of the small kingdoms which were included in this island during the struggles of hostile races, or to bring to light the chequered fortune of Christianity till its final establishment. There can be no doubt that Mr. Williams was a careful student of the early history of this country, and of Wales, the land of his birth, from whence his knowledge of the primitive Celtic peoples would naturally be derived, and one only feels a sincere regret that he has allowed his researches to remain to a great extent unutilized. In offering this inadequate tribute to his memory, the writer can, from a correspondence extending over many years, bear testimony to Mr. Williams's researches as a genealogist. Perhaps this was his strong point. He was greatly interested in tracing the pedi-

gress of the early settlers in Buckinghamshire, and of the benefactors of religious houses in the county. Valuable notes on these subjects bear testimony to this. Indeed, it is believed that Mr. Williams left manuscripts, not yet examined, which may be of great service in studying the origin of families who have made their mark, and whose memorials are still preserved to us. Mr. Williams's merits as a clergyman and parish priest have already been made known. In this notice we have purposely confined our remarks to subjects which brought him in connection with this Society. It will be felt that Mr. Williams's tastes and mental gifts are of a quality rare as well as precious, and that we can ill spare one who possessed them from among us.—ED.