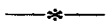
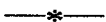




## Berks Archaeological Society.



### REPORT FOR YEAR 1896.



IT is with much satisfaction, that in making their Report for the year 1896, the Committee have to state that the Society is in a satisfactory condition, and also to record a period of useful work and progress in the department of Historian research and Architectural study, which the Society was founded to promote. During some months, the Society was deprived by illness of the valuable services of its Treasurer and Librarian, the Rev. J. M. Guilding, who for so many years has directed its counsels and assisted in its administration. The Committee desire to express on behalf of the Society their sympathy with him on account of his recent illness, and their congratulations that his health has been restored.

#### *(I.) Practical Work of the Society during 1896.*

The year has been marked by considerable activity in the arrangement of Lectures and Excursions, and the Committee desire to express their thanks to the gentlemen who have read papers before the Society, and to those who have so willingly entertained the Members on the occasions of their visits to historic places. Five Meetings were held in Reading, when lectures were delivered, and during the summer two Excursions have taken place, which were as follows :—

1. On July 25th, in conjunction with the Literary and Scientific Society, a visit was paid to the very interesting ancient Manor House of Ockwells, the residence of Edward Barry, Esq., and to the historic village of Bray. The Society was hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Barry, and a valuable paper was read by S. S. Stallwood, Esq., F.S.A., on the history of the house and its architectural features. St. Michael's Church, Bray, was visited, where

the Vicar, the Rev. C. A. Raymond, gave some account of the historical associations of the Parish. Jesus Hospital, founded in 1627, was also visited, where the Chaplin, the Rev. J. C. Gawthorne, gave a brief sketch of its foundation and history.

(2) On September 30th, the Society made an Excursion to Winchester. The Dean of Winchester, the Very Rev. W. R. Stephens, conducted the party over the Cathedral, and explained its many interesting and historic features. The Hospital of St. Cross was visited in the afternoon, and described by the Secretary.

#### LECTURES.

The course of Lectures delivered during the session was as follows :—

1. On January 29th, in the Art Department Rooms of the University Extension College, a paper was read by E. H. Blake, Esq., on "Ecclesiastical Stained Glass, its origin, development and decline," which was illustrated by lantern slides. There was also an Exhibition of Drawings executed by the students of the Art School, arranged by H. W. Barkas, Esq., Art Director.

2. On February 26th, an able Lecture, based upon unpublished documents in the Record Office, was delivered by the Rev. W. H. Summers, on "Glimpses of Reading in Tudor Times."

3. On April 29th, Dr. Hurry exhibited and described a Plan which he had prepared of the Precincts of Reading Abbey, shewing the various monastic buildings, &c. This Plan has been prepared with much accurate care, and the Committee desire to record their satisfaction that it has been placed in the Abbey Ruins, where it will enable visitors to form an intelligent conception of the size and extent of the Abbey of Reading.

4. On June 23rd, the Society was honoured with a visit from the Dorset Field Club. The Visitors were conducted to the Reading Museum, where a demonstration was given by the Hon. Curator, Dr. Stevens, on the Silchester Collections ; and also to the Churches of St. Lawrence and Greyfriars, the Abbey and Hospitium, &c. In the evening a *Conversazione* was held in the Abbey Gate, when a Lecture on Silchester was delivered by Theodore White, Esq. The President of the Dorset Field Club, the Rev. Canon Sir Talbot Baker, Bart., expressed on behalf of the Members their appreciation of the hospitable reception and entertainment afforded to them by the Berks Archæological Society.

5. On November 3rd, a Lecture prepared by J. Wells, Esq., Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, on "Famous Men of the Reading School," was read by the Head Master, the Rev. W. C. Eppstein, who kindly entertained the Society.

#### CONGRESS OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

The Secretary and Treasurer, as Delegates of the Society, attended the Annual Congress of Archæological Societies at Burlington House, when the following subjects were discussed :— (1) Parish Registers, (2) the Preservation of Ancient Monuments, (3) County Museums, (4) Catalogues of Portraits in the possession of County Families, (5) the Study of Ground Plans of Churches, (6) County Bibliography.

The Photographic Survey of Counties is a subject which has frequently occupied the attention of the Congress, and the Committee are glad to be able to report that some steps have been taken with regard to the Photographic Survey of the County of Berks. A Camera Club having been formed in connection with the University Extension College, the Secretary recently gave an address upon the subject, and it was unanimously agreed that a Survey should be undertaken by the Camera Club, and commenced during the forthcoming season. All Members of the Society who desire to assist in this important undertaking are requested to communicate with the Secretary of the Camera Club, Mr. Ernest Cardwell, at the University Extension College.

#### PROGRAMME FOR 1897.

The programme of Lectures and Excursions for the current year will be as follows :—

March 31st.—Annual General Meeting for the adoption of the Annual Report and the election of Officers and Committee, and a lecture on "Old Tenures and Manorial Customs" by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield.

April 28th.—Afternoon excursion to Caversham and Mapledurham.

May 19th.—Day excursion to Lambeth Palace, and by river to the Tower of London, including the Church of All Hallows, Barking.

June 23rd (Jubilee week).—Conversazione in the Town Hall at 8 p.m., in conjunction with the Literary and Scientific Society (if approved by that Society) and a lecture by W. M. Childs, Esq., of

the University Extension College, on "Comparative view of English history under the five Queens regnant."

July 28th.—Day excursion in the county of Bucks, viz., either to High Wycombe and district, or to Chequers Court and Hampden. Conductor, H. Goulden, Esq.

August 18.—Excursion to Marlborough.

September 22nd.—Afternoon excursion to Bramshill and Wokingham, or to Englefield and Bradfield College.

October 27th.—Afternoon meeting. Lecture by the Rev. J. M. Guilding on "The Battles of the Berks Regiment."

November 24th.—Meeting in Abbey Gate and lecture on "The progress of Architectural Art in the Victorian age."

#### THE USE OF THE GATEWAY.

An application having been received from the Central Aid Association for the use of the two rooms on the west side of the Abbey Gate, the Committee have decided to agree to the proposal on receiving the necessary sanction from the Corporation.

The usual prizes have been presented to various schools for the study of history and for progress in drawing.

The Committee are unwilling to close their report without some reference to the great event of the year 1897, the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, whose glorious reign has bestowed so many benefits upon the British Empire. The Queen is the honoured patron of the Berks Archæological Society, and the question of the advisability of presenting an address to Her Majesty on the completion of the sixtieth year of her reign is worthy of the consideration of the Society.

(Signed)

P. H. DITCHFIELD,

Hon. Secretary.

