

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. C. A. Molony, for his gift to the Library of Simson's *Historic Thanet*.

Three new members were elected.

The Annual Meeting of the Society commenced at Edenbridge on Tuesday, July 25th, 1893. The Business Meeting was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, the noble President in the Chair.

The Report was read by the Honorary Secretary (George Payne, Esq.) as follows:—

REPORT.

To-day, for the first time since its foundation, the Society visits Edenbridge; a locality full of interest, and especially rich in un-restored examples of ancient domestic architecture. It is hoped that the visit of the Society on this occasion to some of these old houses may induce the owners to take steps to arrest the progress of their decay, so that they may stand for many long years as valuable illustrations of the architecture of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, as applied to the dwellings of the yeomen of the Weald at that period.

In presenting this, the Thirty-sixth Annual Report, the Council with much pleasure draw attention to the continued prosperity of the Society. The Council have, however, to announce with the deepest regret the deaths during the past year of two of its distinguished Vice-Presidents, the Earl of Derby and the Lord Brabourne, the latter being also one of the Society's Trustees.

Other valued members have passed away. Since the last Annual Meeting twenty-seven new members have been elected. The Society now numbers eight hundred and seventy-two members, while twelve await election at your hands to-day.

Members will be gratified to learn that at the last meeting of the Council the Earl Stanhope, the noble President, consented to act as a Trustee of the Society in the room of Lord Brabourne, deceased.

The Council having heard with gratification of a scheme for the purchase of the celebrated Roman *castrum* at Richborough, recently voted the sum of twenty guineas towards the fund, which still needs about £300 to complete the purchase. The spirited manner in which the whole matter has been taken up renders the final protection and preservation of this grand national monument an absolute certainty.

It is anticipated that in the course of the next three or four months the Twentieth Volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* will be issued. The completion of this volume will bring to a close the editorship of Canon Scott Robertson. This lamentable fact has already been announced, but the Council feel that they must again express their extreme regret at the retirement of one who has done so much for the welfare of the Society, and their deep thankfulness to him for his long and able services.

As you are aware, Canon C. F. Routledge, M.A., F.S.A., has most kindly taken over the duties of Honorary Editor, and to him therefore material for future volumes should be sent.

Since the last Annual Meeting your Honorary Secretary, assisted by the Rev. G. M. Livett, has been prosecuting researches in connection with the ancient mural defences of the City of Rochester. The discoveries made are of the first importance, and shed an entirely new light on the history of the city walls. The results are now being prepared for publication in the Twenty-first Volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*.

The Council note with considerable satisfaction the action of the Corporation of Rochester with respect to the repair of the fine Norman Castle-keep in that city. The much needed reparation of the interior having recently been taken in hand, the north side being already completed in an efficient and conservative manner.

The financial position of the Society is still highly satisfactory; the balance at the Bankers to-day being £745 18s. 11d., although a sum of £100 has been invested in Consols during the present month.

In conclusion, the Council earnestly appeal to the members to assist in every way possible in the preservation of objects of antiquity or other material that may serve to elucidate the history of their respective districts or of the county.

Lieut.-Colonel Hartley moved the adoption of the Report; this was seconded by A. A. Arnold, Esq., and carried unanimously.

It was moved and carried:—"That the Auditors be re-elected."

It was moved and carried:—"That the retiring members of Council be re-elected."

The Earl of Radnor was elected a member and Vice-President of the Society, and eleven other candidates were duly elected.

The business being concluded, the company, which numbered some two hundred ladies and gentlemen, proceeded to Edenbridge Church, where they were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. F. C. Gore, M.A. John Oldrid Scott, Esq., F.S.A., described the church, the Secretary subsequently reading some interesting notes on the monuments, and curious extracts from wills relating to the church, which had been prepared by Granville Leveson-Gower, Esq., F.S.A.

Members next adjourned to the Oddfellows' Hall for luncheon, and afterwards were conveyed in carriages to Hever Church, which the Rector, the Rev. R. C. Lathom Browne, kindly described.

Hever Castle was then visited under the guidance of E. P. Loftus Brock, Esq., F.S.A. (Honorary Secretary of the British Archaeological Association). After his valuable address in the quadrangle, the company, by the kind permission of Mr. E. Heard, inspected the rooms usually thrown open to the public.

Progress was then made to Chiddingstone Church, where the members were met by the Rector, the Rev. J. T. Pearse, M.A. The Secretary read some brief notes on the church and ancient houses in the village, which had been kindly sent to him by Henry Taylor, Esq., of Braeside, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, who was unable to be present.

Members were charmed with the picturesque village of Chiddingstone, and before leaving it many paid a visit to the quaint old hostelry and other houses, as well as to the great mass of rock in rear of them, called the "Chiding-stone."

The Annual Dinner took place in the Oddfellows' Hall at Edenbridge, about 5.30 p.m.; the Earl Stanhope presiding, supported by Sir Samuel Lewes, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Hartley, the Rev. Salter Hartley, Rev. A. J. Pearman, Granville Leveson-Gower, Esq., George Wilks, Esq., J. Oldrid Scott, Esq., E. P. Loftus Brock, Esq., the Honorary Secretary and Mrs. George Payne. About eighty dined.

The customary loyal and other toasts were proposed and responded to by the noble President, the Rev. W. H. Grove, Lieut.-Colonel Hartley, Mr. Leveson-Gower, and Mr. George Wilks.

The Evening Meeting was held at 7.30 o'clock, the Earl Stanhope again presiding, supported by the Rev. C. F. Gore, Lieut.-

Colonel Hartley, Mr. Leveson-Gower, Mr. Oldrid Scott, and the Honorary Secretary.

Mr. Leveson-Gower read an interesting paper entitled, "Jottings about Edenbridge;" after which Mr. C. E. Gildersome Dickinson contributed a paper on "Gavelkind;" followed by a paper from the Honorary Secretary on the "Iron Trade of the Weald."

The proceedings terminated with cordial thanks to the noble Chairman and to those who had kindly contributed papers.

On Wednesday, July 26th, the members assembled in drenching rain, which, together with the lateness of the arrival of the trains, caused a slight delay at starting. At 11.45 A.M., however, the party, exceeding two hundred in number, left the town in twenty-one carriages, then the storm passed away, the weather remaining fine for the remainder of the day. It was decided to abandon the original intention of going to the ancient home of the Tichbornes at Crippenden, as the road to it for some distance is in wet weather impassable. Cowden was therefore the first place visited, where the Rector, the Rev. F. M. Burton, LL.D., F.S.A., cordially welcomed the company. Mr. Oldrid Scott gave an interesting description of the church, followed by Mr. Leveson-Gower, who contributed a large number of extracts from wills, and other particulars connected with the church and its monuments.

From Cowden progress was made to Lingfield Mark Camp, which is situate on the borders of Kent and Surrey. The high position of this fine British *oppidum* renders it necessary to walk nearly a mile before the ramparts are reached. The whole party boldly and cheerfully faced the difficulty, and were rewarded on reaching the summit of the hill by seeing before them a vast expanse of the finest scenery to be met with in the south-east of England. On the green sward in front of the ramparts they found Beresford V. Melville, Esq., and Mrs. Melville, of Ford Manor, Surrey, awaiting their arrival. After greeting the members very cordially, they invited them to partake of a sumptuous luncheon which had been most hospitably prepared in a large marquee. After luncheon, and before the company left their seats, Mr. Leveson-Gower rose and warmly thanked Mr. and Mrs. Melville for the immense trouble they had taken to entertain the Society at such an interesting and delightful spot, in so kind and hospitable a manner.

Mr. Melville, who was greeted with prolonged applause, replied in very pleasant terms, expressing a hope that he might be allowed to become a member of the Society.

The company on dispersing were conducted by the Honorary Secretary to the magnificent tree, known as the "Mark Beech," which, at 3 feet 6 inches from the ground, measures 14 feet 2 inches in girth, and is growing upon the top of one of the ramparts. From this standpoint Mr. Payne gave an address on the camp, describing

its mode of construction, comparing it with others in the immediate locality, and also referring to its position as related to the surrounding fortified sites and early roads.

No time could be allowed for a perambulation of the camp, the company therefore strolled down towards the carriages.

A few persons only paid a visit at the foot of the hill to Bazing and Scarlett's farm-houses as a thunderstorm seemed approaching, and time was precious.

A general advance was therefore made to Oakdene, Cowden, where H. A. Darbishire, Esq., and Mrs. Darbishire, received the company, and invited them to partake of tea and other refreshments, which had been hospitably prepared for them in a tent upon the lawn. During tea the Edenbridge brass band played selections of music. Before leaving the pretty grounds of Oakdene, J. G. Talbot, Esq., M.P., on behalf of the Society, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Darbishire for their hospitable reception, to which Mr. Darbishire replied in graceful terms.

The Council met on the 28th of September, 1893, at Maidstone. Nine members were present, presided over by Canon W. A. Scott Robertson.

After some discussion it was decided that the next Annual Meeting shall be held at Faversham. Votes of thanks were passed to the following gentlemen, for much valuable help and hearty co-operation in connection with the meeting at Edenbridge, in July last—Granville G. Leveson-Gower, Esq., F.S.A., J. Oldrid Scott, Esq., F.S.A., E. P. Loftus Brock, Esq., F.S.A., Rev. W. Gardner Waterman, Rev. R. Lathom Browne, Rev. F. M. Burton, LL.D., F.S.A., Rev. C. F. Gore, Rev. J. T. Pearse, Henry Taylor, Esq., Joseph Stanford, Esq., Mr. Shorter, Mr. Walder, Mr. Heard, Mr. Boddy, C. E. Gildersome Dickinson, Esq., Mr. G. Pullinger, Mr. F. G. Pullinger (for issuing the Tickets), and Mr. Benson.

Special votes of thanks were also passed to Beresford V. Melville, Esq., and Mrs. Melville for their unbounded hospitality and very great kindness, and to H. A. Darbishire, Esq., and Mrs. Darbishire for their kindness and hospitable reception at Oakdene.

It was resolved:—"That the warmest thanks of the Society be tendered to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London for the kindly hospitality of his Lordship and the Lady Mayoress to its members at the Mansion House on the 12th of July, and that his Lordship be requested to accept the position of a Vice-President of the Society."

W. H. Burch Rosher, Esq., was elected an Honorary Local Secretary for the Deal and Walmer District, *vice* the Rev. J. Branfill Harrison, deceased.

Resolved that from the surplus Anglo-Saxon antiquities of iron, in the Society's possession, about a dozen articles, including swords,