

A vote of condolence was passed with the family of the late Canon Jenkins on the sad death of one who was a valued member of the Society.

Nine new members were elected.

The Council met on the 24th of June, 1896, at the house of the noble President in Grosvenor Place.

The Earl Stanhope presided, and there were eleven members present.

The Programme in proof of the Annual Meeting to be held at Sittingbourne was read and approved.

A letter was read from the Rev. W. C. Streatfeild, Rector of Frant, asking if the Council would take any steps towards publishing engravings from the blocks prepared for the late Rev. Thomas Streatfeild's projected History of Kent, which had been presented to the Society of Antiquaries. It was resolved that the matter be recommended to the Editor of *Archæologia Cantiana*, with a view to some of the engravings being included in some early future volumes.

Eleven new members were elected.

The Annual Meeting of the Society commenced at Sittingbourne on Tuesday, July the 28th, 1896. The Business Meeting was held in the Town Hall, the noble President, Earl Stanhope, in the Chair, supported by Canon Scott Robertson, the Rev. J. Cave-Browne, the Rev. A. J. Pearman, the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, F. F. Giraud, Esq., and W. H. Burch-Rosher, Esq., etc. The following Report was read by George Payne, Esq. (Hon. Sec.):—

REPORT.

The Council has much pleasure in presenting to-day the Thirty-ninth Annual Report, as the Society is still in a flourishing state, and the activity of its members is increasing.

The Society paid its first visit to Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey in 1870, and the pleasure of re-visiting the locality after a lapse of twenty-six years is greatly enhanced by the fact that during that time its fields have yielded a vast quantity of British, Roman, and Saxon remains of the highest archaeological interest. These important discoveries have all been recorded in the last twelve volumes of *Archæologia Cantiana*, but they will form the subject of a lecture on the present occasion at the Evening Meeting.

The last volume of our *Archæologia* has everywhere met with warm approval, and the Council is pleased to announce that another volume is well advanced and may shortly be expected.

Since the last Annual Meeting many valued members have been removed from our ranks by death and other causes. The vacancies thus made have, however, been filled up and overlapped by the election during the year of forty-two new members, while several await election at your hands to-day.

We all have to deplore especially the death of the Rev. Canon Robert Jenkins, M.A., and Edgar Philip Loftus Brock, F.S.A. The worthy Rector of Lydinge was an original member of the Society, and served on the Council for thirty-six years. We have on many occasions seen that the late Canon Jenkins was a firm adherent of the Society, and at all times we have been favoured with the masterly products of his scholarly pen.

The sad and early death of Mr. Loftus Brock has deprived this and many other societies of a loyal and able colleague. To us his loss is irreparable, as for a long series of years we have had the benefit of his learned addresses on many of the churches and houses visited during the Annual Meetings.

Sir Joseph Prestwich, Bart., the eminent Geologist, had only recently joined the Society, but we nevertheless deeply regret that so distinguished a man should have been taken from us.

The Finances of the Society are in a satisfactory state, the Balance at the Bankers being at the present moment £763 Os. 3d.

The Council is confident that all will be glad to hear that the Richborough Trustees have fenced in the Roman *castrum* of *Rutupiæ*, near Sandwich, thus protecting it from further human destruction.

The fine Cromlech on Coldrum Lodge Farm, which the Society visited in 1891, is at last likely to be protected, as the property has been purchased by the Hon. Ralph Nevill of Birling Manor, who has kindly requested your Honorary Secretary to meet him at Coldrum in the autumn to discuss the question of preserving this archaic Kentish monument.

The Rev. J. Cave-Browne moved the adoption of the Report; this was seconded by the Rev. V. S. Vickers, and carried unanimously.

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

Eight candidates were then duly elected members of the Society.

The business being concluded, progress was made to the Parish Church, where the Vicar, the Rev. W. Bell, M.A., welcomed the Society. Dr. Francis Grayling described the fabric.

At 12.45 p.m. the company returned to the Town Hall for luncheon. After luncheon all proceeded in carriages to Tunstall Church, where they were cordially received by the Rector, the Rev. H. E. T. Cruso.

In consequence of the sudden illness of George Webb, Esq., Tunstall House was not visited, as was intended; a few were, however, conducted through a portion of it by G. E. Elliott, Esq.

Bredgar Church was next visited, and afterwards Stockbury Church, the respective Vicars, the Rev. R. Douglas, M.A., and the Rev. T. Cobb, M.A., receiving the party. Canon W. A. Scott Robertson, M.A., kindly described the above three Churches.

The ancient Earthwork by Stockbury Church was then inspected under the guidance of the Honorary Secretary.

The return journey was made *via* Newington and Key Street.

At 5.30 p.m. the Annual Dinner took place at the Bull Hotel, Sittingbourne, the noble President in the Chair, supported by the Rev. Canon Scott Robertson, the Rev. A. J. Pearman, Lieut.-Col. Hartley, Mr. W. H. Burch-Rosher and Mrs. Burch-Rosher, the Honorary Secretary and Mrs. George Payne, and about fifty others.

The customary loyal and other toasts were proposed and responded to by the Earl Stanhope, Canon Scott Robertson, Mr. Burch-Rosher, Captain Honeyball, and the Honorary Secretary.

The Evening Meeting commenced in the Town Hall at 7 p.m., the Earl Stanhope presiding. George Payne, Esq., F.S.A., delivered a lecture on the Antiquities of the Sittingbourne District,

illustrated by a fine series of lantern slides of the principal Celtic, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon objects which he had collected from the neighbourhood during a period of twenty years. Mr. Payne also exhibited a large collection of photographs of interesting old houses around Sittingbourne. The Meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Lecturer.

On Wednesday, July 29th, a visit was made to the Isle of Sheppey, when a numerous company arrived by train at Queenborough, and proceeded at once to the Guildhall, where the Mayor (A. W. Howe, Esq.) kindly welcomed the Society to the Island. The Rev. C. E. Woodruff, M.A., then read a few notes on the History of the ancient Borough, and also referred to the fine Municipal Insignia and Archives which had been laid upon the table for inspection. Before leaving several members availed themselves of the kindly invitation of the Mayor to partake of light refreshment which he had hospitably provided.

Shortly after the Church was visited, the Vicar, the Rev. E. W. Bartlett, M.A., receiving the party, while the Rev. C. E. Woodruff acted as guide.

At 1 P.M. all sat down to luncheon in the Minster Board Schools, which the Committee had generously lent for the occasion.

After luncheon the Vicar, the Rev. W. Bramston, M.A., welcomed the Society to his beautiful Church, upon which the Rev. J. Cave-Browne read an exhaustive paper. Subsequently an inspection was made of the exterior of the Church, also the remains of the Gate-house of the Nunnery of St. Sexburga adjoining.

Progress was next made to Eastchurch Church, which was described by the Rector, the Rev. R. Dickson, M.A. Afterwards the Rector and Mrs. Dickson hospitably entertained the company with afternoon tea in the Rectory garden. On leaving cordial thanks were given to Mr. and Mrs. Dickson for their kindness.

Shurland Castle was next visited under the guidance of the Rev. J. Cave-Browne. Mr. Horsepool, steward to Capt. Holford, the owner of Shurland, was also present, and rendered valuable assistance.

The party then proceeded to Warden Point, and greatly enjoyed the sea-view and wide stretch of landscape to be seen from the cliffs at this altitude. The Honorary Secretary took his stand upon the verge of the cliff, and gave a brief address descriptive of the great landslips which periodically occur along the northern and eastern sides of Sheppey. Mr. Payne also pointed out the spot where Warden Church formerly stood, and which, together with the graveyard, had totally disappeared since the Society last visited the Island. It was explained that after the Church became a ruin, in consequence of the cracking of the land on which it stood, the entire site slipped down towards the shore, and was gradually being carried away by the sea.

At the conclusion of the address Mr. Burch-Rosher called for a vote of thanks to the Honorary Secretary for his admirable arrange-

ments during the Meeting, and to the Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman, M.A., for his valuable services in directing the carriages.

The vote was heartily responded to by all present, and acknowledged by Mr. Payne.

The return journey was made along the southern road to Queenborough, thus affording an opportunity of both sides of this outlying but interesting Island being seen. Queenborough Station was reached at 6.40 P.M., where a special train was in readiness to convey the party to Sittingbourne in time for the main-line trains. Thus ended a day of intense enjoyment, which closed the Annual Meeting of 1896 most successfully.

The Council met on the 29th of September, 1896, in the Bridge Chambers at Rochester, by permission of the Bridge Wardens. There were six members present, presided over by the Dean of Rochester.

After some discussion it was decided that the next Annual Meeting be held at Sevenoaks.

Votes of thanks in connection with the Sittingbourne Meeting were passed:

To the Sittingbourne Urban District Council for the use of the Town Hall, free of charge, to the Reverends W. Bell, H. E. T. Cruso, R. Douglas, T. Cobb, E. W. Bartlett, and W. Bramston for kindly co-operation.

To the Rev. R. and Mrs. Dickson for their kindness and hospitality.

To Canon Scott Robertson, the Rev. J. Cave-Browne, the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, Dr. Francis Grayling, and the Honorary Secretary, for papers and addresses.

To A. W. Howe, Esq., Mayor of Queenborough, for kindly help and hospitality,

To the Minster School Board for the use of the Schools for luncheon purposes.

To Mr. Horsepool for assistance at Shurland.

To the Rev. Gardner-Waterman for kindly superintending the carriage arrangements on both days of the Meeting, and to Henry Payne, Esq., for kindly issuing the tickets.

A letter was read from F. C. J. Spurrell, Esq., F.G.S., wherein he expressed regret at having to withdraw from the Council in consequence of his having left the county.

The Secretary was requested to convey to Mr. Spurrell the thanks of the Council for the valuable services he had for many years rendered the Society in various ways.

The Rev. G. M. Livett, B.A., Vicar of Watringbury, was unanimously elected a member of Council *vice* Mr. Spurrell resigned.

One new member was elected.