

The Council met on the 26th of June 1899 at the house of the Noble President in Grosvenor Place. Twelve members were present, presided over by the Earl Stanhope.

The Programme of the Annual Meeting, to be held at Bromley, was approved.

It was resolved that the alteration of Rule 9, which was proposed and adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Society on the 10th of July 1862 at Hythe, be from this date made and printed in all future volumes of the Society's Transactions.

It was resolved that the Honorary Secretary be requested to procure a return or lists from the Local Secretaries, the London Agent, and the Bankers, of all subscriptions due from members in their respective districts which may be in arrear at the date of the next annual audit; and that a copy of such return and of the Balance Sheet, as certified by the auditors, be laid before the next Meeting of the Council; also that the List of Members, as published in the volumes, be corrected up to date as far as possible.

The following new members were elected: Rev. W. D. Fanshawe, F. T. Cutbill, Esq., C. F. J. Jennings, Esq., Rev. R. Swan, E. R. Taylor, Esq., C. Igglesden, Esq., Miss S. Caught, A. Blades, Esq.

The Annual Meeting commenced at Bromley on Tuesday, the 25th of July 1899. The Business Meeting was held in the Assembly Room at the "Royal Bell Hotel." A letter was read from the Noble President, in which he expressed his regret at not being able to be present in consequence of an acute attack of gout, which was a great disappointment to all present. In the absence of Lord Stanhope, J. F. Wadmore, Esq., the senior Member of Council present, occupied the Chair. The Honorary Secretary was then called upon to read the Annual Report, which was as follows:—

REPORT, 1899.

The Council has much pleasure in presenting the Forty-Second Annual Report, as the Society still maintains its high position and continues in a flourishing state. In meeting for the second time at Bromley, after a lapse of twenty-one years, with a slight change of programme, we may anticipate a very instructive and pleasant time. It will be noticed that the country immediately around Bromley has undergone great changes since 1878, but happily building operations have been carried on with due regard to the retention of trees and hedgerows.

Since the last Annual Meeting we have lost several valued members by death and other causes, which we all deeply deplore. By the death of Lord Herschell, G.C.B., the Society loses one of its most distinguished Vice-Presidents. His Lordship joined our Society on becoming Captain of Deal Castle, which he kindly

allowed us to inspect last year. The familiar face of Mr. W. T. Neve will, alas, be no longer seen at our annual gatherings. He joined our ranks in 1859, and for the past sixteen years had been a Member of the Council and Honorary Local Secretary for the Craubrook district. We all remember with pleasure the kindly help he rendered in 1873 and 1895, when we visited Cranbrook, and the hospitality he so liberally dispensed on the latter occasion. Another of our Vice-Presidents has also passed away, namely, Sir Stuart Knill, Bart. He had been a member for twenty-seven years, and was elected a Vice-President by the Council as a mark of its high appreciation of his kindly courtesy in inviting the Society to the Mansion House on the 12th of July 1893, when he was Lord Mayor of London. We have likewise lost a staunch friend and supporter by the death of Mr. W. Laurence of Maidstone. He was an original member of the Society, and for forty years he or some member of his family have been present at our Meetings. Since we last met thirty-four new members have been elected, and others await election at your hands to-day.

During the past six months the twenty-third Volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* has been issued. This is a valuable Volume, and will be greatly prized as containing Mr. St. John Hope's learned and exhaustive monograph on Rochester Cathedral. The cost of this Volume has been defrayed, which leaves us with a balance at our Bankers of £682 Os. 3d.

In the course of the year the Council has made a grant from our funds of £20 towards the much-needed repairs to the ancient Court Hall at Fordwich. These have been carried out under the superintendence of your Honorary Secretary to the entire satisfaction of the Fordwich Town Trust.

A grant of £25 has also been made towards the purchase of Mr. Benjamin Harrison's well-known collection of Flint Implements for the Maidstone Museum. They are all now in that Institution, and it is hoped that the fund now being raised will in some degree compensate Mr. Harrison for his indefatigable labours in the cause of science.

The Council learns with profound regret of the very extensive alterations which have been in progress for some time past at Hever Castle, and more especially of the entire demolition of the ancient Guard House. From the Annual Report (just issued) of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings it appears that the Society offered to advise the owner as to the best means of dealing with this precious heritage, bequeathed to us from antiquity, but that offer was declined.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff moved the adoption of the Report, which was seconded by Captain Thornton Downe and carried.

The Rev. F. Haslewood moved that the retiring auditors be re-elected. This was also seconded and carried.

The Rev. A. G. Hellicar moved that the following retiring Members of Council be re-elected: J. J. Howard, Esq., LL.D., Canon C. F. Routledge, Henry Stringer, Esq., Kenyon W. Wilkie, Esq., George Wilks, Esq., and Dr. E. F. Astley. This was likewise seconded and carried.

The following were then duly elected to membership: Charles Cremer, Esq., John Waddington, Esq., F. F. Smith, Esq., and F. J. East, Esq.

The Business Meeting having concluded, the members then proceeded to the Parish Church, where they were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. A. G. Hellicar, M.A., who described it. An adjournment was then made for light refreshment, after which the company

proceeded to Bromley College, which the Chaplain, the Rev. James White, M.A., described, and subsequently conducted the party round the interesting buildings.

Progress was then made to Eltham Palace, which, together with the charming gardens, were courteously thrown open to the Society by Mrs. Bloxam. A. G. Milne, Esq., read a very bright and interesting Paper on its history. After a vote of thanks had been accorded Mr. Milne, the gardens were inspected and the remains of the moat, all passing out through the garden of Mrs. Crundwell by kindly permission.

Eltham Lodge was next visited, and its fine Flemish tapestry inspected, under the guidance of Mr. Milne, by permission of the Eltham Golf Club Committee.

After the members had returned to Bromley the Annual Dinner took place at the "Royal Bell Hotel." Gerard Norman, Esq., occupied the Chair, being supported by the Rev. A. G. Hellicar, Mr. and Mrs. Burch Rosher, Philip Norman, Esq., F.S.A., Mrs. Gerard Norman, the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, the Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman, the Honorary Secretary and Mrs. George Payne, F. T. Cutbill, Esq., and many others. The usual loyal and other toasts were in the hands of the Chairman, Mr. Burch Rosher, and Mr. George Payne.

The Evening Meeting was held in the Hotel, when Mr. Philip Norman read a very interesting Paper on "Recollections of Old Bromley," illustrated by numerous lantern slides.

With a cordial vote of thanks to the lecturer the meeting terminated.

On Wednesday the members were conveyed in carriages to West Wickham Court, the seat of Sir John Farnaby Lennard, Bart. The Honorary Secretary read a short Paper on the history of the house, abstracted from one already printed in *Archæologia Cantiana*. After this Lady Lennard, in the unavoidable absence of her husband, personally conducted the company over the more interesting parts of the house. On the lawn, before leaving, the best thanks of the company were given, on the proposition of Mr. Burch Rosher, to Lady Farnaby Lennard for her courteous attention, and to Sir John for his kindness in allowing the Society to visit Wickham Court for the second time. After three hearty cheers had been given the large party adjourned for luncheon, which was served in a marquee in the Park by permission. During the halt the Church was inspected, under the guidance of the Vicar, the Rev. H. B. Roberts. By the kindly sanction of Mary, Countess of Derby, the great British Camp in Holwood Park was examined, under the leadership of Sir John Lubbock, Bart, M.P., F.R.S., etc., who read a short Paper on the earthworks, in which he also referred to the field near by, known as War Bank, where Roman foundations exist, and stone sarcophagi and other remains have been found.

High Elms was next visited, where Sir John and Lady Lubbock hospitably entertained the members with tea and other refreshments. During the interval Sir John's collections were carefully examined, the fine series of flint and stone weapons attracting considerable attention. Before leaving, the Rev. Dr. Haslewood called for a vote of thanks to Sir John and Lady Lubbock for their kindness and profuse hospitality, which was cordially given. After a pleasant drive to Bromley the Annual Meeting of 1899 terminated.

The Council met on the 29th of September in the Society's Rooms at Maidstone. Eight members were present, presided over by J. F. Wadmore, Esq. Before the proceedings commenced the Chairman alluded in feeling terms to the lamented death of George Dowker, Esq., F.G.S., who had been for several years a Member of the Council, and one of the Society's most valued and energetic members. It was unanimously resolved that a vote of condolence be accorded to Mrs. Dowker and her family in their deep affliction.

After due discussion it was agreed to hold the next Annual Meeting at Ramsgate.

Votes of thanks in connection with the Meeting at Bromley in July last were passed to the Rev. A. G. Hellicar, the Rev. Jas. White, Philip Norman, Esq., and the Rev. H. B. Roberts, for reading Papers and other valuable help; to Mrs. Bloxam for permission to view Eltham Palace; to Mrs. Crundwell for allowing the party to pass through her garden at The Moat; and to A. G. Milne, Esq., for kindly describing Eltham Palace and Eltham Lodge; to the Eltham Golf Club Committee for permission to visit Eltham Lodge; to Sir John and Lady Farnaby Lennard for allowing the Society to inspect West Wickham Court; to Mary, Countess of Derby, for permission to visit the British Camp in Holwood Park; to Sir John Lubbock for describing it; to Sir John and Lady Lubbock for their hospitable reception at High Elms; to A. Walker, Esq., and Miss Walker for kindly issuing the tickets; to the Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman for kindly superintending the carriage arrangements.

Other votes of thanks were passed to W. M. Bywater, Esq., for the valuable gift of a hundred and sixty photographic negatives of Kentish Churches; to Mrs. A. J. Law for her book entitled *The Parish Church of St. Andrew's, Shalford*; to the National Historical Museum, Stockholm, for the gift of fifty-four parts and volumes of its Transactions; to J. F. Wadmore, Esq., for Manuscript copies of Exchequer and other documents relating to the Order of the Knight Templars of St. John of Jerusalem.

The Rev. J. A. Boodle brought forward the subject of completing the Inventory of Kentish Church Plate, commenced some years ago by the late Canon Scott-Robertson. It was deemed most necessary that this should be done. The Honorary Secretary stated that the