

PROCEEDINGS,

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION, 1871-72.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

Royal Institution, Colquitt Street, Liverpool, October 18th, 1871.

REV. A. HUME, D.C.L., &c., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

REPORT.

The Session which has just closed has been comparatively free from events, some would say it has been monotonous; yet probably not more than three or four Sessions in the history of the Society have surpassed it in the importance of the work done. This consisted chiefly in two things—strengthening the Society in the present, and making arrangements for extended usefulness in the future. The Council have prepared their programme better than during the immediately preceding Sessions; there has been a good supply of papers, and these of a high and varied character; and the attendances have been more numerous than usual.

The Volume, which contains a record of the proceedings as well as the principal papers, is on the eve of issue, and in a few days will be in the hands of Members. It will be sent to those only whose payments are not in arrear.

Owing in a great degree to the resignation and lamented death of the late Treasurer, some of the payments fell into arrear, and a few misunderstandings arose as to whether previous acts of resignation had taken place or not. The Council are glad to be able to say that they have put these matters on a satisfactory footing, much of the arrears having been paid in before this day, and all questions as to membership having been thoroughly explained. They beg to recommend to their successors a careful attention to the finances, on the ground of prudence, and also on the ground of necessity; inasmuch as all matters connected with learned societies were placed by the Legislature on an ordinary business footing more than seventeen years ago.

Among the changes which took place in the Laws of the Society in July, 1867, was one the effect of which has not been beneficial. This was the removal of the three Vice-Presidents *ex officio*, the High Sheriffs of Lancashire and Cheshire and the Mayor of Liverpool for the time being. The permanent recognition of the chief officers in the two shires proclaimed the Society's true territorial character; and the Council recommend that the laws be altered so as to restore that arrangement.

The following resolution, moved by the President and seconded by Mr. Wilson, was passed unanimously, viz. :—

“That a former Law be revived—that the High Sheriffs of Lancashire and Cheshire and the Mayor of Liverpool be Vice-Presidents *ex officio*.”

Mr. E. F. Evans moved, seconded by Dr. Buxton, and it was unanimously resolved :—

“That in conformity with the practice of other societies meeting in Liverpool, an entrance fee be not charged in future.”

The Election of the Officers and Council was then proceeded with, with the result as shown on page iv.

November 2nd, 1871.

Rev. A. HUME, D.C.L., &c., President, in the Chair.

Mr. John G. Jacob exhibited several newspapers, containing very curious and interesting items, of the dates 1793, 1800, 1801, 1802.

The following

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

Was delivered by the PRESIDENT :—

Another Session has closed, and we have started on a new one. The last had nothing of a special kind to mark it; indeed it was one of the least exciting that we have had. There was nothing special, like the *meeting of the British Association*, which gave an impulse to the two previous Sessions ;—to the former in expectancy, and to the latter in retrospect.

Perhaps this was so much the better, as the quality and usefulness of the Society have thereby been more fairly tested. We can thus know more clearly whether or not it is in a healthy condition. If in a sound state, it is like a healthy body, independent of artificial stimulants; but if in an unsound state, such temporary excitement may delay, but cannot prevent, premature old age.

It is folly and waste of time for a provincial society to imitate the best of the metropolitan ones; to say that no matter shall be produced and no facts stated but those which are original,—or to look to the