

PROCEEDINGS,

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION, 1873-74.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

Royal Institution, Colquitt Street, Liverpool, October 20th, 1873.

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

REPORT.

In presenting their Report, at the close of the Twenty-fifth Session, the Council have the pleasure of stating that during the year the business of the Society has steadily progressed. They have been anxious to extend its operations over as much as possible of the area embraced in its title; and they have borne in mind that there is a danger of an opposite character, viz.,—ignoring local limits and becoming too discursive.

Among the papers which are of a strictly local character will be found the following.—Mr. Earwaker, who is preparing a large illustrated volume on the Antiquities of East Cheshire, contributed a paper on the same general subject; and Mr. Beamont, of Warrington, read a second paper on a topic of much interest, the Fee of Makerfield. Dr. Kerr has extended his researches respecting the Primitive Iron Furnaces in Lancashire; and Mr. Abram, a new member of the Society, has contributed, in two parts, an exhaustive history of two places in the county. Besides his annual contribution, entitled *Archæology in the Mersey District*, Mr. H. Ecroyd Smith has given a curious account of old Moor Street in this town. Other papers referring to special localities are Mr. Clarke's on such Antiquities illustrative of Essex as exist in the Mayer collection of this town; and Mr. Smith's Notes on the Vale of Clwyd. Mr. Boulton's researches respecting the Angles, Jutes, Saxons, &c., as well as Mr. Comber's on the Distribution of British Plants, are more comprehensive in their character.

These papers will appear in the annual volume now in the press, some of them with appropriate illustrations; and it is expected it will be ready for distribution early in November.

The index of Authors, Papers, and Subjects mentioned in the last Report has since been completed, and is now in the printer's hands.

The officers entrusted with the Society's property, report that it is all in a satisfactory condition.

The Librarian has laid on the table a complete MS. catalogue, ready for being printed; and the Council believe that the cost of arranging the books and preparing it was well expended. The Curator has, in like manner, arranged and catalogued the illustrative objects in his department: and to him is entrusted for the present the miscellaneous property of the Society, including volumes of Transactions in stock, technically in charge of the Assistant Secretary.

The Catalogue and Index will, when printed, form a small supplementary volume of general interest.

The financial condition of the Society has again been carefully revised, and the Council recommend that a special application be made to members who are in arrear of their subscriptions, to forward remittances to the Treasurer. The debtors to the Society are more than twice as numerous among the distant members as among the members whom the collector can reach; and although the payments are only half as great, they constitute the principal part of the arrears.

The excursion of the members and their friends took place on the 24th of June to Congleton; and the Council desire especially to express their thanks to the worthy Mayor of that town, for the very hospitable reception which was given to them.

The Rev. Dr. Hume has again expressed an earnest wish to retire from the office of President, which he has now filled for four sessions; but he has assented to the wishes of the Council that he should hold the office till they have had time to select and recommend a suitable successor. They desire to express their sense of the obligations of the Society to the Rev. Dr. Hume, who (always an enthusiastic worker on its behalf) has during the four years of his office as President manifested more than ordinary zeal to maintain and further the Society's interests, and to extend its usefulness. They also feel convinced that his efforts have tended in a marked degree to establish the Society on a sounder footing, and to inspire its members with renewed confidence in its future well-being.

The Report having been unanimously adopted, the election of the Council and Officers was proceeded with, and the result announced as stated on page iv.

* *November 21st, 1873.*

Rev. Dr. HUME, President, in the Chair.

The following Paper was read:—

TRACKS OF PRE-ROMAN CIVILISATION IN BRITAIN,† *by Joseph Boulton, F.R.I.B.A.*

* This meeting should have been held on Thursday, November 13th; but in consequence of a banquet being given to Joseph Mayer, Esq., F.S.A., on that day, it was postponed to the above date.

† Transactions, page 113.