ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This meeting was held in the Committee Room of the Lyceum, Bold Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of October, 1854, at Two o'clock, p.m.

THOMAS MOORE, Sen., Esq., in the Chair.

The Secretary then read the following report:

"At the close of the sixth year of the Society's labours, the retiring Council are able to report the condition of the Society, with great satisfaction to themselves, and they trust also, to the Members at large. They believe that they may speak in terms of congratulation, not merely in reference to past results, but to the promises of future success.

"The past Session has been one of more than the average interest, no fewer than nineteen communications, varying in extent and importance, having been laid before the Society at eight meetings. These have been classified, in the contents, under six general heads; and eleven of them have been illustrated by a suitable number of engravings. The Volume for the Session, which is of more uniform interest than some of the others, has been issued to the Members. It was distributed in August; but it was ready in July, and was delayed by the absence of some of the plates.

"The collection of the Society has gone on steadily increasing under the charge of our Honorary Curator, whose exertions on behalf of the Society are undiminished. During the past Session, nearly 100 separate volumes, monographs, and portions of incomplete works, have been added to the Library, mainly by donations and the friendly interchange with other societies of a similar kind. Several objects have also been added to the Museum; and there can be no doubt that if we possessed suitable means of displaying them to the Members and others, a very large number of donations would be added.

"During the past Session, the attention of the Society was occupied on several occasions with a proposition respecting the Union of two or more local societies, whose objects are in a great measure similar. The delegates from four societies unanimously concurred in the propriety of forming a great society in Liverpool, embracing numerous members of various talents and acquirements, and worked in sections. A union of three of those societies was recommended for this purpose, and the members of two of them, (the Historic Society and the Literary and Philosophical Society), adopted this recommendation, both in respect to the fact and the manner of it. New deputies were appointed by these two societies for the arrangement of details, and a Report, dated May 15th, was prepared and printed, the entire rejection of which would not have interfered with the principles previously affirmed. On the 22nd of June the Report was adopted unanimously by the Historic Society, with a resolution allowing a wide margin on the subject of an equitable name, and another providing for the contingency of either rejection or unnecessary delay on the part of the Literary and Philosophical Society. These resolutions were forwarded to that society, but no reply was ever received, either from its Council or Members. Indeed, to this hour, the Members of the Historic Society are not aware, either officially or otherwise, that any resolution has been passed by the Literary and Philosophical Society, respecting the Report of May
18th.—of adoption, rejection, or modification. In these circumstances, the Historic Society re-assembled on the 30th of August, and resolved* to act alone on the principles

* The following is the Report which was adopted on the 30th of August:—

"In compliance with the directions of the Society, given on the 22nd of June last, the Council have turned their attention to the possibility which was then contemplated, of this Society standing alone, and extending its objects and operations. The resolutions which were then adopted were duly forwarded to the Secretary of the Literary and Philosophical Society; but no answer has since been received, either from the Council or Members of that body. The time appears, therefore, to have arrived, when the Historic Society should act independently; and its Council are strongly of opinion that the course which circumstances thus point out will be found to be by far the best, not only for the respectability of the Society, but for the interests of general literature and science in Liverpool.

"The Council, however, cannot regret the cordiality and unanimity with which their Members received the proposals of union, emanating, as they did, from common friends. Having no private or personal objects to serve, and being desirous only to promote the public good, by the cultivation of sound learning, they were willing to share their labours, their honours, and their property, on terms of perfect equality. They have the satisfaction of knowing that this feeling is still of the same force, and that they were manifestly desirous to secure; but they are unwilling to let the most favourable opportunity pass for securing the primary object, in the delays which are attendant on one that is merely secondary.

"In the Report which was presented by the deputies from the four principal learned Societies of procuring suitable accommodation, and the formation of a new Society, with satisfactory arrangements, was unanimously recommended. The reasons of a public character which were then assigned remain unchanged; and those respecting economy in the intellectual and pecuniary expenditure, have acquired, if possible, additional weight. But it was felt from the first that, in any case, the members of the Historic Society would form the materials of which this great one would mainly have acquired, if possible, additional weight. But it was felt from the first that, in any case, the members of the Historic Society would form the materials of which this great one would mainly consist; and that the plan of publication hitherto pursued by it would, with slight modifications, be the one adopted. This Society, therefore, is the only one that could adopt such a course alone; and it is the only one which will be able to present from its foundation an unbroken series of annual volumes.

"The Laws, which were compiled with much care, as part of the second Report of the delegates, require very little modification to adapt them to the new circumstances of the Historic Society. The following are the principal points:—

"On the subject of a name, they recommend that the original name of the Society be retained unaltered—The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. They are fully aware that this expresses somewhat imperfectly the objects of the Society; but it has always been open, more or less, to the same objection. It is, at the same time, that under which the Members have become favourably known to the learned in the United Kingdom and on the continent. From the very establishment of the Society, too, the Members who have taken the deepest interest in its prosperity have looked forward to the procuring of a Royal Charter; and they will naturally do so now with increased interest and confidence. If a change of name be thought desirable, that will be the proper time to introduce it, when the Society will take rank not merely as the first in a limited locality, but as one of the first out of the metropolis, for the promotion of general learning.

"The Council recommend that the Sections be three in number, instead of four—for Archaeology, Literature, and Science, respectively. The last of these would include Natural History, in its various branches, as Geology, Botany, Zoology, and Physical Geography. It so happens that this is the division of subjects in use in the Royal Irish Academy; but it is here suggested, not from imitation or example, but on independent grounds. This arrangement would require no alteration in the present number of ordinary Members of Council. The whole eighteen might at once be divided into those three Sections, according to their respective tastes or acquirements; and the six new Members to be elected at the next Annual General Meeting, would of course displace two in each Section.

"A triennial change in the Officers and Council of the Society has always been recognised by the laws; and to render the triennial division more complete, the Council recommend that there be three official Vice-Presidents (the Mayor of Liverpool and the High Sheriffs of Lancashire and Cheshire), and three elected Vice-Presidents, one at least of whom shall retire annually. On the same principle they would have the maximum limit of Honorary Members a number divisible by three; for example, 36, instead of 40, as recommended in the Report of the 15th of May. They also recommend the adoption of certain verbal modifications before printing the Laws, having reference merely or mainly to improved expression.

"The Council are not yet able to speak with certainty respecting the time and place of holding their meetings. If the Members should think proper, however, to entrust to them the duty of procuring suitable accommodation, they have no doubt of being able to form satisfactory arrangements, of which they will take care that timely notice be given. Although they recommend the formation of only three Sections, it is highly desirable that there should be four meetings monthly. The fourth would be devoted to miscellaneous subjects, and would be preferably more interesting than the ordinary sectional meetings. It would afford opportunities for verbal descriptions of objects illustrative of Antiquity, Natural History, Arts, Manufactures, Manners
of the two Reports of the delegates. The Society accordingly extended its objects and operations from local and special to general; it classified its inquiries under the three heads of Archaeology, Literature, and Science; and raised the annual subscription of Resident Members to a guinea, that of Non-resident Members remaining as before.

"Since this last date, upwards of 80 gentlemen selected by the Council have been enrolled as new Members, without entrance fee, the proportion of resident to non-resident being greater than on any former occasion, viz., three to one. The privilege extends, for such gentlemen as may be thought desirable, to the 31st of December; and there can be no doubt that a large number of valuable Members will yet be added. The present list contains about 410—a number larger than would have resulted from a union with the Literary and Philosophical Society, allowing for duplicate Members and a few secessions. The Society has also enrolled during the year 12 Honorary Members, making in all 27, or three-fourths of the entire number fixed by the new Laws. All of those who were most recently added are eminent for their scientific attainments; so that the list of Honorary Members includes gentlemen of the highest distinction in each of the three great subjects to which the Society directs its attention.

"Since the Society was founded, it has several times joined in invitations to the British Association for the Advancement of Science to honour this town with a second visit; and several of its Members attended, both at Belfast and Hull, to give effect to these invitations. At the latter place the invitation was accepted; and the Members of this Society will not soon forget the interesting meetings which were held last month in the rooms of St. George's Hall. The testimony which was borne to the value of our local efforts, as well as the impulse given to intellectual inquiries, cannot but be highly beneficial to the Members of this Society, as well as to the public generally. The Historic Society's operations for the year were closed by a Soirée, given to the and Customs; for the reading and discussion of Papers connected with more than one of the Sections; and for the introduction of subjects of general interest, at which an unusually large number of visitors might desire to be present.

"In both Reports, certain duties were delegated to the Council of the enlarged Society, which it was expected to discharge before the commencement of the approaching Session. One of these was the selection of gentlemen of high qualifications, and desires of the honour, to be enrolled without entrance fee. It was felt that among the Members of the other learned Societies of the town, and among gentlemen who have hitherto not been connected with any of them, there are many whose varied talents and acquirements enable them to advance the interests of the Society, and who are desirous to bear a part in its useful labours. The Council of the Historic Society feel that in the altered circumstances such duties will necessarily fall upon themselves; and they will endeavour to discharge them faithfully and impartially. They believe, however, that after the unexpected delay of three months which has taken place, the limit for such enrolments should be extended from the 15th of October to the close of the present year.

"The Council feel that the congratulations which were expressed at the close of the sixth Session were well founded, and that few Societies in the kingdom, as certainly none in these counties, can present a parallel to their successful and harmonious labours. They entertain the fullest confidence that the present is only the commencement of a new and more distinguished era; and that they will be able to promote the cause of Physical Science, Natural History, Philosophy, Arts and Manufactures, as they have hitherto done that of Literature and Local Archaeology. Nor could any period be more auspicious than the present for extending the principles and enlarging the operations of the Society. It has given decisive proofs of its capability, and has received in return the fullest evidence of public confidence. It is rich in intellectual resources, as well as in funds and accumulating property; and it will stand before the distinguished men of the kingdom, during their visit to the town, as the principal organised body for the promotion of objects kindred with their own."

* These were selected by the Council, in compliance with a resolution passed on the 30th of August; and they were unanimously elected at a Special General Meeting, held on the 27th of September.

‡ At the meeting of the Society on the 9th of March, 1854, and again at the meeting on the 6th of April, it was announced that Mr. Mayer had kindly offered to exhibit to the Members of the Society, the whole Faussett collection of Anglo-Saxon Antiquities, recently purchased by himself. About the same time it was intimated that Mr. Thomas Wright, of London, had expressed his readiness to write a paper descriptive of them, and to come down to Liverpool, if necessary, to read it. The thanks of the Society were unanimously given to both gentlemen, and their respective offers were accepted. A meeting for this purpose was fixed to be held in May; but it was found necessary to postpone it till after the close of the Session. On the 11th of July, the Council unanimously resolved to hold the meeting while the Members of the British Associa-
Officers, Members, and Associates of the British Association, at the close of their labours on the 27th ult. The Faussett Collection of Anglo Saxon Antiquities was lent for the occasion by Mr. Mayer; an interesting Lecture descriptive of them was delivered by Mr. Wright, now one of our Honorary Members; and several objects similar in character, and of great interest, were exhibited, chiefly by Mr. John Mather. The whole proceedings were of a unique and most interesting character, and we have evidence that they afforded the highest gratification to the Members of the British Association, as well as to the Members and friends of the Historic Society.

"The retiring Council recommend that the new list of Members be printed early in January next, as the period fixed for enrolling new and desirable Members without entrance fee will terminate shortly before. They also recommend, that those gentlemen whose arrears are equivalent to three sessional payments or upwards, be formally erased from the roll of the Society, if, after due notice, they fail to discharge those arrears before the 31st of December.

"In selecting and recommending persons to fill the various offices of the Society for the next year, and also to supply the vacancies on the Council, the retiring Council have acted to the best of their judgment. They have much pleasure in stating that they were in the town, and thus to allow the largest possible number to participate in so rare an intellectual gratification. The whole of the Members and Associates of the British Association were therefore invited to be present; the Council in London were requested to name the evening most suitable to themselves; and to give the meeting a more social character it was arranged that it should take the form of a Soiree.

On Wednesday Evening, the 27th of September, the Soiree was held in the Philharmonic Hall, Hope-street, at Eight o'clock. The Faussett collection was laid out at the lower end of the Hall, in cases provided by Mr. Mayer, the objects being classed and labelled so as to exhibit their character at a glance. Beside them were the Hoylake Antiquities, exhibiting in many instances a similar character; from the collections of the Historic Society, Mr. Mayer, Mrs. Longueville late of Hoylake, and Dr. Hume. A rare and valuable series of miniatures of the Bonaparte family, was also lent for the occasion by Mr. John Mather. A pamphlet was prepared descriptive of this collection, and fifteen hundred copies of it were placed on the seats for the use of the visitors, by Mr. Mather. Fifty copies of the pamphlet descriptive of the Hoylake Antiquities were left in the room by Dr. Hume.

Around the room were suspended a series of silken banners, on which were emblazoned the armorial bearings of the various Presidents of the British Association from its establishment. Each also contained the name or title of the President, the place, and the date. At each end of the hall the royal arms were suspended. Each member of the Society was distinguished by a satin ribbon in his coat, on which was printed "M.H.S. LANCASTHIRE AND CHESHIRE."

From eight o'clock, the company were occupied with the inspection of the objects, promenading, &c. During this interval, several interesting pieces of music were played upon the organ.

At half-past eight, the chair was taken by the WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR of Liverpool, (John Buck Lloyd, Esq.,) Vice-President ex officio of the Historic Society. The Platform and orchestra were occupied by the General Committee of the British Association, the Council and Officers of the Historic Society, and a few of their friends.

The Chairman read a letter from the Earl of Harrowby, President of the Association, regretting his inability to be present at the meeting, as the delicate state of his health made it necessary for him to reach home at the earliest opportunity.

The following paper was then read, the Chairman introducing the author to the audience.

ON ANGLO SAXON ANTIQUITIES, WITH A PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE FAUSSETT COLLECTION.


At the close of the Paper, which occupied about an hour and a half, a vote of thanks to Mr. Wright was proposed by Lord Talbot de Malahide, seconded by Monckton Milnes, Esq., M.P., and carried unanimously. While these gentlemen were speaking, fifteen hundred copies of the paper, printed in pamphlet form, at the expense of Mr. Mayer, were distributed among the ladies and gentlemen present.

The Mayor then vacated the chair, and during an interval of half an hour, the company were occupied in promenading, inspecting the objects, and obtaining refreshments. The musical performances were also renewed by Mr. G. Hirst, who presided at the organ. The Mayor having resumed the chair, and the company having returned to their places, the remaining business of the programme was proceeded with.
have experienced the hearty co-operation of nearly all, and that the greatest harmony and unanimity have marked their entire proceedings.

"The Council hope to be able, in a few days, to announce to the Members the grant of convenient Rooms for holding their meetings; and due notice will be given of the time and place of holding them, in the first circular to the Members. The Treasurer reports that after the payment of every demand, and of some of a special character, he has still a considerable sum in hand, the details of which will be laid before the meeting. Under the superintendence of the Honorary Curator, a beautiful Diploma has been prepared, which will be ready for delivery to the Members at the various meetings of the Session. The Secretary has much pleasure in adding that upwards of forty Papers have been announced as either ready, or in preparation, to be laid before the Society, only part of which can be disposed of during the ensuing Session.

"The retiring Council have again to express their thanks to the Honorary Curator, for the continued use of a room at his house for the meetings of the Council."

The Secretary announced that by a resolution of the Society, adopted unanimously on the 30th of August, the Council were directed to select the names of a suitable number of gentlemen to be proposed as additional Honorary Members of the Society. The Council had done so; and the Society had confirmed their recommendation, by unanimously electing the twelve gentlemen named at a Special General Meeting held that day in the Committee-room of the Philharmonic Hall. They were the following:

Charles Cardale Babington, M.A., F.R.S., St. John's College, Cambridge.
The Right Hon. the Earl of Ross, K.P., D.C.L., Prest.R.S., Parsonstown Castle, Ireland.

Several copies of a Diploma for the Society, designed by Mr. Mayer, and executed by Messrs. Maclure, Macdonald, and Magregor, were exhibited to the meeting. It will be forwarded to each of the Members for delivery to the ordinary Members at the various meetings of Session 1854-55. At the centre of the top is the medallion which formed the design on the cards issued for the Soirée; four figures—Truth and History, Justice and Fame, are in the act of withdrawing a curtain; and thus are exhibited, within a beautiful enriched border, the various styles of architecture, busts of Alfred and Victoria, the costumes of England from the earliest times, the changes in the Royal arms, and several illustrations of English medieval customs.

The Chairman announced that the Historic Society had gladly taken advantage of that public and special opportunity, to present an Address to the Honorary Curator, Mr. Joseph Mayer. After paying a becoming tribute to Mr Mayer's merits, he called upon the Rev. Dr. Hums to read the Address.

HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

To JOSEPH MAYER, Esq., F.S.A., HONORARY CURATOR.

"When it was officially made known to the Historic Society, that you intended to exhibit to the Members and their friends the whole of your recent purchase of Anglo-Saxon Antiquities, entitled the "Faussett Collection," they expressed unanimously their great gratification, and their cordial thanks for your kind offer. They think it right, however, to convey to you a more formal and permanent expression of their acknowledgments; and they believe that the present occasion is a suitable one, when an unusually large number of Members and friends are present, and when the objects are laid out before them.

"Since the period of this Society's inauguration, more than six years ago, you have laid the Members at large under numerous obligations, by the zealous and able discharge of the duties of Honorary Curator. Their property has accumulated rapidly, and its safety has been provided for, not only by your own hands, but beneath your own roof. Nor should it be forgotten, that for some of the most valuable donations they are indebted also to you,—especially for a large number of plates for the enrichment of their printed volumes.
It was moved by John Poole, Esq., seconded by Mr. Stonehouse, and resolved,—
That the Report now read be received, and printed for distribution among
the Members.

The Treasurer having read over his Balance Sheet to the meeting, as signed by the
Auditors;—It was moved by Dr. Hume, seconded by Mr. Buxton, and resolved,—
That the Abstract of the Treasurer's Accounts now read be passed and printed
with the Report.

It was moved by Mr. Stonehouse, seconded by Dr. Macintyre, and resolved,—
That the best thanks of this meeting be given to the retiring Council and
Officers, for their services during the past year.

A Ballot having been taken for the officers and sectional members of Council by
means of the slips forwarded to the Members, the result was announced by the
Chairman.

On the motion of the Rev. Thomas Moore, M.A., a vote of thanks to the Chairman
was passed by acclamation.

"On looking around, at a collection of great intrinsic value and of national interest, the
Members of this Society rejoice that it has found a home in Liverpool, and that it is
possessed by one of the three gentlemen to whom the large and still increasing Society
owes its existence. They believe that in years to come, it will form the centre of a
much larger collection, the whole of which will aid in securing a high class of antiquarian
research and historical illustration.

"It is no small addition to the gratifications of this evening, that the Members of the
Historic Society see around them as their guests and friends, the Officers and Members
of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. For the first time those
treasures of the tombs have been displayed, after nearly a century of collection and
preservation; they have been explained in a lucid and interesting discourse; the subject
is intimately related to the inquiries both of the British Association and the Historic
Society; and it must henceforward take its position as an important branch of Science.
The Faussett collection, however, is not the first subject, in connection with which the
Members of this Society have had an opportunity of admiring your public spirit. In the
general promotion of Science and Art your enthusiasm is well known; and you have
aided to the attractions of Liverpool a valuable collection of Egyptian, Etruscan, Roman,
and other antiquities.

"May you be long spared in usefulness and honour, to witness the good effects of
enlightened and generous conduct; and may your example incite others to similar acts,
by which they will secure, in like manner, the esteem and gratitude of their fellow
citizens."

The Address was beautifully engrossed on vellum, and surrounded by a border containing
illustrations of Egyptian, Etruscan, Greek, Roman, British, Saxon, and Mediæval objects in Mr.
Mayor's own collection. The whole was enclosed in a handsome morocco case.

Mr. Mayer replied briefly, thanking the Society for the honour which they had done him, and
the meeting in general for the cordial manner in which they had exhibited their sympathy.

The Chairman next exhibited a handsome bowl, made in the form of a "maker bowl," or
Saxon drinking cup, and stated that the Historic Society had prepared it for presentation to the
Earl of Harrowby, President of the British Association, as an interesting memorial of the
evening's proceedings. It was lined throughout with silver, and surrounded externally with
two silver bands, the inscriptions on which he read to the meeting.

"Presented by the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, to the Earl of
Harrowby, at a Soirée given by the Society to the British Association for the Advance­
ment of Science. Liverpool, September 27th, 1854."

"This bowl is formed of wood taken from the house at Everton used by Prince Rupert
as his head quarters during the Siege of Liverpool.

Lord Talbot de Malahide having been appointed to receive the bowl for Lord Harrowby, the
Chairman filled it with wine and presented it to him.

His Lordship briefly expressed his best thanks on the part of Lord Harrowby, for such an
appropriate souvenir; and his great personal gratification at the entire proceedings of the evening.
He concluded by draining the bowl to a time-honoured toast,—"The good old town of Liverpool,
and the trade thereof." This was done amid great applause.

The National Anthem was then played upon the organ, at the close of which the meeting
broke up.
"TIG"

IN THE COLLECTION OF J. MAYER, F.S.A.
ORDINARY MEETINGS, HELD IN ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

14th December, 1854. LITERARY SECTION.
THE REV. DR. THOM, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

A long list of Donations which had been received since the close of last session, was read over by the Curator. It was arranged that they should be classified and formally presented on the evenings devoted to Archaeology, Literature, and Science, respectively.

Mr. Mayer exhibited a Tig or drinking cup with four handles. It is of earthenware, and of the date 101U; being one of the oldest known to exist. Some remarks were made respecting three-handled tigs; and also respecting the general resemblance of this one to the Irish "mether." Several representations of it were handed round, from an etching which had been executed by F. W. Fairholt, F.S.A. (See Illustration.)

Mr. Fairholt exhibited an English Brank or Scold's bridle from Mr. Mayer's Museum, also a drawing of a similar instrument from Germany; both being illustrative of a communication which he was about to make.

The Chairman mentioned that a part of his paper on Churches and Chapels of Liverpool, printed in the Society's volumes iv and v, had led to extensive inquiries respecting family history, from gentlemen in the United States of America.

The following Papers were then read:
On a Grotesque Mask of Punishment, obtained in the Castle of Nuremberg, by F. W. Fairholt, F.S.A.;—and on Cowley and the Poets of the Seventeenth Century, by David Buxton, Esq.

21st December, 1854. SCIENTIFIC SECTION.
THE REV. DR. THOM, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations to the Society were laid upon the table:—
From the Author, Thomas T. Wilkinson, F.R.A.S. An Account of the early Mathematical and Philosophical Writings of the late Dr. Dalton, pamph. Manchester, 1854.

The Lancashire Geometers and their Writings, pamph. Manchester, 1854.
On Bisectant Axes, and their relation to the Radical Axes of two or more given Circles, pamph. London, 1852.

From the Author, Theodore W. Rathbone, Esq. Comparative statement of the different plans of Decimal Accounts and Coinage, which have been proposed by the witnesses examined before the House of Commons, and by others, pamph. London, 1854.

From the Author, James Bedford, Ph.D. New Theories of the Universe, explaining how the Sun, Moon, Stars, &c., are formed, pamph. London, 1854.

From the Authors, Maria Emma Gray and Dr. John Edward Gray. Figures of Molluscan Animals, from various Authors, etched for the use of Students by Maria Emma Gray; and a list of the Genera of Mollusca, their Synonyma and Types, by Dr. John Edward Gray, F.R.S., F.L.S. 4 vols. 8vo. London, 1850.

Mr. Buxton drew attention to the fact of the death of Professor Forbes, who had lately taken a prominent part in the Scientific meetings held within that building. He thought that at the first Scientific meeting of the Historic Society, they should record their sorrow for the event, and their regret for the loss which Science had sustained by his decease. In this suggestion the meeting unanimously concurred.

Dr. Hume made some remarks on Christmas Carols, their nature and antiquity; and quoted passages from some of the absurd ones of modern times. He also drew attention to one of the Chester Mystery Plays, of the Sixteenth century, entitled "the Nativity," showing that it abounded with local allusions, and illustrations of the manners of the period.

Mr. Poole exhibited and explained several instruments for the extraction of bullets from gun-shot wounds. They had been lent for the purpose by Mr. Thomas Reay. They included the ancient bullet forceps; the French screw for insertion into the bullet; and the more recent instrument consisting of a groove or scoop and retaining points.

On the subject of Decimal Coinage, some remarks were made by Mr. Richardson, in explanation of the table which he presented.

Mr. W. Milner, one of the patentees, exhibited and explained the following objects. Several locks, showing various principles of construction; water colour drawing, exhibiting a section of the door of a safe; mode of packing the door of a safe, so as to prevent the effects of drilling by thieves; mode of governing the bolts in locks of the largest size; model box, showing the various plans which have been patented for resisting fire; model of the new safe-door, which is retained by a sheet of metal all round.

The following Paper was then read:—

ON THE POWDER-PROOF SOLID LOCK, AND SAFE DOOR. By W. Milner, Esq.

Before exhibiting and explaining these objects, Mr. Milner entered into a brief account of the efforts which he had made for opposing an effectual resistance to fire. During a period of about fourteen years five successive patents have been obtained, improvements gradually suggesting themselves on a principle originally good. The chambers of the safes are filled with materials combining the mutual re-action of non-conduction and vaporisation, so that no greater temperature can exist than 212° Fahr. in the interior of the safe, and among its contents. Safes constructed upon this principle have often been subjected to the most intense heat without injury to their contents.

The mode of fastening safes, so as to present obstruction to their opening, either through accidents at fires or in case of robbery, has also attracted great attention. The safes have therefore become currently known as "holdfast and fire-resisting." Within the last twelve months, however, a new mode of opening safes has been frequently resorted to by thieves, viz., the insertion of gunpowder into the lock, the explosion of which unfastened the door. Against such a mode of operation no safe of previous construction was secure, and thus the name popularly accorded became inapplicable.

The powder proof solid lock is intended to prevent the possibility of using gunpowder, and the principle of it is—presenting a solid mass of metal, except at the very small orifices for the insertion or withdrawal of the key. An ordinary lock, suited to a middling sized safe, constructed on the ordinary or old principle, would admit about half a pound of gunpowder, while larger locks would, of course, admit of a greater quantity. But the solid lock, known as the six lever, did not afford space for more than half a thimbleful of gunpowder. To obviate still further the possibility of applying gunpowder, Mr. Milner showed that the chamber in which the lock was placed was completely filled up with soft spongy wood, which, in the event of being penetrated with a drill, would of itself half fill the aperture. As a still further protection, however, this wood is shielded by a plate of hardened steel, which would resist almost any attempt at boring. The peculiarity of the new safe door is, that instead of being retained in its place by a single bar, or by
several bars, a sheet of metal is thrown out at top, bottom, and sides, almost as if the whole were a solid mass.

Allusion was made to several interesting experiments, in which official persons had been invited to witness the effects of these improvements. Whilst safes of the ordinary kind were readily blown to pieces by the insertion of gunpowder at the keyhole, those constructed upon this principle remained unchanged, excepting the accumulation of a little dirt from the explosion.

4th January, 1855. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION.

THE REV. DR. THOM, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations to the Society were laid upon the table:—

Proceedings of the Society, Nos. 37, 38, 39, 40.
List of the Fellows, 1854.

From the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Proceedings of the Society, parts 1 and 2.

From the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. Report No. 4, 1854.

From the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. Transactions, vol. ii, parts 2 and 3.


From the Author, Robert Rawlinson, Esq. Report presented to the Board of Health, on a Preliminary Inquiry, respecting the Borough of Malton, pamph. 1854.

From the Authors, W. J. Mason, Esq., Architect, and A. W. Hunt, B.A. The History and Antiquities of Birkenhead Priory, illustrated by Views, Plans, and Elevations, together with Views of the Churches formerly connected with the Priory. Dedicated to the Historic Society. Sm. fol. London, 1854.

From Edward Benn, Esq. A View of the History and Coinage of the Parthians, by John Lindsay, Esq. 4to. Cork, 1852.


From Thomas Dorning Hibbert, Esq. A large perforated stone malleus, axe-shaped on one side.

Mr. Robson exhibited a bronze paalstab of an interesting shape. It had been found near Warrington, on the Cheshire side of the Mersey.

Mr. Clements exhibited the following articles. An ancient Padlock, found in an excavation in Bond street, London; a pair of ancient iron nut-crackers, on the principle of screw-pressure; two pieces of the Gun-money of James II; and several well executed photographic views.

Mr. Clements also exhibited two ancient oak panels with carving; and drawings illustrative of them from Caxton's edition of "Reynard the Fox."

Mr. Benn forwarded for exhibition the following articles, illustrative of his paper:—

A Roman bead; four other beads of very singular forms; a red coloured bead, rude in form and material; thirty beads of various kinds; two with different colours laid on; a piece of glass ornament, belonging, it is supposed, to the Saxon period; some small beads, like garnet, said to have been found in a cairn.
The Chairman stated that an inquiry had recently taken place in Edinburgh, the result of which was yet unsatisfactory, respecting the Architect of Heriot's Hospital. The names of four persons had been suggested; viz. Inigo Jones, Walter Balcanquhall, D.B., and two of the master masons who were first engaged in erecting the building.

The following Papers were then read:

Ancient British Antiquities, No. 2.—Objects in Glass, by Edward Benn, Esq.; and DESCRIPTION OF TWO ANCIENT CARVED OAK PANELS. By John Clements, Esq.

The origin and history of these panels is not known. They may be local, but probably are not. When they came into the hands of their present possessor, they were covered with a thick coating of whitewash; in which state it is not probable that they had travelled far. They form a pair, each being eighteen inches long, by ten broad. They are a good deal worm-eaten, but still in good preservation. The carving is very rude.

No. 1.

This represents the legend of "St. George and the Dragon." The tail of the dragon is peculiar, being very short, and curled like that of a dog. The animal also wants wings, and has in general a less formidable appearance than usual. The lance or tilting spear of the Saint seems also to be omitted.

The Princess Sabra is placed at the top of the panel, holding a sheep in a leash. She stands apparently on a hillock, like an inverted bowl, and the sheep which seems struggling to obtain its liberty, is suspended in mid air. The horse of the Saint seems to move along the ridge of the dragon's back; a rabbit or hare has leaped up in front of the horse; and the Saint has his sword raised, no doubt actually to wound the dragon, but apparently to assail the rabbit or hare in front. The head of the horse is curled in, and his eye, judging from the rude carving, looks forward with some alarm.

The arms of the princess are carved of a most unnatural length; she could easily touch the ground with her fingers, without stooping. Her dress too is peculiar; the falling band and flat cap reminding us of the costume of a boy in some of our charity schools. From the disproportion between the parts of the horse's body, the carver seems to have commenced at the head, without a complete drawing, till, finding that there would not be room for the whole animal on the panel, he made the best compromise he could with the hind quarters. The horse has a double girth, and the crupper is ornamented with bells, like hawks' bells.

The artist seems to have tried to represent the popular tradition respecting St. George, as conveyed in ballads and legends. The presence of the hare is difficult to be accounted for. From the square-toed Sollerets, the Lambois, the Bourgonet, and other indications in the armour, the date of the carving may be safely referred to the reign of Henry VIII.

No. 2.

This panel is partly heraldic, but the symbols have not been explained. The illustration of the mediaeval legend is at the upper part of it, in two divisions. The scenes represented are from the well known story of "Reynard the Fox," which was translated and printed by Caxton in 1481. One portion of the carving is a scene from Chapter iii. of Caxton's book, and another from Chapter v.

The former is entitled "Chanteleer the Cock complaineth of Reynard the Fox;" and represents a procession of Chanteleer and his family to the king, carrying the body of Coppel, one of his daughters, who had been killed by Reynard. He at the same time mentions the slaughter of various other members of his family. After an allusion to his happiness, and the extent of his family, he relates the treacherous manner in which Reynard had imposed upon him, and how at length the dead body of

* "At last he came in the likeness of a hermit, and brought me a letter to read, sealed with your Majesty's seal, in which I found written that your highness had made peace throughout all your realm, and that no manner of beast or fowl should do injury one to another, affirmed unto me that for his own part he was become a monk or cloystered recluse, vowed to perform a daily penance for his sins; showing unto me his beads, his books, and the hair shirt next to his skin, saying in humble wise unto me, 'Sir Chanteleer, never henceforth be afraid of me, for I have vowed never more to eat flesh. I am now waxed old, and would only remember my soul, therefore..."
Comple his daughter had been rescued from Reynard's mail, by the interference of a pack of hounds.

The first illustration represents the dead body of Chanteceleer's daughter in Reynard's mail, with the head and neck hanging out. The attitudes of the bereaved father and children fully express their great sorrow.

In the next scene, the king sends Bruin the bear to bring Reynard to Court, to answer the accusations made against him. "And full of jollity the bear departed, if his return be as jovial, there is no fear of his well speeding." Reynard, however, tempts the bear with kind words and promises of great store of honey; and takes him to the house of Lanfert, a stout and lusty carpenter, in whose yard there was a large oak, which he and his sons had commenced to cleave. The bear was persuaded that there was an immense amount of honey in the tree, but when he had inserted his head, Reynard withdrew the wedges. Escape was now impossible; Lanfert, his family and friends,* were thoroughly roused; and the bear at length succeeded in extirpating his head. A vigorous attack was then made upon him, the last stroke being dealt by the carpenter's brother.

The second scene on the panel illustrates the concluding part. Lanfert's brother is dealing the final blow; and a flying bird probably represents one of the domestic fowl which had been roused by the noise and clamour.

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11th January, 1855. LITERARY SECTION.

PETER B. M'QUIGE, ESQ., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—


Speed's account of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, with maps, 12mo. 1676.

A Volume of Pamphlets, f.cap. 4to., 1703 and 1704.

A volume containing the Chester Chronicle and other local newspapers, 1799.

From the Author, Dr. Kendrick. The Warrington Worthies, 4to. pamph. 2nd edition.

From Mrs. Matthew Gregson. Gregson's Fragments relative to the History of Lancashire, with additions. Sm. fol. 1807.

The Rev. Thomas Moore, M.A., exhibited maps, drawings, and prints illustrative of his paper.

The Secretary laid upon the table copies of the new Laws just printed off, and copies of the new List of Members.

I take my leave, for I have yet my noon and my even song to say; which speaking he departed, saying his *credo* as he went, and laid him down under a hawthorn; at this I was exceeding glad, that I took no heed, but went and clocked my children together, and walked without the wall, which I shall ever rue."

* "This army put Bruin into a great fear, being none but himself to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noise which came thundering upon him, he wrestled and pulled so extremely, that he got out his head, but left behind him all the skin and his ears also; insomuch that never creature beheld a fouler or more deformed beast, for the blood covering all his face and his hands leaving the claws and skin behind them, nothing remained but ugliness; it was an ill market the bear came to, for he lost both motion and sight, feet and eyes; but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert, the priest, and the whole parish came upon him, and so becudgelled him about his body part, that it might well be a warning to all his misery, to know that ever the weakest shall still go most to the wall. * * * The poor bear in this massacre, sat and sighed extremely, groaning under the burthen of their strokes, * * * till Lanfert's brother, rushing before the rest with a staff, struck the bear in the head such a blow, that he could neither bear nor see, so that awaking from his astonishment, the bear leapt into the river adjoining."
The following Paper was then read:

**SOME NOTES ON THE PARISH OF WEST KIRKBY, IN THE HUNDRED OF WIRRAL,**

*By the Rev. Thomas Moore, M.A.*

[Note. The paper, as read before the Society, was of considerable length, and entered into various details, under separate headings, as in the writer's paper on Kirkby in Lancashire; *Vid. vol. VI.* What follows, is a selection from, or rather an abstract of, the original paper.]

The parish is situated at the mouth of the river Dee, on its right bank. It is a Rectory, and valued in the King's Books (made by order of Henry VIII., 1535,) at £28. 13. 04.

During the Protectorate, in the Parliamentary survey of 1649, the tythes are stated to be worth cxxvi per annum, £25 being allotted to Mrs. Glover for her fifths. "The present minister is one Mr. Monerott or Monroe (omitted by Ormerod) who was presented thither by the Committee of Plundered Ministers." *Vid. iii. c. Lamb. MSS.* (Vid. Gastrell's *Notitia*, by Raines.)

By the return made in reply to the orders of the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, dated 22nd Feb., 1704, the value was as follows:

- West Kirkby (township) ................ £140 0 0
- Glebe—5 closes, containing about 11 acres, worth ..... 8 0 0
- Some small tenements, paying a constant rent of ..... 1 2 0
- Tythe of Greasby, Calder, and Little Meols .......... 100 0 0
- Tythe of Frankby and Great Meols ................ 25 0 0

**£271 2 0**

The value in 1834 was £703.

Ormerod supplies a list of Rectors from the time of King Stephen. At that period the living descended from father to son, till the Lateran Council (1215) condemned this mode of succession. From that period the Abbot of St. Werburgi was the patron, till the time of Henry VIII., when it came to the Dean and Chapter of the new See of Chester.

Thomas Williamson, in 1670, seems to have been the first actually presented by the Dean and Chapter. He lived till the year 1693, before which date the Registers commence. In the Registers, which begin in 1692, under the year 1696, we have this notice:

"In this year, Mr. Williamson, parson of this parish, died, and was buried at Liverpool."

The entries seem to be in his writing almost to the day of his death, *viz.*, "Burials 8 Sept., Weddings 28 Sept."

His successor, Dr. Wroe, was instituted November 6th following. He was born in 1641, in the parish of Prestwich; was B.A. of Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1661, and Fellow in 1662; was Chaplain to Bishop Pearson in 1678, who gave him a stall. In 1684 he was appointed Warden of Manchester, "having (says Dr. Ware, Hist. Coll. Ch. Manchester,) by his eloquent exhortations, obtained a celebrity which no head of the College had perhaps ever enjoyed." He resigned the Vicarage of Garstang on becoming Rector of West Kirkby. He published three or four sermons, now very scarce. (*Vid. Raines' Gastrell, vol. i. p. 30 n.*)

As a continuation of the list in Ormerod, we copy from the Register Book the following Memorandum:

"Thomas Trevor Trevor, Prebendary of Chester, was presented by the Dean and Chapter of Chester to the Rectory of West Kirkby, on the decease of the Rev. Dr. Pearce, March 10th, 1803, instituted March 29th, and inducted April 5th."

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Dr. Coplestone, Dean of Chester, was presented to this Rectory on the death of Dr. Trevor, in 1827. On Dr. Coplestone’s promotion to the See of Llandaff, the living was given by the Crown to Dr. Murray, Lord Bishop of Rochester, in 1828, and on the Bishop’s resignation, it was presented by the Dean and Chapter to the Rev. James Slade, Prebendary of Chester, February 1829, and he was inducted on the 24th of April following.

It may not be uninteresting to give a list of the Curates of this Church, as far as they are known. The Registers supply us with the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Walker</td>
<td>1697-1723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tho: Richardson</td>
<td>1711-1723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo. Hodson</td>
<td>1728-1758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. Robinson</td>
<td>1759-1779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Wetenhall</td>
<td>1779-1780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Newton</td>
<td>1780-1822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jos. Fish, Dec. 30, 1821</td>
<td>1822-1823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Parker, July 13, 1823</td>
<td>1823-1824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. H. Pettingal, Oct. 10</td>
<td>1824-1829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Sawley, Nov. 20</td>
<td>1825-1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. B. Stevenson, July 6</td>
<td>1827-1828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Armitstead, May 11</td>
<td>1828-1828</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We can thus supply a list for nearly a century and a half. The curacy was held on an average for thirteen years, but if we deduct seven years, during which time six curates came and went, we have an average of more than twenty-seven years for each of the others, and we may say that five curates virtually cover the entire space. Mr. Newton, who held it for 42 years, is still well remembered, and some of his family reside in the neighbourhood.

In a former volume of the Proceedings and Papers of this Society, the Church of West Kirkby was made familiar to the members by four plates, representing each side of the church. They were contributed by James Middleton, Esq., F.S.A.

The church is dedicated to St. Bridget. The date when the present church was erected, I have not seen recorded anywhere, but most probably is has existed since before the Reformation. It has not much architectural pretensions, but the tower is good, and the western doorway worth attention.

The church originally consisted of a tower, nave, chancel, and north aisle, and this could have been readily discerned formerly from the outside, as there was a double roof. At present both nave and aisle are under one roof, by the alterations made in the year 1788. There are many evidences of the original condition of the church still existing. In the tower may be seen the grooves, where the roof of the nave was joined to it; in the east end, the later masonry, by which the two gables were made into one, is readily detected, as well as the dressing of the stone which formed the old gables. The same features may be observed in the west end of the aisle. In the inside there are marks which would lead one to suppose that there had been a row of pillars between the nave and aisle, as in the chancel wall, the spring of an arch is easily detected through the plaster.

The outside walls of the church are the same as they were built, with the exception of the south wall of the the nave, which originally was farther out, and not in a line with the chancel. For application was made to the Bishop for permission to make the following changes, viz., “to take down the south wall and rebuild it in a line with the chancel; to new-roof the whole building, and cover it with ton slates, &c.” “The expenses of the above alterations to be defrayed by the sale of lead on the roof, &c.”

In the Churchwarden’s book will be found a statement of the price of the lead sold, amounting to upwards of £300, and of all the items of expenditure. The whole expense amounted to little above £400.

The new workmanship is very inferior to the old, and it requires but little attention.
to tell where it begins and where it ends. The new buttresses are very poor, and much inferior to the others. The alterations were completed in a year, as application was made in August, 1788, and the new sittings were allotted on 23rd August, 1789. How they were then arranged may be seen on a large tablet in the church, on which the names of the parishioners are printed, and the number of pews or sittings to which they are entitled.

In the east end are three windows, one to the chancel, one to the aisle, and a small one to the vestry. The chancel window, round-headed, and of five lights, is between the two buttresses, which mark the chancel from the outside. The aisle window is flat-headed, and of four lights. The vestry window is small and round-headed. These windows are not on the same level, the chancel window being higher than the others. They are on a level with a string course, which runs all along the east end, and chancel (south side,) and vestry (north side).

On the south side of the chancel the ground falls away. There is a second bevelled course, in a line with the lower bevelling of the chancel buttresses. The chancel had three windows on the south side, of which the two most easterly are closed. They had drips originally. The chancel wall is bevelled off at the top of the window, but this is not the case in the new wall. The upper string course, originally all along the south side of the chancel is now interrupted between the second and third buttresses. The priest's door has been built up.

The north side has four buttresses, and five windows, four of three lights, and one of five lights. The north door which seems not to have had a porch, is closed up. On the right side, as you would enter, there is an inserted stone, which probably fills up what was once the holy water receptacle.

The tower occupies the greater part of the west end. Its doorway has between the mouldings, at the top, four shields, but they are not easily assignable to their proper owners. The shields are separated by four bosses. In the corners are two quatrefoils. The effect of the weather and time is seen on the mouldings, particularly those on the south side, which being exposed to the north blast, are much eaten away. The tower has at the bottom two chamfered bevels. Above the door is a round-headed window, partly built up, and partly modern; and higher still, the belfry window (one of four, there being one on each side of the tower), consisting of four lights, with trefoil ornaments. In the north side of the tower is a quatrefoil, opening to light the stairs, but its mouldings are almost worn away. Against the north end of the tower, and west end of the aisle, a Day School was built by the Rev. Henry Sawley, who was curate 1825-1827. It has been removed since, but traces of it are still visible. There is a neat window of two lights in the west end of the aisle.

In the interior of the church, we observe in the chancel two sedilia and a piscina, rising above each other in regular succession, and ornamented with trefoil tops. In the piscina is inserted a freestone slab, with an inscription in memory of Dr. Trevor's eldest son. There is a bracket on the north side of the east chancel window, probably for an image of the Virgin, and there is another bracket similarly situated with regard to the east window of the aisle. The chancel was evidently approached by steps in former days, as the floor makes a very perceptible descent towards the body of the church. In the chancel a portion of the old roof is visible, but all the rest is flat and plastered. The pewing is all modern, with the exception of a few old benches, with carved ends. Some of the old carving is preserved, and on one of the pews there are the characters W. C. 1628.

What is now known by the name of the Glegg Chapel, might be more appropriately described as the Glegg Vault. It is situated at the east end of the aisle, and is built up to the height of four feet, and flagged on the top. This is surmounted by a wooden screen, entered by folding doors, which seems, from the inscriptions on it, to be of some antiquity.

The Vestry is built against the Glegg Chapel, and is approached from the inside of the church by three stone steps. The level of its floor is at least four feet above the
church floor, and may have been more formerly. There is a curious trefoil opening in
the wall, about half a foot above the vestry floor. It is most likely that the vestry floor
and that of the church were formerly on the same level, and that the trefoil was for the
priest to observe what was going on in the church.

The entrance to the tower is by a square headed door, and in it there are the remains
of a groined roof. There are five bells, with the following inscription:—

1719. ABR: RUDHALL CAST US ALL
    JOS. IENNING, JNO. TOTTLEY, CH. WARDENS.
    MR. THOS. RICHARDSON, Curate.
    MR. JOHN GLEGG, A GOOD BENEFACOR.
PROSPERITY TO THE PARISH. 1719.

The Parsonage House is commodious, and in great part modern. It is pleasantly
situated between the church and the ridge of hills which divide the parish into two
portions. The grounds have been enclosed, and trees planted, under the auspices of
Rector Slade. There was a disputed right of way through the Parsonage grounds, as
the occupants of two farms, which lay close by, claimed the right to pass down through
them to the Dee shore. Mr. Slade put an end to a dispute* which had been handed
down to successive rectors, by leaving a pathway, when he walled in the Rectory grounds.

With respect to the division of the Common we find the following memorandum:—

"The 10 of September 1709 the Common was divided and the seventh Lott fell to the
Re Dr Richard Wroe and doll stones marked with his name was sett accordingly at
both ends and middle, thus  

D RW with one + at the tope and P for parsonadge."

There was formerly a pathway through the Churchyard, which was turned in 1851
along the east wall, by building a new wall on the Rectory ground. There is a notice
to this effect in the Churchwarden's books, under the date of July 18th, 1851.

Owing to the Grange School established by Bennett's Charity, there was no School
attached to the Church till Mr. Sawley built the one alluded to above. The present
School was built by Mr. Slade at his own expense in 1844, and is a mixed School. The
boys at seven years of age go to the Grange School.

There are several tombs in the Church, most of them of the family of Gleggs, some of
the Urson family, &c. The one perhaps of greatest interest, is the monumental
inscription inserted in the built-up Priest's door. The slab is red sandstone, on which
is a coat of arms rudely figured, consisting of a plain cross, eagles as supporters, and
surmounted by a coronet. The following is the inscription:—

H: S: E: IOHANNES VAN:
ZOELLEN: NUPER DE CI:
VITATE BRISTOLIEN:
SIS GENEROSUS QUI:
OBIT 3: TIO DIE SEPT:
MBRIS ANNO DM. 1689.

Van Zoelen is supposed to have been in Duke Schomberg's army, which lay
encamped on the Meols in the parish in this year. Ormerod gives a reference to Leigh's
Lancashire, as if to prove this, but the passage only states the fact of the army having
encamped there, and says nothing whatever of Van Zoelen. I have not been able
to discover any information on the subject, but I think it is quite safe to infer that he
did belong to the Duke's army, and having died, was buried in the nearest Church.

The south and north walls have several large tablets affixed to them, on which are
printed, the various bequests made by pious individuals to the parish, the allotment of

*In the Registers we find the following memorandum:—

1708. To all ensewing parsons of West Kirby, that Joseph Jennings and John Barclay have noe
heighway up through the parsonage ground, to their ground, but by the Lane. This was stop
by Dr. Wroe himselfe, upon my information that I had from others, by reason that their ground is
nothing but a part of the Townfield, though Joseph Jennings enclosed it in anno 1707, and that
the way is through the town field, over Mr. Betsone's headland or butte.
the pews, and one of great interest, being a copy of the Terrier, which we think of sufficient interest to append.

**TERRIER.**

A True copy of a Terrier of the Tithes belonging to the Rectory of West-Kirby made in the year one thousand seven hundred and twelve according to the articles of the Right Rev. Father in God Wm Ld. Bp of Chester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop/Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>0 8 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortuaries</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servants if more than one</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs for each old House</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ditto Cottage</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each garden one penny</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each cow one penny (no milk)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calves, not more than four, for each</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambs, not more than four, for each</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figs every farth—if more than two, one pig</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But the second farth free</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tythe Herbage, if no parishioner twopence per pound</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18th January, 1855. SCIENTIFIC SECTION.

HENRY DAWSON, ESQ., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:

- From the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool. Proceedings, during the forty-third session, 1853-54: including within the same covers, as an "Appendix," the Fauna of Liverpool, by Isaac Byerley, Esq.
- From the Statistical Society. Journal of the Society, eleven volumes, vi to xvi inclusive.
  - Index to the first fifteen volumes.
  - Part 4 of vol. xvii, (1854.)

Mr. Sansom exhibited several interesting varieties of Ferns from the Azores.

Mr. Hume exhibited a silver brooch ornamented in niello, of the kind usually known as Rob Roy's brooch. It is the property of Mrs. Kirkland, Everton.

In drawing attention to the rapid rise of Melbourne in Australia, Mr. Stonehouse exhibited an original map of the town and neighbourhood.

Mr. Poole exhibited and explained the revolving rifle, lately patented by Mr. Bentley of this town. The objects secured by it are unusual rapidity in the discharge of its five barrels, and greater steadiness of aim. Mr. Poole also exhibited a model, showing the working machinery of the Lock.

The following Papers were then read:

- Description of Plans for Temporary Houses, for Encampment, &c., by G. W. Stephenson, Esq.; and—

The observations of the rain-fall at Warrington extended over eleven years (1844-1854). The results compared were observed by Mr. Sharp during the three years (1844-46); by Mr. Rylands during six years (1847-52); and at the Museum and Library during two years (1853-54). The gauges were compared with each other, and gave the same results.
The following table shows the yearly rain-fall, the gauge being on the ground:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>INCHES</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>INCHES</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>INCHES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>23.73</td>
<td>1848</td>
<td>33.75</td>
<td>1853</td>
<td>41.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>30.12</td>
<td>1849</td>
<td>33.98</td>
<td>1853</td>
<td>28.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>30.29</td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>27.79</td>
<td>1854</td>
<td>27.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1847</td>
<td>36.71</td>
<td>1851</td>
<td>31.48</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean yearly fall, 31.338 inches. Mean defect of a gauge elevated 31.5 feet, 14 per cent. (2 years.) Greatest fall in twenty-four hours, 2.16 inches, on September 6, 1844, and July 9, 1853.

The distribution of the mean annual fall throughout the year is contained in the following:

**Distribution of the Mean Annual Fall through the Year.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>EXTREME FALLS RECORDED IN EACH MONTH</th>
<th>MEAN FALL OF EACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>4.40 (1852) 1.75 (1848) 2.841. 6-300 12.560</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>4.58 (1848) 0.68 (1845) 2.021.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>2.76 (1851) 0.45 (1849) 1.438. 6-260 10.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>4.42 (1843)* 0.35 (1852) 1.620.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>3.93 (1847) 0.02 (1844) 1.803.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>4.47 (1851) 1.00 (1850) 2.777. 9-903 18.778</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>4.64 (1849) 1.64 (1847) 3.315.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>5.03 (1845) 2.11 (1855) 3.783.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>5.23 (1847) 0.64 (1843)* 2.807.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>6.58 (1843)* 1.90 (1843)* 3.310.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>5.85 (1852) 1.50 (1841) 2.879. 8-876 12.560</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>5.07 (1852) 0.18 (1844) 2.657.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The record during 1842-43 was not complete, these years are therefore not used in obtaining the means.

The mean for September is less than that for either August or October; and the same fact is shown even more strikingly in Mr. Hartnup's tables from the Liverpool Observatory, extending over seven years.

Those years are 1810-1852, and if we extract the same years from the Warrington tables we are able to institute a comparison. Assuming that Spring commences on the 1st of March, and the other quarters at regular intervals of three months, we have the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WARRINGTON</th>
<th>LIVERPOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>5.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>10.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>9.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>7.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|     | 33.62 | 28.38 |

This is interesting in so far as it shows the range of maxima and minima, and the times of their occurrence; but it cannot be regarded as a correct comparison of the total rain-fall at the two places. For this purpose the gauges ought to be at the same elevation above the ground, or their difference of elevation should be known, and accurate allowance made for it. The position of the Liverpool gauge is unfortunate in this respect, being such as to isolate the results obtained by it from other observations. The probability is that the true rain-fall at Liverpool is rather greater than that at Warrington.
The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:
From the Ethnological Society of London. Transactions of the Society, volume iii. for 1854.
From the Author, John Gray Bell, Esq. A Genealogical Account of the descendants of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and King of Castile; illustrated with portraits and armorial bearings of the family of Bell, fol. pamph., 1854.
From the Author, Joseph Boult, Esq. Seven Letters on the Estuary of the Mersey, pamph., 1854-55.
From the Author, Thomas Sansom, Esq. A Letter to the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart., on the Education of the Middle Classes, pamph. 8vo., 1845.

Mr. Mayer exhibited three numbers of the “Miscellanea Graphica:” a work descriptive of the collection in the possession of Lord Londesborough.

Mr. Mayer also exhibited eight etchings of objects now in his own possession. They represent part of a collection of earthen vases, flint arrow heads, &c., recently found in the barrows or tumuli of Dunby Moor, near Whitby, in Yorkshire. The etchings also contained representations of a small comb made of flint, a bone hair pin, stone hammers, &c.

In illustration of her communication, Miss Farrington, of Worden Hall, forwarded five original drawings, viz.: 1. Elevation of Leyland Church, which was taken down in 1816. 2. Gargoyles from the old Church. 3. Incised slabs and other stones, part of a still earlier building. 4. Incised slabs in the present Church yard of Leyland.

Dr. Hume drew attention to the lithographed statement of the Building Surveyor, respecting the buildings erected, altered, or taken down in Liverpool, in 1854. The annual rate of increase in the population was inferred from it to be 6,029.

Dr. Hume read a popular ballad, descriptive of the naval battle of Port Royal, in 1782, in which Rodney conquered De Grasse. Some of the topics of the present day authorized an allusion to the tactics then adopted, of cutting the enemy’s line in two. The suggestion, though claimed by three persons, was generally attributed to Mr. Clarke, of Eldin, father of Lord Eldin, the Scottish Judge; but it appears that it was not unknown to the ancients.

The following Paper was then read:

NOTES ON THE OLD CHURCH AT LEYLAND. By Miss Farrington.

I take the liberty of sending to the Historic Society some drawings connected with Leyland Church.

The first is the copy of an elevation, taken by some inferior Architect, just before the body of the Old Church was pulled down in 1816, and merely of value as being the only known representation of it as it then stood. It shows the porch, and the curious projecting line of Gargoyles placed at some distance below the roof, but we can gather from it very little respecting the true character of the three larger windows. The Church had a good waggon roof, painted blue, and dotted over with gilt stars. There was a western gallery, erected for the organ, in the early part of George the Third’s reign; another and older one along the north wall, and one stretching from north to south across the Chancel Arch, which from its being only wide enough for one row of pews, and from its situation, must, I fancy, have been a “rood loft.” The pulpit and desk were near the middle of the south wall.

I have given many of the Gargoyles in another drawing; they were sold as old materials, and my father bought them. The first is “the Cat Stone,” to which appends
the usual story of the stones being removed by night (in this case from Whittle to Leyland), and the Devil, in the form of a cat, "throttling" a person who was bold enough to watch.

The tower and chancel were not touched, but the width of the body of the Church was increased nine feet on each side. When the old walls were pulled down, they were no further interfered with than the flooring of the new Church required; but some alterations in ffarrington Chapel (which occupies the south east corner of the Church) a year or two since, and which necessitated the entire removal of the old foundations, brought to light the fact that they were partly composed of the fragments of a still earlier Church. The incised slabs drawn out are of very superior workmanship to those in the Churchyard, and the small headstone apparently more ancient. There were other portions of stone coffins besides the head piece I have drawn, and the stones from the Norman arch are in number respectively 11, 5, and 1. There seems no reason to doubt that the undisturbed portion of the foundations would be equally rich in fragments as this south east corner.

The two remaining sheets represent stones now in the Churchyard. There are some others, but I have drawn all or most of the different types. Some of them are defaced by inscriptions of the 17th and 18th centuries; but these, of course, I have omitted in the sketches.

The ffarrington Chapel had a window (and not a door as now) at its east end. I am unable to say when it was first appropriated as a chantry, all my documents on the subject recognising it as already such. You are no doubt aware that a list of the Lancashire Chantries is a desideratum among antiquaries. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas, the Church itself to St. Andrew. In 1591 William ffarrington obtained a confirmation of his previous family claim to it from Bishop Chaderton, who confirms to him and his heirs for ever, a right to "sit, stand, and otherwise repose themselves therein" while living, and after death to occupy "two several vaults or tombs in the upper of the same lying eastward to bury the deade bodys of the men, and in the lower standing westward to bury the deade bodys of the women." There was a division between the two sexes in the family pew itself till 1818, and at the present time the men's free sittings run along the south side of the Church, and the women's the north. Prior to the alterations, all that part of the Chapel wall not occupied by monuments was covered with hatchments, helmets, tabards, and other relics of the age of heraldic funerals, but they were destroyed with the old Church. This was unfortunately pulled down at a time when church architecture was little thought of, and the restoration committed to an inferior hand named Longworth. The steeple, which contains six good bells, and the whole of the chancel were undisturbed.

There are three sedilia and a double piscina under four semi-circular arches, and in the opposite wall an ambry, with a small pointed arched door of rude oak as black as ink, till lately painted over. The roll moulding is the characteristic ornament of this part of the Church, and the windows are the simplest form of decorative. There are some fragments of old stained glass in the east one. In the window seat of that westward of the chancel door four folios are chained, viz.: Foxe's "Martyrs," and Jewell's "Apology," in black letter, and "A Preservative against Popery," of later date. From the apex of the chancel arch there hung, till a year or two since, the once sky-blue flag of the Leyland Volunteers, with a wreath of laurel painted on one side, and Britannia, copied from a halfpenny, on the other. I can give no particulars of the corps itself.

In the outer north wall of the chancel, about three feet above the ground, is a low arch, the purpose of which is not very clear. It is, perhaps, four feet wide, and nearly two high in front, and there are no indications of its ever having contained a recumbent figure.

We had a venerable yew tree in our Churchyard, but it was blown down in the storm of Christmas, 1853.

I have only examined the Registers with reference to my own family, but I never met with anything remarkable. Baines gives some account of them, but he does not mention anything curious.
1st February, 1889. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION.

THE REV. DR. THOM, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Henry George Rimmer, of 6, Breckfield Road South, was duly elected an Ordinary Member of the Society.

Mr. Joseph Clarke, F.S.A., of Saffron Walden, was duly elected an Honorary Member.

The following Donations were laid upon the table: —
From the Kilkenny Archæological Society. Proceedings and transactions for 1854, in three parts, viz.: Part 1 for January, March, and May; Part 2 for July; and Part 3 for November.

From J. F. Marsh, Esq. The following collection of Maps of Liverpool:—that of 1765, Sherwood, given on the margin of his maps of 1821 and 1824; 1769, Perry, in four sheets; 1783, Eyes; 1795, O'Connor; 1796, Conder, published by Gore; 1797, Jones; 1803, Gregory; 1807, Troughton; 1807, Kaye; 1814, Gore; in 1815, Kaye; 1821, Sherwood; 1823, Walkers; 1824, Sherwood; 1838, Austen, published by Kaye; and one, of the south side of the town, 1800, without a name.

From John Mathew, Esq. Notes and Queries, five volumes; Memoirs of Captain Crow, of Liverpool, 8vo., 1830. Plan and Elevation of India Buildings, Water Street, by Maclure & Co.; Account of the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1806, a broadside, by Gore; Map of Lancashire, by James Leigh, showing all the Roman Catholic Chapels in the County in 1820.

From David Lamb, Esq. The Athenæum for 1854, in continuation of a former donation.*

From the Rev. Dr. Thom. Anthem and Epitaphs in Memory of certain of his deceased kindred. By Thomas Macgill, Percy Street, Liverpool, 1854.

From Henry Johnson, Esq. A Roman Mortuary, found at Castle Northwich. On the rim is the maker's name SOLVSF (Solus fecit).

Dr. Kendrick exhibited a portrait of Dr. Aikin, within the frame of which was part of a note from Miss Lucy Aikin, dated 28th January, 1854, expressing her conviction of its correctness.

Dr. Kendrick also exhibited, in illustration of his own paper, a woodcut of a summer-house, and eight lithographic representations of buildings, entitled, "Warrington Vestigia Academica."

Mr. Hardman exhibited two brass rubbings from Dartford in Kent, of the dates 1442 and 1458 respectively.

The Secretary was directed to subscribe for the following works, to be added to the Library of the Society:—

La Normandie Souterraine, ou Notices sur des Cimetières Romains, et des Cimetières Francs, explores en Normandie, Par M. L'Abbé Cochet.

Anglo-Saxon Antiquities, being the unpublished Account, by the Rev. Bryan Faussett, of the Collection now in the possession of Mr. Mayer, procured in the exploration of more than five hundred Anglo-Saxon tumuli in Kent. To be edited by Charles Roach Smith, F.S.A.

The Preston Guild Rolls, illustrated biographically, and with portraits, costumes, and fac-similes.

The following Papers were then read:—
A Morning Ramble through Old Warrington, by James Kendrick, M.D.; and Description of a Unique Vase in the possession of Mr. Mayer, by F. R. P. Büöcke, Esq.

* Vol. vi., p. 2.
8th February, 1858. LITERARY SECTION.

THE REV. DR. THOM, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:

From the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society. Original Papers published under the direction of the Committee, vol. iv, part 3, 1855.

From the Statistical Society. Journal of the Society. Parts 1, 2, and 3 of vol. xvii. (1854.)

From James Gordon Stewart, Esq. Liverpool Churches and Chapels, their destruction, removal, or alteration, with notices of Clergymen, Ministers and others. By the Rev. Dr. Thom. Reprinted with additions and alterations from the papers of the Historic Society. 1854.

From the Rev. Dr. Thom. The Ultimate Manifestation of God to the World. By David Waldie, Esq., 1847.

Mr. Hardman exhibited a copy of the Bible in Spanish, (Basle, 1569,) with curious MS. notes.

The Secretary laid upon the table the first five volumes of the Journal of the Statistical Society, now out of print. They had been purchased by the Council to complete the set.

The following communication was read:

NOTICE OF AN ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT CHRONICLE. By the Rev. John Sansom, B.A., Oxford.

I have had put into my hands and have now before me, the unpublished manuscript of an ancient English Chronicle, a brief notice of which may perhaps be acceptable to the members of the Historic Society.

This MS is contained in a folio volume of 452 pages, written on parchment in a legible black letter of the simplest character, with illuminated capitals at the beginning of the several chapters, the headings of which are in red ink, as are also some quotations occurring here and there throughout the history.

From the account given of this interesting volume by the Rev. J. S. Davies, of Pembroke College, Oxford, by whose kindness I have been entrusted with it, it appears to have been handed down in the family from time immemorial, together with certain printed books known to have belonged to the historian Speed, from whom Mr. Davies's family claim descent. Thus it is not unreasonably conjectured, that the MS may also have belonged to Speed: a supposition, however, which had met with no conclusive corroboration up to Thursday last, February 1. Previously to that date, Mr. Davies had made a careful comparison of his MS with divers published Chronicles; by which means he thinks he has ascertained, that certain minor conversations and historical fables of greater or less interest, which are found interspersed here and there throughout the volume, do not meet with any mention at the corresponding places in such of the Ancient Chronicles as he had been enabled to search. It seemed, therefore, reasonable to conclude, even prior to any distinct clue being found to the authorship or original ownership of this nameless MS, that it was not a mere copy or translation of some other, but an independent and original work. This conclusion, as well as the fact of the volume having been in Speed's possession, may be now considered as satisfactorily established.

On Thursday, Mr. Davies accompanied me through the pages of Speed's History of Great Britain; where, in the course of our search, we detected one undoubted extract from this MS Chronicle, besides other references made to it with sufficient closeness and accuracy to allow of the passages being traced and collected. The volume is, in truth, no other than the "ancient MS," "nameless old MS," and "English Chronicle MS," to which reference is made several times in the margin of Speed's history.
The solitary extract, which I think conclusive in determining the book's identity, is found in the 7th book of the History of Great Britain, chap. 12, at p. 317 of the first edition, where reference is made in the margin to "a nameless old MS, chap. 154."

The passage in the text is as follows:—

"Thus in an old manuscript we find it indited: Understand among you of Rome, that I am king Arthur of Britaine, and freely it hold, and shall hold; and at Rome hastily will I bee, not to give you truage, but to have truage of you: for Constantine, that was Helene's sonne, and other of mine ancestors conquered Rome, and thereof were Emperours; and that they had and held I shall have yourz [sic!] Goddis grace."

The original passage in the MS, which occurs, not at chap. 154, (which is clearly a mistake,) but towards the end of cap. ivij, I will now transcribe literally: "Understandeth among you of Rome yet I am kyng Artur of Brytayne and frely it holde and shal holde and at Rome hastily will I be not to geve you truage but forto hame truage of you for, Constantyn yet was helene's sone and oyr of myn ancesstris conquerid Rome and yerof were emperours and yat thay haddde and held I shall hame yorouz goddis grace."

The word "yorouz" in the MS evidently puzzled Speed's printer: but happily the printer's darkness discloses to us, as it were, a star to be our beacon to the only passage, which the historian appears to have extracted word for word.

There is yet another argument, by which this identity may be corroborated. The writer of that portion of Speed's History, which records the death of King John, mentions certain "nameless authors before ann. 1483," and refers in the margin to "Eng. Chronicles MS;" whilst it is observable of Mr. Davies's MS, that it ends somewhat abruptly with the close of the reign of king Henry vi; having the appearance of an unfinished work. So that, in all likelihood, the author of this Chronicle flourished in the succeeding reign (viz. that of Ed. iv.) which ended in the year referred to, (i.e. 1483.) It should perhaps be mentioned, that the MS commences by accounting for the name of Albion by the known fable of Albyne and her sisters; and that throughout it seems to contain the usual complement of romantic legends.

As Speed was a Chester man, it seems highly probable, that the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, or some member, may be in possession of some facts or documents capable of throwing light upon this interesting volume. Should such be the case, not only would it be esteemed a favour by Mr. Davies, and by the writer of this notice, but it might also tend to remove an obscurity in one of the bye-paths of historic literature, if any information that may be possessed might be obligingly communicated.

A Paper was also read, of which the following is an abstract:—

**Analysis of the Subscribers to the Various Liverpool Charities. By the Rev. A. Hume, D.C.L., LL.D.**

This Analysis was made in imitation of a former one, dated 1852, the intention of which was to shew the subscribers to all the Church objects in town.

The subjects were arranged under four general heads.

1. **Distant Missions:** Including the Church Missionary Society, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the Colonial Church Society.

2. **Home Missions:** Including the Pastoral Aid, the Curates' Aid, and Church of England Scripture Readers' Societies.

3. **Religious Objects General:** Church building, in connexion with three local societies; and the building of other local churches, in a period of three years.

4. **Educational Objects General:** Building of Church Schools in a period of three years, and permanent support of the Church of England School Society.

The names of all the subscribers were arranged in alphabetical order, and in columns opposite to each name marks were put, indicating the objects to which the individual subscribed.

The general result was the following:—

1. That there are only 122 gentlemen who subscribe to the majority of these objects, or to any considerable number of them. (2) That the entire strength of their supporters—that is, of those who subscribe to any or to all of them—is 1243. (3) That
690 other persons subscribe to the Blue-coat Hospital, or to the schools connected with the various churches and districts of the town. Several of these last, including a large proportion of those who subscribe to the Blue-coat Hospital, are protestant dissenters.

It is not necessary to discuss the question here, "what are charities?" Some include under the term all societies or institutions whose object is either to promote the glory of God or good will towards men; others apply the term to societies for the latter object merely; while others again, perhaps more logical and consistent than either of the foregoing, confine the term "charities" to such societies or institutions as minister to the relief of human suffering, from which others have nothing to fear. It is obvious that a fever hospital, a lunatic asylum, or a receptacle for persons with malformations, is not a charity, except in a very loose sense of the term. It is really an institution connected with moral and sanatory police, having in view prevention as much as cure, perhaps more.

Without adhering rigidly to this distinction, the institutions of which an analysis is given here are the following:

1. The Blue Coat Hospital.
2. The Northern Hospital.
3. The Southern Hospital.
4. The Liverpool dispensaries, including St. Anne's Dispensary, and Eye and Ear Institution.
5. The Royal Infirmary, Lunatic Asylum, and Lock Hospital.
6. The Eye and Ear Infirmary.
7. The District Provident Society.
8. The Sailors' Home.
9. The Asylum for Orphan Boys.
10. The Female Orphan Asylum.
11. The School for the Deaf and Dumb.
12. The School for the Blind.

Omitting all other sources of income, such as endowments, houses, invested property, donations, and church collections, let us look to the annual subscribers alone. We easily gather from the Reports the following general statement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charities</th>
<th>Subscribers</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>Average of Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue Coat Hospital</td>
<td>1733</td>
<td>2063</td>
<td>£ 1 12 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Hospital</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>2034</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Hospital</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>1213</td>
<td>1 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispensaries</td>
<td>1130</td>
<td>1861</td>
<td>1 12 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Infirmary, &amp;c</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>2464</td>
<td>1 16 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye and Ear Institution</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>1 1 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Provident Society</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>1 3 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailors' Home</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>1 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum for Orphan Boys</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>1 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Orphan Asylum</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>1 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf and Dumb Institution</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>1 3 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School for the Blind</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>1 4 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, speaking in general terms, there are ten thousand annual subscriptions paid to the charities of Liverpool, independent of other sums; and these amount to £14,000. The subscriptions to the Infirmary are the largest, probably because it includes several objects; there are a good many of £5 5s. Those to the Asylum for Orphan Boys are the smallest, being usually a guinea or half a guinea.

Now, it must be apparent, that though there are 9760 subscriptions, there are not 9760 subscribers, but that the name of one individual occurs in several reports. If, therefore, we take the largest list as a basis, the roll of the Blue Coat Hospital, we may compare each of the others with it, and see what proportion of their subscribers is to be found in it. It is popularly said that the subscribers to the Blue Coat Hospital support
all the charities of the town; an analysis of this kind will test the accuracy of the statement.

Of the 1703 subscribers to the Blue Coat Hospital, the following numbers and proportions are found in the several lists:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subs.</th>
<th>Proportion of the whole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Hospital</td>
<td>629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Hospital</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispensaries</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Infirmary, &amp;c.</td>
<td>782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye and Ear Institution</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Provident Society</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailors' Home</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum for Orphan Boys</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Orphan Asylum</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf and Dumb Institution</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School for the Blind</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus it appears that the subscribers to the Blue Coat Hospital pay from 50 to 70 per cent. of the subscriptions to the other charities mentioned here. Deducting 1737 subscriptions from the total, 9760, we have 8027 as the total subscriptions to the charities on this latter Table. The number 4508 gives an average of 57 per cent.; so that nearly three-fifths of the support to all the other charities is given by the subscribers to the Blue Coat Hospital.

The next point was to ascertain how many subscribe to only one object, and what that object is. For a variety of reasons, different individuals prefer different charities and patronise them only, while the sympathies of others are more widely extended. To ascertain this, it was necessary to throw the names of all the subscribers into alphabetical order, and to mark opposite to each in prepared columns, the objects to which he subscribed. The subscribers to only one object were then apparent, in the respective columns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscribe to only one object.</th>
<th>Proportion of the whole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue Coat Hospital</td>
<td>492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Hospital</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Hospital</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispensaries</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Infirmary, &amp;c.</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye and Ear Institution</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Provident Society</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailors' Home</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum for Orphan Boys</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Orphan Asylum</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf and Dumb Institution</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It thus appears that from 15 to 16 per cent. of all the subscriptions are given by persons who subscribe to “pet charities” only; while the remaining 84 per cent. are contributed by persons whose benevolence is of a more diffusive character. But what proportion do these 1527 single-charity subscribers bear to the whole? A careful summing give us 3448 as the entire number of the names; so that of those who subscribe to the Liverpool charities, 44 per cent. subscribe only to one object. There are, of course, 56 per cent. who subscribe to more objects than one.

It is still further desirable to show how many subscribe to two, three, four or more objects, and how many to the whole. With some trouble, the whole of these facts may be gleaned from the combined list; and they form important data for further deductions.
Looking primarily to the subscriptions, and only secondarily to the subscribers, the following curious results appear:

(1) If to those who subscribe to five or more objects we add 30 of those who subscribe to four, we have 1527 individuals contributing 4776 annual subscriptions, while the remaining 2749 individuals contribute only 4773. In other words, half the support to the public charities of Liverpool is given by 1527 individuals.

(2) Again, let us add together those who subscribe to four or more objects and 225 of those who subscribe to only three. The result is that 1173 individuals contribute 6307 subscriptions, while the remaining 2290 contribute only 3182. In other words, two thirds of the support given to the public charities of the town is by 1173 individuals, while nearly twice the number of persons are required to supply the remaining one-third.

(3) We are now in a position to test the correctness of the popular statement that about 1000 persons support all the charities of the town. Let us add 421 of those who subscribe to two objects to the 1527 who subscribe to only one object. The total subscribers are then divided into two sets of 1948 and 1027 respectively. The former contribute only 2309 annual subscriptions, or less than 21 per cent, of the whole; the latter (1000 persons) contribute 7280 annual subscriptions, or more than 70 per cent, of the whole. The popular statement is therefore verified in its substance: 1000 individuals do actually contribute more than three-fourths of the support which our local charities receive.

(4) Finally, if we add together the subscribers to more than one object, we have 1921 individuals contributing 8122 subscriptions (an average of 4.2 each), while 1527 others contribute only 1527 subscriptions.

The concluding part of the paper was occupied with suggestions for the amendment of this state of things.

Thus, there were in Liverpool, in 1853, 65,442 persons rated to the poor. Admitting that a good many of these are themselves poor, and the recipients of relief, there is still a large number who ought to subscribe, but actually give nothing for public purposes. If we omit those who are rated under £12 a year, 34,920, we have still 30,922 heads of families, each of whom ought to contribute something.

The plan of seeking for numerous subscriptions, even though they should be smaller than at present, was strongly recommended, on the ground that it would interest a much larger number of persons in those benevolent objects.

The publication also of a combined list, similar to that of the subscribers to Church objects, or to that from which the last two of these tables were compiled, would obviate numerous difficulties. It would show, (by the absence of their names,) all those who neglect this part of their moral obligations; and these would be the persons to be canvassed, instead of those who give already. But even those whom such a list would show to be subscribers, might become more thoroughly so. Persons who now subscribe to only one object, might be induced to subscribe to two; those who subscribe to two,
might extend their aid to three or four; and so on. The chief advantage, however would be, the continual enrolling of new contributors through the exertions of canvassers, until nearly all who pay income tax would also pay a voluntary taxation to diminish those evils to which humanity is liable, and for which in this country there is no legal provision.

15th February, 1855. SCIENTIFIC SECTION.

The Rev. Dr. Thom, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—

Dr. Hume exhibited and explained his Combined List of the Subscribers to all the Church objects in the town. It was arranged alphabetically with the addresses, and showed the particular Societies and Institutions to which each gentleman subscribed. It was on the same plan as the Combined List which he had recommended, of the Subscribers to the various Charities of the town.

Mr. Stonehouse exhibited a set of Wedgewood’s Cameos, twenty-five in number, systematically arranged.

The following Paper was then read:—
On the Manufacture of Cobalt, by Henry Atherton, Esq.

22nd February, 1855. MISCELLANEOUS MEETING.

The Rev. Dr. Thom, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—

Dr. Hume exhibited a section from a branch of the Phytolaca or “Ombro” of the Spaniards. It had been cut in the Botanic Garden of Liverpool in 1851, and exhibited
no fewer than seventeen rings, though it was only three years since the branch had first appeared on the trunk. It would deceive the inexperienced respecting the age of the tree.

Dr. Hume also exhibited the leg of an Australian Emu, *Dromaius ater*, showing how the tibia was serrated behind; also the skin of the foot of an Albatross, *Diomedea exulans*, which had been used as a purse by a New Zealand chief.

The Chairman exhibited a portrait of the late Stephenson Macgill, D.D., engraved from a painting by Raeburn.

The Rev. P. S. Dale exhibited two printed lists of toasts, each consisting of 44 in number. Those in one, were proposed at a banquet held in the Town Hall, in December, 1813, on the occasion of a public rejoicing after the battle of Leipzig, the room being used for the first time, and the building still in an unfinished state. This was accompanied by an engraving, showing the appearance of the Hall when illuminated on the occasion. Those in the other list were proposed at a dinner held in January, 1814, at the King's Arms, Castle Street, in honour of the Right Hon. George Canning, who then met his constituents.

The Secretary read two resolutions adopted by the Council, showing their earnest desire to put the Library in order as soon as possible, to secure a suitable place of deposit for it, and to make its contents available to the members.

Mr. Stonehouse read a short communication entitled Hard Winters, enumerating and describing the periods of greatest severity, from 1580 to 1838.

Dr. Hume read some extracts from a manuscript glossary of the native language of Australia. It was compiled about 1816, by George H. Barber, Esq., a native colonist, from the tribe which inhabits the valley of the Hume river or Upper Murray.

A member read an account of one of the Summer excursions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, written by a lady. The visit was to Etall on the Border, and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Mr. Marsh exhibited five portraits of Milton, and an impression of a silver seal supposed to have belonged to him.

The following communication was then read:

**NOTICE OF THE INVENTOBY OF THE EFFECTS OF MRS. MILTON, WIDOW OF THE POET. By J. F. Marsh, Esq.**

Mr. Marsh exhibited a copy of the inventory, filed in the episcopal registry of Chester, of the effects of Mrs. Milton, the widow of the poet. The copy had been furnished to him by the courtesy of Mr. Jones, of Nantwich, whose search had brought the document to light, and who had communicated the fact in an article which appeared in "Notes and Queries" of the 10th instant. His forwarding a copy of this very curious document was one of those "Amenities of Literature" which every one who cultivates a literary taste has had opportunities of experiencing, as he was a total stranger to Mr. Marsh, and knew him only from the fact that a few years ago the accident of his being the possessor of some original documents connected with the affairs of the poet's family had led to his editing them as a contribution to the miscellaneous volumes of the Chetham Society. Those documents consisted of the releases from Milton's three daughters to his widow for their portions of their father's estate, various documents showing the family relations and pecuniary circumstances of the widow, and, finally, the probate copy of her will, dated 22nd August, 1727, and proved on the 10th of October following. He had taken the opportunity of appending some documents, in which he had succeeded in exploding some long standing errors as to the parentage* of Milton's widow, vindicating her from some unjust reflections on her character, and on her conduct to her husband's children; and, finally, after

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*It has been repeatedly stated, on the authority of Ormerod, who had been misled by a mistake of Pennant, that she was the daughter of Sir Edward Minshull, of Stoke; but it is now unquestionably shown that she was the daughter of Randolph Minshull, of Wiseton, near Nantwich, where she was baptized on the 30th December, 1668, and, consequently, if baptized shortly after birth, she was in her 39th year at the time of her marriage with Milton in 1664, and in her 89th at her death.
tracing her pedigree, showed that she died at Nantwich, at the date above indicated, leaving effects sworn under the value of £40, her income having been derived from sources which terminated with her life.

The law requires that executors and administrators shall lodge in the Ecclesiastical court an inventory of the deceased's effects. In modern times this is never done, except in cases of litigation, and the words—"time being allowed to exhibit an inventory" have become a mere form. Not being aware that the practice of lodging an inventory, as a matter of course, had prevailed so late as 1727, he had not thought of searching for one. Mr. Jones had, however, done so, and had succeeded in bringing to light a document describing with great particularity a number of articles, several of which it would be curious to trace.

A "Totterell knife and fork," valued, with other odd ones, at 1s., Mr. Jones promised to make the subject of a further communication to "Notes and Queries."

"Mr. Milton's pictures," valued, along with his coat of arms, at £10 10s., describes two of the most interesting of a poet's pictures. Now it was well known, and the Mr. Thomas Hollis, who had been sold by Mrs. Milton's executors for twenty guineas had been noticed in the Chetham Tract, in support of the inference that the £40, under which her effects were sworn, was the mere nominal amount of an appraiser's estimate. The pictures are thus referred to, in a note to Warton's "Minor Poems of Milton:"

"There are four or five original pictures of our author. The first, a half length with a laced ruff, is by Cornelius Jansen, in 1618, when he was only a boy of ten years old. It had belonged to Milton's widow, his third wife, who lived in Cheshire. This was in the possession of Mr. Thomas Hollis, having been purchased at Mr. Charles Stanhope's sale for thirty-one guineas, in June, 1760. Lord Harrington wishing to have the lot returned, Mr. Hollis replied that his lordship's whole estate should not re-purchase it. It was engraved by J. B. Cipriani in 1760. Mr. Stanhope bought it of the executors of Milton's widow for twenty guineas. The late Mr. Hollis, when his lodgings in Covent Garden were on fire, walked calmly out of the house with this picture by Jansen in his hand, neglecting to secure any other portable article of value.

** Another, which had also belonged to Milton's widow, is in the possession of the Onslow family. This, which is not at all like Faithorne's crayon drawing, and by some is suspected not to be a portrait of Milton, has been more than once engraved by Vertue, who, in his first plate of it, dated 1731, and in others, makes the age 21. This has been also engraved by Houbraken, in 1741, and by Cipriani.* The ruff is much in the neat style of painting ruffs about and before 1628. The picture is handsomer than the engravings. This portrait is mentioned in Aubrey's MS Life of Milton, 1651, as then belonging to the widow, and he says: "Mem. — Write his name in red letters on his pictures, which his widow has, to preserve them."

There was another item deserving particular notice, namely:

"2 Teaspoons and one silver spoon with a seal and stopper and bits of silver... 12/6" The silver seal could not be so satisfactorily traced as the pictures, but in the 6th vol. of the Archeological Journal, a silver seal of the poet was mentioned as having been exhibited at one of the meetings of the Institute, by Mr. Disney, and the account goes on to state that "this valuable memorial had been in the possession of Mr. John Payne, on the death of Thomas Foster, who had married Elizabeth Clarke, daughter of Deborah, Milton's youngest daughter, and wife of Abraham Clarke, a weaver in Spitalfields. Mr. Payne sold it to Mr. Thomas Hollis in 1761. On his death, 1774, it came into the possession of Mr. Thomas Brand Hollis, and then became part of the collection inherited in 1804 by Mr. Disney." Now if this history of Mr. Disney's seal be strictly correct, it could scarcely have been the same described in Mrs. Milton's inventory, which was taken the very day before the death of Deborah Clarke, and none of Mrs. Milton's property was likely to have got into the possession of the Fosters; but without detracting at all from the authenticity of Mr. Disney's relic, which speaks for itself, it may be conjectured that its early history may have been misrepresented by Mr. Payne, or a previous owner. This is, perhaps, preferable to the supposition of there having been a second silver seal in Mrs. Milton's possession.

* All the engraved portraits mentioned above, namely, the two by Cipriani, one by Vertue, one by Houbraken, and one by Faithorne, were exhibited to the meeting.
The supposition that the £40 was a mere appraiser's estimate, at a nominal value, is quite refuted by an inspection of the inventory. On the contrary, the articles are enumerated with extreme minuteness, as, for instance, "2 pewter spoons, 3d.;" "1 roll pin, 1d.;" "Coles, 6d." In fact, out of 108 items, embracing a larger number of separate articles, 36 items are under one shilling, 46 others under five shillings, and only three above one pound. The three first items of the inventory being, with the exception of "1 pair, 1 odd sheet, 14s." and "1 old pair of sheets, 2s.," the only bedding described, would indicate extremely straitened means. They consist of "a pair bedstead and hangings, 18s.;" "a feather bed and bolster, weight 94½, at 6d., £2 7s.;" "2 quilts and pair of blankets, old patched ones, 10s.;" and when they come to be compared with the prices put upon various articles of wearing apparel, such as "a Norwich gown and petticoat, £1 5s.;" "a Calmiancoe gown, 14s.;" "a quilted petticoat, 8s.;" and "an old Norwich gown and coat, 10s.," it would seem that a fair price was put upon the articles. At the same time, a certain degree of gentility is indicated by several of the items, such as the various articles of wearing apparel, and even the trifling items of — "1 old muff and case, 4d.," and "2 pair ruffles, 2s." "1 dress-box, bottles and things belonging, 12s.," are quite in keeping, while "1 mask and fan, 3s.," are articles we should scarcely have expected to find among the goods and chattels of Mrs. Milton.

The entire document, irrespective of the interest felt in the individual to whom it relates, gives a curious picture of the household arrangements of a half of straitened means at the commencement of the last century, and accords well with a saying which a Nantwich correspondent states, on the authority of a lady of 83, to have been formerly in use in that neighbourhood, of persons who had narrow incomes—that they had "Mrs. Milton's feast enough and no more."

The following is a copy of the

"TRUE AND PERFECT INVENTORY

of the goods and chattels of late Mrs. Elizabeth Milton, appraised by us, whose names are undernamed, this 29th of August, 1727."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A pair Bedsteads and hangings</td>
<td>0 18 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A feather bed and bolster, weight 94½, at 6d.</td>
<td>0 7 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Quilts and pair of Blanketts, old patched ones.</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Teaspoons and 1 silver spoon with a seal and stopper</td>
<td>0 12 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Chest of Drawers and frame</td>
<td>0 13 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Dress-Box, bottles, and things belonging</td>
<td>0 12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pencil case</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pr 1 old sheet</td>
<td>0 14 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 dox. old napkins</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 old pieces of linens</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Pewter plates</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Pewter Dishes</td>
<td>0 4 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Do.</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A small Brass Mortar and Pestill</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Coffee Copper Pot</td>
<td>0 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Brass Fender</td>
<td>0 1 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Kettles and 3 old sospan at 9 p. with old stewpan</td>
<td>0 6 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pewter Pint</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Small Hang Iron</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Small Hang Spits</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Seewers and Egg slice</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron and heaters</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Pestill and wood mortar</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 fire shovell, tongs, and proker</td>
<td>0 1 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Flesh fork</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Marble Mortar and Pestill</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Description</td>
<td>Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Cane Chairs and two velvet cushions</td>
<td>0 17 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Small Cover'd Chair</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Joyn stool</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 large old trunk and frame</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Hair trunk</td>
<td>0 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Dale Boxes</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Leather Trunk</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Small cover'd box</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 old dripping pan</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 old muff and case</td>
<td>0 0 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 old shash</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Sedge bottom chairs</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Tin fish plate</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Hand Candlestick and snuffer of Tin</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Tin do</td>
<td>0 0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Large Bible</td>
<td>0 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Books of Paradise</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some old Books and few old pictures</td>
<td>0 12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Milton's pictures and Coat of Arms</td>
<td>10 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Pails, 1 stand, 2 small barrels</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 doz. glass bottles</td>
<td>0 4 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pair of bellows</td>
<td>0 0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White ware and Earth ware</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 old chaff dish</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Steans and Black Jug</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Roll Pin</td>
<td>0 0 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 old square table</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Stand</td>
<td>0 0 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Old Maids</td>
<td>0 0 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tin Coffee pot</td>
<td>0 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Iron Twitch Candlestick</td>
<td>0 0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Pewter spoons</td>
<td>0 0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Totrosshell knife and fork with other odd ones</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 old pr sissors</td>
<td>0 0 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 old looking glass</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco box</td>
<td>0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 old cushions</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pillow</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Petty pans and bottoms</td>
<td>0 0 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black and white Gown and Petticoat</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little table</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Fine cloak and hood</td>
<td>0 17 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Norwich Gown and Petticoat</td>
<td>1 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Calamnaco Gown</td>
<td>0 14 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Quilled Petticoat</td>
<td>0 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An old Norwich gown and Coat</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An old blew shagg Coat</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 short black hood</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Silk handkerchiefs</td>
<td>0 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An old Sassett hood</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 old handkerchief</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 short black hood more</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 long do</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 silk aprons</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Mask and Fan</td>
<td>0 2 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pr of old Gloves</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The best suit of twad cloaths</td>
<td>3 3 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The worser do</td>
<td>0 1 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. Benn forwarded for exhibition, a curious spear head; a portion of a stone mould for bronze objects; a triangular crucible, perfect, and another imperfect; a stone or slag crucible, perfect, and another imperfect. The following communication was then read:

NOTES ON THE PRIMITIVE INHABITANTS of GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. By Edward Saint, Esq.

I have read with great pleasure and instruction the report of the very interesting matters discussed by Mr. Wright, at the late meeting of the British Association in Liverpool. But while admitting the great talent and extensive information of Mr. Wright, I must dissent from some of his views on Irish antiquities. Thus, he expresses an opinion that stone hatchets have been used for striking fire. They do not appear to have been generally used for such a purpose, or indeed to be suited to it. I have examined hundreds of them, and never perceived any marks or chipping, such as might be presumed to arise from frequently striking fire. But I have met with many which were broken, as if by the effect of a violent blow, such as would be given in using the instrument for splitting wood, or the other general purposes, in which, it might be supposed, the tool of all work of a very rude people might be employed. Besides, I may mention that as a general rule, they are made of such stone as would not strike fire, nor do I see how they could be made to produce fire by friction.

The second statement from which I must dissent, is, that the well-known bronze sword found over a great part of Europe, was manufactured by the Romans, and sold as an article of commerce. This, I think, is not correct, so far as Ireland is concerned. In that country two kinds of swords are found, the flag-shaped sword alluded to by Mr. Wright, and the small sword. The former does not appear to have been a good weapon; very few are so heavy that they could be used with effect as broad swords, and their breadth near the point would appear to have rendered them equally unsuitable for stabbing purposes; but the small sword, which is more common, was a most effective weapon. It is shorter than the other, but this was remedied by lengthening the handle, no fixed
place being left for it as in the other kind of sword. The handle may have been of wood, to suit the taste or convenience of the owner, and the rivets by which it was fixed are still very generally found attached. I think there is good reason to believe that these swords at least were of Irish manufacture, for if it can be shown that brass castings were made there, at a time as remote as the period at which brass swords were used, with such extraordinary skill as to astonish and puzzle the best brass founders of the present day, we may well suppose that swords of much more simple workmanship were also made. The brass spear which I exhibit is an example of great skill in brass casting; and in proof of my opinion that such instruments were made in Ireland, I produce a mould found in that country, that had been used, without any doubt, for the casting of spears. This mould is incomplete, having been injured and rejected perhaps. It is made of what I believe is called soap stone. It is so soft as to be capable of being cut with a knife, though it retains its sharpness, is very durable, and seems every way well adapted for the purpose intended.

I also exhibit a perfect crucible, and parts of two others that appear to have been burnt out. These articles are perhaps unique; their date is unknown, but they were found in the north of Ireland, under circumstances that would lead to the inference that they belonged to the Saxon period, or to an era about 1,000 years distant. Of course they are not probably so old as the spear, or swords, or mould, but they are still very curious. Indeed, the every day tools and domestic articles of our ancestors are more interesting and give us better ideas of their state of civilization, than their warlike weapons and personal ornaments.

1st March, 1855. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION.

THOMAS AVISON, ESQ., F.S.A., Treasurer, in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. John Norman Crosse, F.S.S., of 6, Sweeting-street, was duly elected a member of the Society.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—
From Samuel Gath, Esq. Account of the Northern Bar, to the year 1833. Lithographed in fac. sim. of the handwriting of the compiler, the late Fletcher Raincock, Esq.
From John N. Crosse, F.S.S. A Padlock manufactured and used at Braga, in Portugal.

The first number of the Archæological Mine, including a new History of Kent, by Alfred John Dunkin, Esq., was laid upon the table. It is received in exchange for the Society's publications.

Mr. Mayer forwarded for exhibition three Danish "prim-staves" or "Runie calendars," two of which are his own, and one belongs to the Society. They were intended to illustrate one of the papers to be read.

Mr. Crosse exhibited a copy of Barker's edition of the Book of Common Prayer, A.D., 1635, with which was bound up the Psalms by Sternhold and Hopkins, with music, 1632. Mr. Crosse also exhibited a book of proof engravings, of some persons and scenes during the reigns of Charles I and II; a curious contemporary print of the trial of Charles I; and the Raven Almanack, 1677.

Mr. Johnson exhibited a copy of the Goldsmith's Almanack, also of 1677; and a volume bound in vellum, containing a description of Palmistry, Virgil's Eclogues, and an Ecclesiastical Calendar for 1475, 1494, and 1513.

Mr. Jacob exhibited a copy of Cocker's arithmetic of the date 1708.
In conformity with Law xvi, the Treasurer exhibited the official List of the Members showing all the payments made.

The Secretary read an extract from a French newspaper, *Le Pilote de la Somme* of 23rd September, 1854, announcing the successful researches of M. Boucher de Perthes, respecting the objects of the "stone period." His travels had been during the spring and summer of 1854, in the North of Europe, as in 1853 they had been in the East.

The following Papers were then read:

Some sections of Mr. Worsaae's recent work, "Sketches from the Royal Museum of Antiquities at Copenhagen," translated by Mr. J. H. Ludwigsen; and an Account of the Primstave and of Remarkable Days, written by Professor A. Munch for the Norwegian Folke Kalendar of 1848, and translated by Mr. J. H. Ludwigsen.

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8th March, 1855. LITERARY SECTION.

Rev. Dr. Thom, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Rev. Charles White Underwood, M.A., Vice-Principal of the Collegiate Institution, was duly elected a member of the Society.

The following Donation was laid upon the table:


Dr. Hume exhibited a folio Concordance of the Authorised Version of the Scriptures, compiled on the basis of Clement Cotton's Concordance, 1631,—by the Rev. Samuel Newman, minister of Rehoboth in New England. It was the first complete and enlarged book of the kind. Its date was London 1650.

Mr. Augustus Harding, manufacturer of the Model of Ancient Liverpool, exhibited two original views of the town, as seen from an elevation, in 1850 and 1855. He intends to publish them, on one large sheet with an explanatory key. An application from Mr. Harding to be permitted to dedicate the Views to the Society, was at once granted.

Mr. Buxton exhibited an ancient printed copy of the Scriptures, slightly imperfect, with the view of ascertaining its date.

In illustration of the paper to be read, Mr. Stonehouse exhibited the following:—Map of Cheshire; Drawing of the tomb of Hugh Starkie, in Over Church; the Church Porch; Water Basin; View of Weaver Hall from the Hunting Bridge; Rubbing of the brass on Hugh Starkie's tomb; Drawing from the Church window, and sketch of carving from a pew.

The following Paper was then read:

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH AND CHURCH OF OVER, IN CHESHIRE. By James Stonehouse.**

Although the records kept in somewhat out-of-the-way country places do not present to notice any very remarkable circumstances, there is always something to be found in them of interest to those who have a literary or an antiquarian turn of mind.

The town of Over—for town it must be called, since it has a charter of both market and fair, and is presided over by a mayor, although not possessing a body corporate—is situated about a mile from Winsford, one of the Salt-producing towns of Cheshire, four miles west from Middlewich, and four miles from the Hartford station of the Great North-western Railway.

Over is mentioned in Domesday Book, and is there spelt "Ovyr." The manor of Over was bestowed by Edward, Earl of Chester (who became Edward the First), in the 54th year of the reign of Henry the Third, to his Abbey of Dernhall.

After the dissolution of monasteries, when Vale Royal Abbey, ceased, amongst other such like things, to be, the manors of Over and Waverham were granted (37 Henry
VIII) to Sir Thomas Holcroft, Knight, in consideration of the sum of £466 10s. 10d., and in exchange for the manor of Cartmell, subject also to a rent of £10 0s. 4d. From the Holcrofts this manor passed to a Mr. Edmund Pearsall or Persell, a London merchant, who, about the time of Charles the Second, sold it to Thomas Cholmondely, Esquire, the fourth son of the Lady Mary Cholmondely, in the hands of whose descendant, the present Lord Delamere, it still remains.

The word "Over" frequently occurs in the names of Cheshire localities, as in "Over Peover," "Overchurch," in Wirral; "Overton," "Over Tabley," "Overpool," "Over Mursla.

The town of Over commences at the west end of Over Lane, which is the high road from Winsford to Delamere Forest. It is in appearance a mere village, having the houses ranged on each side of the road, without any lateral streets. Amongst these houses are some of those old-fashioned dwellings frequently found in Cheshire, of lath and plaster, or brick and timber, which, to the eye of the artist, present so picturesque an appearance. Although Over cannot rank in size beyond the extent of a village, it is, nevertheless, as before stated, a market town. Its charter of fair and market was granted to the abbot and monks of Vale royal, by Edward I, 1280. The market day is Wednesday. It had been in disuse for many years until 1840, when an attempt was made to revive it, but without success, although a market hall was erected by a proprietary, who made a strong effort to bring it into esteem. The market for the neighbourhood is held at Winsford, on the Saturday, and it would seem that the habit of frequenting it by the country people could not be shaken. After a year or two the market at Over was given up, and the hall was sold to Lord Delamere, who applied it to educational purposes. The fairs, however, are still a favourite resort of the peasantry, farmers, and dealers. They are held on the 15th May and 20th September. Considerable sales of cattle and horses take place, while the usual amusements fill up the afternoons. Near the market hall is a modern cross, which superseded one of great antiquity, supposed to have been erected by the monks of Vale Royal, who erected one also on the high road, near where the branch road turns off to the church. Over Cross surmounts a flight of steps in a pyramidal form, and presents an interesting object to the passer by. Under it is the terror to bucolic evil-doers, the lock-up, and at the back is the pound. The inhabitants of Over are principally employed in the neighbouring salt works at Winsford, and some of them in an extensive silk mill which is in operation in the vicinity of the town. Over is well supplied with excellent water.

Over has a singular custom attached to it, which has existed for centuries. Although not a corporate town, it has a mayor to manage its public affairs. The mayor is thus chosen. At the holding of the manorial court in October, there are two juries empanelled. One of these is called the grand jury, which acts for the town, and the other the county jury, to whom is confided the township affairs.

The grand jury returns to the lord of the manor the names of six of the most respectable inhabitants. The lord of the manor selects one of these gentlemen, who, at an adjourned court, held fourteen days after the first court, is elected to fill the office of chief magistrate. The mayor thus remarkably chosen, does not obtain mere title, for his office is one of some influence. He sits on the bench at quarter sessions, acts as a justice of the peace, and his signature is necessary to be appended to that of a county magistrate in granting licenses to public houses. At the expiration of his term he enjoys the title of alderman. Before the establishment of the county court, the mayor had a sworn bailiff, who executed all processes relating to matters of debt within his jurisdiction.

William Smith, in his "King's Vale Royal," thus speaks of Over—"It standeth at the east end of Delamere Forest, not far from the river Weaver. It is but a small thing, yet I put it in here, because of the great prerogative that it hath. For it hath a mayor, and the church, which is a quarter of a mile from it, south of the town, is lawless, which privilege (because it standeth in Eddisbury hundred) I think it hath since the destruction of the city of Eddisbury, which stood some time in the Forest of Delamere, in the same place where the Chamber in the forest is still standing."

Now, Smith, I think, has mixed up in this statement that which is not, with that which is. There were three places of sanctuary, or places of refuge, for malefactors,
runaways, and persecuted persons, in Cheshire, one of which was at Over Marsh, or King's Marsh, between Shoeburyness and Farndon. I suspect that Smith has confounded Over Church with this place. Over Marsh, as it was anciently called, was a piece of ground set aside for the use of persons who were fugitives. Smith also falls into an error in fixing the locality of Over Church as being a quarter of a mile from the town, as it is at least a mile by the nearest way across the fields, and certainly more than a mile and a quarter by the high road.

At a house called the Bridge End House, the notorious—or, if the term be better approved, the celebrated—Robert, or, as he is sometimes called, William Nixon, the Cheshire prophet, was born. It was only in the early part of the last century that anything was written respecting this person. Oldmixon, in his pamphlet published by Curll, in 1714, collected some particulars relating to him. It is a curious circumstance that neither in the registers of Over Church nor Whitegate is Nixon's name to be found, while several dates are asserted by different authors to have been the times in which he lived. He is said to have died from neglect in Hampton Court, whither he had been taken for James I. to see him. In Lysons's Cheshire there is an interesting account of him.

The progenitors of George Washington resided in Over township, and some of the name are still to be found, I believe, within its limits.

The country in the neighbourhood of Over, especially towards the Weaver, is of a very pleasing character. About a quarter of a mile from Winsford Bridge appear large sheets of water, which are hereabout termed "flashes." These flashes are caused by the subsidence of the rock salt deposit beneath, worn away by the under springs; and it is doubtless from the sudden disappearance of the land, and the speedy presence of water in its stead, that the term for these little lakes has been obtained. The Weaver river runs through the middle of "the flashes." The depth of water varies; in some places it is forty and fifty feet deep, while in others it is so shallow that a boat will not float. Above the flashes the river suddenly narrows, and, after winding about between sedgy banks for a few miles, ceases to be navigable even for small boats. The eastern bank of the river rises in well-wooded land of a most agreeable character. Heavy craft only get up to Winsford Bridge.

The church of Over, which now claims our attention, is dedicated to St. Chad. It is distant from Over town about a mile, as the crow flies. It stands in a hollow, and has a very venerable and picturesque appearance. The style is that of the later period of English architecture. Though not mentioned in Domesday Book, there might have been hereabout at the time of the compilation of that remarkable work some sort of sacred building standing. It is believed that the present church is erected upon a Norman foundation, such foundation having been laid bare or traceable, and it is asserted that a portion of the original building is still extant. The rebuilding took place in the reign of Henry VIII, when doubtless the materials of the former church were used up. The tower is square, of four stories, battlemented, the buttresses ending in turrets, which have been much broken. A Gothic frieze is carried under the battlements. About half way up the tower, on the southern side, there is a stone let into the wall, which originally bore a sculptured effigy, probably that of the rebuilder of the church. There are also the remains of an inscription round it, but both figure and inscription are too much defaced to be traceable or legible, at any rate from the churchyard. On the south side is a porch of two stories, embattled. Over the entrance is a window, and above it a shield, bearing the rebuilder's arms, quarterly, with that of Otton. The entrance to the porch is obtained down a step, the churchyard having been gradually raised about it. On the right-hand side of the porch is a water basin, somewhat worn in the front, under a very graceful Saxon crocketted arch. The basin projects from the wall, exhibiting to view three sides of an octagon, ornamented with Gothic niches. The trefoil of this arch has been destroyed, and a representation of it in black paint substituted. This basin has been, and indeed still is, a very graceful piece of sculpture.

The interior of the church has a venerable appearance. On the north side there is private pew room, occupied by the owners of Darnhall Hall; a portion of it is built out into the churchyard. Near the vestry is a remarkably large stone baptismal font, bearing the initials "T. W.," and dated 1662, which some cleanly-minded churchwarden has
loaded with a thick coat of stone-coloured paint. Near the entrance to the private pew, and adjoining the communion rails, is the altar tomb of Hugh Starkey, the rebuild of the church. The base is of red stone. A singular distribution of the ornamental quatrefoils may be observable. The compartments on the right of the shield are three in number, while those on the left are two. It will be noticed that a portion of the quatrefoil next the shield, on the right hand, only is visible. In the quatrefoils in the wall under the arch, wherein the tomb partly stands, a similar distribution takes place of three and two, only in the latter case the former number is to the left instead of to the right. Now, this seems a curious arrangement, but I think the reason for it may be explained. When this altar tomb was first erected, it doubtless stood in an isolated position. In the course of time the tomb becoming decayed, or perhaps desecrated by sacrilegious hands, it was found necessary to repair it. In doing so, the ornamental parts were collected together, and exhibited in the best way they would admit. It seems clear that this was the case, because the wall in the recess at the base of the quatrefoils at the back covers over a strip of the marble top of the tomb, and hides a portion of the shields which are to be seen at the corners. Perhaps the obtuse arch ornamented with crocketts was the original arch under which the tomb stood, while the roods or crossoes, or what appear to be such, were a portion of the sides of the arch. It is clear that some alteration has been effected since the time when the tomb was originally erected. The top is of black marble, and bears an effigy of the pious gentleman whose ashes the tomb covers. The inscription, "Et gloria soli Deo honor," is in beautifully formed letters, as are those of "H. S." surmounting the arch. The roods, if such they be, are much broken and defaced, as are the niches in them, in which are the some remains of sculptured or carved figures. The effect of the niche and arch is very pleasing—indeed, this tomb is of a highly interesting character. At the foot of the effigy is the following inscription:—

"Of your charitable pray for the soul of Hugh Starky of Oulton Esquier gentlem usher to Henry VIII and son to Hugh Starky of Oulton Esquier, which Hugh (the son) deceased the yere of our Lord God MCCCCC—On his Soule Jhu have mey.

The shields at the corner, which are much defaced, bear the Starkey and Olton arms quarterly. At the steps of the chancel there is another tomb, containing the remains of the father of Hugh Starkey. The inscription is obliterated, but it is known to have been to the following effect:—"Hic jaet copora Hugonis Starkey de Olton armi et Markward de Onetony armi." The tomb once bore two brass effigies, with armorial bearings. The Starkeys appear to have been persons of great influence and station at one time. They resided at a place called Darley Hall, which stood at the back of the present Oulton Hall, and which was pulled down by Mr. Egerton many years ago. Oulton Park and demesne were their property, and they held the manor of Knights Grange, the manor of Oulton, one-third of the manor of Erdswick, and lands in Minshull Vernon, Church Minshull, Worsiton, Woodford, Eyton, Rushton, Tarpoley, Thingwood, Budworth, and Surfach. One of the Starkeys, Sir Humphrey, was chancellor of the exchequer in Edward the Fifth's reign, and again in the reign of Richard the Third. Another Starkey of note was Ralph, a literary man of some celebrity in the reign of James the First, who industriously collected a great deal of information relative to the arms of the Cheshire gentry. At Hugh Starkey's death, 1555, the estates came into the possession of Oliver Starkey, an illegitimate son. This Oliver Starkey was a knight of Malta, and became grand prior of the order. He dying without issue, the estates descended to his brother James. Either by litigation, or from other causes, the property passed into the hands of the Egertons, with whom it still remains, in the person of Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton, Bart.

In the windows of the church there are remains of stained glass. In the east window there is some tabernacle work. Unfortunately there is but little of it. In the windows of the south aisle are the arms of Starkey and Olton, quarterly, emblemed with the coats of Done and Needham. In the windows of this side also are the figures of John Starkey, of Oulton, and his wife Agnes, daughter of Sir John Needham, of Shevington, as we may infer from the blazonry on the shields. Both figures are in kneeling posture, before a desk and book. The figure of the lady is so far mutilated as to leave nothing but the ample skirts of her robe. The male figure is in plate armour, very perfect, and
of beautiful colours and skilful execution. The mullions and tracery of the windows, which must at one time have been very tasteful, have been injudiciously or wantonly removed. In one of the pews there is a carving of a shield, bearing a cross moline, with a griffin's head erased. In the belfry there is a remarkably large chest, elaborately carved, which it is a pity is not placed in some suitable part of the building. There is an organ in the west end, and a gallery fronts it which runs along one side of the church.

The impropriation of the church was given by Randle Gernons, Earl of Chester, to the Benedictine nuns of Chester. When Vale Royal Abbey was founded by Edward, the nuns released a portion of the tithes of a part of the parish, consisting of Little Over, Sutton, and Merton, for which they received 105s. 11d. out of the rents of Middlewich. When the monasteries were dissolved, Bishop Bird obtained a grant of the rectory of Over, with the reversion to his successors. The present incumbent is the Rev. J. Jackson, M.A. The bishops of Chester still possess the right of presentation. In 1755 the vicarage was augmented, and in 1758 lands were purchased to the value of £400 for that purpose. £200 were given by the executors of the late Dr. Stratford, and the remainder by the trustees of Queen Anne's bounty.

The registers commence in 1558. The baptisms are imperfect from 1564 to 1590. The burials are also imperfect from 1567 to 1590.

In Over there is another church, but of modern erection. It is one of the "Weaver Churches," erected by the trustees of the Weaver navigation. The Independents have a chapel, with Sunday schools in connection with it. There is also a burying ground for the members of the congregation. The Wesleyans have a chapel and school. The Primitive Methodists have a chapel. In Over Lane is the Methodist Association Chapel, erected in 1836. The Whitegate School is under the patronage of Lady Delamere. The Whitegate and Over Free School was endowed by Thomas Lee, of Darnhall, in 1699, with the rents of certain lands in Newton by Tattenhall, containing 3163 statute acres. In 1818, a new school was erected, aided by the National Society. The Charity Commissioners discovered several charities bestowed on the poor of Over, which had been misappropriated and irretrievably lost, but at what time or by whom no trace was left.

Respecting the population, it may be briefly noticed, that Over is the designation of a Sub-District of the Registration District of Northwich. In this Sub-District (which is probably co-extensive with the Poor Law Union) there were, at the Census of 1851, 7129 souls, viz., 3608 males, and 3521 females. Of these, there were 11 men and 17 women between the age of 80 and 85 years; there were also 6 women between 85 and 90; 2 between 90 and 95, and 1 who had passed the age of 95 years, and 1 between 95 and 100.

In conclusion I may perhaps be allowed to observe, that in thus stringing together a variety of scattered facts, I think I am carrying out fully the purposes of our society; and to suggest also to any of our members who may accidentally visit some places not familiar to the many, that they cannot render better service than by devoting a little time to gathering together any particulars relating to the history of such place, and putting them down for our instruction. The traveller should come home burdened with information, as the bee wings its way back loaded with honey to the hive. If he think proper to keep the honey to himself, at any rate let us have the wax.

15th March, 1855. SCIENTIFIC SECTION.

Rev. Dr. Thom, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. George Mansfield Browne, of 15, South Hill, was duly elected a member of the Society.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—

From John Nelson Wood, Esq. A Hand Bill of 1768, announcing the delivery of
Stevens' Lecture on Heads, by Mr. Rogers, at the Bucks' Room in the Golden Lion, Dale Street.
From Thomas Bromfield Ryder, Esq., Secretary. Journal of the Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Society for 1854.

Mr. M'Quie exhibited an ancient instrument for striking a light; ignition being communicated to a tinder box.

Mr. Rimmer exhibited a copy of Ogilvie's Translation of Virgil, 1684; from which the Rev. Thomas Moore read some MS lines of poetry.

Dr. Hume exhibited a plan and description of the Slave Ship Brooks, published in 1789. In illustration of his paper to be read, Mr. Gregson exhibited fifteen cases of Lepidoptera; containing about 1500 specimens.

Mr. Richardson, who had just returned from Constantinople and Egypt, gave an interesting account of his experiences, during his stay at those places.

Dr. Hume announced the discovery of coprolites and large fossil fish between two coal beds, on the eastern shore of New Holland, a few miles south of Sydney.

Dr. Hume also read an extract from a French publication, announcing that the discovery of M. De Perthes—-that human implements were found in connexion with the remains of Antediluvian creatures—had been confirmed by Dr. Rigollet, in August last, at St. Acheul near Amiens. Numerous scientific gentlemen had examined both the strata and the animal remains and objects found in them; and previous doubts, respecting the correctness of the observations or conclusions, had been completely removed.

The following Paper was then read:—
On the Lepidopterous Insects of the District round Liverpool, with some of the causes of the abundance or scarcity of Insects, by Charles Stewart Gregson.

22nd March, 1855. MISCELLANEOUS MEETING.

The Rev. Dr. Thom, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—


The original Protest of Thomas Seddon, Master of the Ship Penelope of Liverpool, 2nd June, 1713.

Two fac-simile letters,—from Miles Coverdale to Thomas Lord Cromwell, 13th December, 1538; and from the Earl of Surrey to the Abbot of Bury, temp. Henry VIII.

Mr. Danson exhibited two "Fast Sermons," or Sermons preached on Fast Days. One was by Gilbert Burnett, 1680, and the other by Mr. Sacheverell 1702. Mr. Danson also exhibited Mist's Journal, in one number of which, dated 1723, the policy of Russia was shown to be identical with that of the nation at the present time.


Mr. J. G. Stewart exhibited a portrait of the late Duke of Wellington by Clothier, painted from a photograph taken shortly before his death.

Mr. Rees exhibited a rhombus of unpolished glass, about half a square inch in superficies, which had been found with many similar pieces in a cutting in Huntingdonshire.

Mr. Hardman exhibited an ancient coin from Philippi in Macedonias; and Mr. Bright handed round a letter to the editor of the Champion in the Strand, with the view of ascertaining its probable date.
The Secretary announced, that by the arrangement of the Council, the letter to the Members, by "one of themselves," on "Science in Lancashire and Cheshire," would be considered at the next meeting.

The following Paper was then read:—
Remarks on the Connexion between Archaeology and Natural History, by Joseph Clarke, Esq., F.S.A., Hon.M.H.S.

29th March, 1855. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION.
The Rev. Dr. Thom, V.P., in the Chair.
The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.
The following Donation was laid on the table:
From Thomas Inman, M.D. Remarks on Spontaneous Combustion, and the best means of extinguishing fires, pamph. Liverpool, 1855.

Mr. Mc'Quie exhibited a curious taper-stand, forming also an extinguisher and a box for the taper. He also exhibited two volumes of the sixteenth century,—the "Footpath to Felicite" and "Icones Mortis."

Mr. Danson exhibited an old newspaper as a specimen of those in which the letters of Junius appeared. It was the Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser for 10th December, 1769, containing No. 34 of those letters.

The printed letter on the subject of "Science in Lancashire and Cheshire" having been fully considered, a Committee was appointed, consisting of the Council and certain ordinary members then present,—to consider the best mode of carrying out the objects advocated in the letter. They were requested to lay their Report, if possible, before the next meeting of the Society.

The following paper was then read:—
Materials for the History of the two Counties, and the mode of using them, (part ii.) by John Robson, Esq.*

19th April, 1855. LITERARY SECTION.
The Rev. Dr. Thom, V.P., in the Chair.
The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Augustus Harding, of Great Crosby, was duly elected a member of the Society.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—


From Henry Johnson, Esq. A bronze celt, found on the opposite side of the rivulet from Kinderton, in Cheshire.

Mr. Boardman exhibited a farthing of 1674, 'Carolus a Carolo,' discovered in sinking the foundations of the Sailors' Home.

Mr. Johnson exhibited an illuminated MS., said to be of the reign of Edward I., containing sixteen documents, including "Magna Carta libertatis Angliae." One of the covers was part of the original oak boards, the other was part of the wood from Prince Rupert's Cottage.

* For part i, see vol. v. p. 199.
Mr. Johnson also showed to the members two original Acts of Parliament, one of them of the 43rd of Elizabeth.

Mr. Marsh laid on the table for inspection, a volume containing original letters of Dr. Priestley, from which his paper had been compiled; also a portrait of Dr. Priestley.

The Special Committee which had been appointed on the 29th ult., presented their Report, which was read to the meeting.

The Secretary announced that J. T. Danson, Esq., who had acted as Chairman of the Committee, was the author of the letter alluded to.

It was then moved by Dr. Hume, seconded by the Rev. Thomas Moore, and resolved—

That the Report be adopted, and that the Memorandum and forms of Circulars be referred to the Council.

A communication was read from Mr. James Boardman, intimating that one part of Mr. Harding's Model of Ancient Liverpool was erroneous. A bridge was ordered to be built across the Pool, but that which is represented as a three-arch stone bridge never was erected. His evidence was first negative, no such bridge appearing on any map or being mentioned in any document subsequent to its being ordered; and second positive, as the unvarying tradition of his own ancestors was that the mouth of the Pool was crossed by a ferry boat, and that there was a rude pier at each side.*

The following Papers were then read:—

On some Correspondence of Dr. Priestley, preserved in the Warrington Museum and Library, by J. F. Marsh, Esq., and on Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb,—their objects, difficulties and advantages,—by David Buxton, Esq.

[The following is the form in which the Paper respecting "Science in Lancashire and Cheshire" was afterwards prepared for issue by the Council.]

Introduction.

This Society was founded, on the 20th of June, 1848, at a Public Meeting held in the Collegiate Institution, Liverpool, the Worshipful the Mayor in the chair. Its original Object was,—by collecting, arranging, and publishing,—to illustrate all those subjects which are connected with the General History of the two counties; and to this the efforts of all the members were exclusively directed for the first six years. During that period, an annual volume of Proceedings and Papers was published; and the Society is bound to continue the series,—the size of course depending on the quantity and quality of the matter. An interesting Library and Museum have also been collected, local in their character and very varied in their contents.

The Council of the Society found, however, that their Laws were too stringent with respect to the local limit; and they were frequently obliged, with reluctance, to decline papers of great value and interest, because they had no direct bearing upon these two counties, or occasionally on any place whatever. They also found that Literature, and especially Archaeology, having a much stronger reference to particular places than Science generally, papers on the application of Science were rarely produced, and those on its abstract principles were regarded as inadmissible. For these and other reasons, at a Special General Meeting, held on the 30th of August, 1854, the Members agreed unanimously to extend the objects and operations of the Society, from local and special to general. At the same time, they classified the inquiries under the three general heads of Archaeology, Literature, and Science; appointing an equal number of Sectional

* In a letter dated 1st June, 1855, Mr. Boardman states that additional evidence has altered his opinion. He is now satisfied that a bridge did exist.
Meetings during each Session, for the discussion of these subjects respectively. They also increased the number of meetings from eight to about twenty; and distinguishing between Resident and Non-resident Members, raised the annual subscription of the former.

A Seventh Session, in these new circumstances, is now nearly completed, and the experience of it is highly gratifying to the Council. The Society has received a large addition of new and valuable members; the meetings, though more frequent, have been much better attended, and have excited a more lively interest; the papers have been numerous, and of a high class; and the promises of intellectual support have been more numerous than on any former occasion.

The Council desire to state distinctly, however, that the Society has merely extended its field of inquiry, it has not abandoned it; and that a primary, but no longer exclusive, object still is,—the thorough description and illustration of the two counties of Lancashire and Cheshire. Within these limits, most of their members reside; and those who do not, take a special interest in the district. The inquiries of almost all whose contributions give interest to the Society's volumes, are modified by local circumstances, so that it is a matter of convenience as well as of duty to cultivate the field already entered upon. And as the general subjects of inquiry have been separately named, and specific time set apart for their investigation, so it is desirable to systematise the details as much as possible, that every topic of importance may receive due attention.

The Council are fully sensible of the difficulties which they are likely to meet with, in realizing any considerable portion of their wishes. The labourers are all voluntary, for example, and though doubtless both able and willing, and inspired only by the highest motives, they are not yet provided with the requisite facilities for combined and harmonious action. It will be the duty of the Council to consider maturely, how far these facilities can be speedily and efficiently increased.

It has appeared to them, that with such an object in view, they may appeal with perfect propriety, not merely to their own members, but also—and even more pointedly—to others whose labours have thrown light upon any portion of the district. Even apart from any such local reference,—and only bearing in mind the valuable contributions which the Society has already received from without,—they cannot hesitate to address themselves to those who have established an enduring claim on their respect, by individual eminence in any of the branches which they desire to cultivate. It has therefore been thought advisable, to address a personal and respectful communication,* along with this Paper, to a limited number of intellectual men for whom our object may probably have some degree of interest, requesting such counsel or more direct aid, as they may be quite at leisure, and kindly disposed to render.

At the same time, there is addressed to the Members of the Society, a circular letter,* so framed as to afford to each of those who are disposed to take any active part in working out the design, the means of at once selecting and entering upon that department of it, to which previous study or present opportunity may most strongly direct his attention.

* A Form of Letter was adopted for this purpose.
At the third meeting of the first session, a paper was read "ON THE BEST MODE of CARRYING OUT THE OBJECTS of THE SOCIETY," by H. C. Pidgeon, Esq., Joint Hon. Secretary. The Council considered it so important, that an edition of it was printed apart from the annual volume, for circulation among those who were not members of the Society; and classified queries were appended to it, showing the subjects most deserving of attention. Nearly fifty topics were enumerated in detail, connected with the subjects of Archaeology, Literature, Natural History, and general Science.

During the present session, a similar paper, by John Towne Danson, Esq., F.S.S., one of the Members, was privately printed and issued to all the Members whose names appear in the last printed list. Its title was "SCIENCE IN LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE;" and its suggestions referred almost exclusively to Science. The Council regard this as in some degree a fortunate circumstance; because their printed volumes,—to which they can refer with much satisfaction as a specimen of their labours,—contain comparatively few papers on Science, even in the extended sense of the term. They have, therefore, with Mr. Danson's consent, given a portion of his paper a permanent place in their Proceedings, and they gladly avail themselves of that portion, in this document, as expressing generally not only their sentiments, but also those of the Members at large.

They will only add, that in every paper which the Society publishes, the writer alone is responsible for the statement of facts and opinions, and for the omission of those, if any, which require to be stated.

SCIENCE IN LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

"Before all else, we have to ascertain the Physical Geography of the two counties: and of this, first, the Geodesy, or divisions of the surface. These are more numerous, as well as more complicated, and less known, than, on approaching the subject for the first time, one is apt to suppose. They are, in character, civil, ecclesiastical and military, as well as natural. The civil divisions, which are of the greatest practical importance, are often hard to learn with precision, when such knowledge of them is needed. The divided areas of local taxation, and of local government: as townships, parishes, hundreds and counties, the boundaries conferring electoral rights, the limits of the jurisdiction of local courts, and the districts formed for the registration of births, marriages and deaths, afford instances of lines each of which is in constant use, and few of which coincide with any of the rest. All, so far as they are of use, should be known. But, apart from their immediate use, all are worthy of precise definition, as well for their historical value, as for the basis such information must afford to legislation for their improvement.

"The lines of division being laid down, we might next ascertain and record the precise latitude and longitude of remarkable fixed points—especially of our observatories.

"The Orography of the district is not only especially interesting, but also, I believe, admits of being presented, from existing materials, in a tolerably complete form. Few parts of the island exhibit a greater variety of surface with regard to altitude, or exhibit it under circumstances more interesting. The level country in the south and southwestern part of Lancashire, and the great plain of Cheshire, backed along the whole eastern border of the two counties by the central hills of England, and pierced by the valleys of the Lune, the Ribble, the Wyre, the Mersey and the Dee, afford almost every variety of altitude habitable in England. And further north we have, in the southern extremity of the Cumbrian range, and in the basins of Windermere and Coniston.
Water, orographic features still more remarkable. And here, be it observed, a thorough execution of our work will require us to ascertain not only the elevation of principal points above a common level, but also every considerable modification of the surface in relation to height. Much of this is already done; leaving to us only the labour of judicious selection and compilation. The surveys for canals, and for railways, have called into existence well verified sections through the more densely peopled localities; and for the more elevated and the thinly peopled districts, we have the results of the levelling operations performed in connection with the ordnance survey. Nor is it probable that, if sought for such a purpose, access to any existing materials whatever, on this or any kindred topic, would be denied to the scientific enquirer.

"The Hydrography of the two counties—considered as another branch of their physical geography presents itself in the double aspect of exterior and interior. We have a clear seabord westward of more than one hundred miles in length; and to this we may add a line of salt-water shores, within the shallow estuaries so remarkably characteristic of our coast, of some hundred and thirty miles more. The depth of the water along these lines, at ebb and flood tide—the action of the sea on the coasts—the extent and character of the sand-hills, and the river-bars—the encroachments, recorded or threatened, and the sea-walls raised to prevent them—the tides, their mean rise, neap and spring, and any observed local variations—the direction, volume, rapidity, and observed effects, of currents along the coasts, are all points of more or less interest, the determination of which must precede a scientific knowledge of the very land we occupy.

"Of no less moment, and more within our reach, is the interior hydrography of the country. Our rivers are small, and not generally picturesque; but among them are the most useful streams in the world. And about them we have yet much to learn, and still more to collect and put upon record in a precise and reliable shape, fit for general use. For instance, we should know, as exactly as might be, their sources (constant and intermittent), their length, course, depth of fall—taken upwards from a fixed tidal level, and carried successively to every point of utility, and thence up to the principal sources—the volume of water and the rapidity of flow at important points, and at different seasons, throughout a series of years—the existing shoals, their position, form, extent, and tendency to shift, with any observed relation of such tendency to known tidal or other currents.

"Of the lakes, we ought to know the level of their waters, with reference to a fixed sea level, and its variations (if any), their extent, form, depth, and the connected streams, affluent and effluent. And similar data are required as to our marshes and bogs—in particular of the extensive peat mosses so numerous in Lancashire, alike in the high and in the low districts.

"Finally, the entire water shed of the two counties, which is known to differ remarkably, in some of its incidents, from that of any other district of like extent in the kingdom, should be minutely and carefully delineated.

"We come next to what may be termed the Terrestrial Physics, as distinguished from the physical geography of the district. With a surface of tolerably regular slope from a considerable elevation, nearly due westward to the sea-level, and a wide expanse of open and deeply indented coast facing the prevailing winds from the Channel, and more remotely from the Atlantic, we have reason to expect from observations in this department, easily made and of a very simple character, results, not only interesting in a scientific point of view, but suggestive of many useful applications. The surest test of the progress of material civilization is found in the gradual discovery of the powers of nature, and their application to the purposes of man; and no means to this end more effectual have yet been suggested than a patient and systematic observation of such natural phenomena as we have here to deal with—familiar, more or less, to all—calculated to be useful to all—but little noted, because familiar, and hence little known in a practical sense.

"We should know the temperature of the soil, as well at various depths as at the
surface, with the diurnal, monthly, and annual oscillations of the thermometer; and this at spots selected for their difference of elevation, soil, and aspect. A like series of observations upon the waters of springs, rivers and brooks, lakes, and the sea along the coast, could not fail to throw additional light upon the same subject. We have even some rare opportunities of examining the oscillations of temperature occurring simultaneously in large masses of water in the same locality, and at different elevations. I may instance Easthwaite and Coulston lakes, in the district of Furness, near to each other, and with a (reported) difference of elevation amounting to upwards of one hundred feet.

"Scarcely less easy of observation, though less obvious till observed with care, are the phenomena of Terrestrial Magnetism. We require an accurate notation—diurnal, monthly, and annual—of the declination; the actual value of the inclination and its annual diminution; and the observed intensity of the magnetic force, with its variations. It would also be useful to register, with as much precision as possible, the length of the pendulum beating seconds at each of our observatories, the exact latitude and longitude of which should be ascertained.

"Meteorology—a science which is but just taking rank as one of logical deduction from observed facts, we can do as much to aid the practical advancement of as any body of men in the empire. Nowhere in the world would a sound exposition of the laws governing the weather be more valuable than in Lancashire and Cheshire; and in no district of similar extent are there a greater number of persons who know this, and who have all the requisites of good observers of the phenomena from due registration and examination of which we can alone hope to learn these laws. The barometer, thermometer, rain-gauge, and anemometer, are now all well-known instruments. Little costly now, they would be less so if more generally used. And it would not be difficult for a society like ours to arrange for a daily and simultaneous registration of the weight, heat, and moisture of the atmosphere, the direction and force of the wind, and the fall of rain, in some hundreds of selected localities within the two counties. Concert with the managers of the existing observatories would secure the necessary correspondence in time and in method; and neither the time nor the money required would be felt as an obstacle by any one of many hundreds of active men, who, in this part of the country, apart from any care for the science in the abstract, would willingly know better when to look for fair and foul weather. The amount and variations of the electricity of the atmosphere do not, at present, admit of being so generally observed; but even here much more might be done with ease than is at present attempted.

To say that the Geology and Mineralogy of Lancashire and Cheshire are worthy of all the attention we can give them, is but to paraphrase what all the world has been saying of us for the last fifty years—that the main springs of our commercial greatness lie under our feet. The distribution of the coal-measures of England, westward of a line from Newcastle to Nottingham, and thence to Plymouth, has, for the last half century, determined the distribution of the population, the productive power, and the political influence of the country. Yet the situation and extent of our coal fields remains to be ascertained with the fulness and precision the importance of the subject demands. Some of them, especially such as are detached from the larger beds, are but partially explored; and others, probably, are quite unknown. The more systematic working of the mines, during the last twenty years, has brought into existence, in private hands, a large quantity of valuable materials, in the shape of underground maps and measurements, and reports upon the state and tendency of the more extensive workings, the greater part of which, so far as they would be required for a purely scientific purpose, would doubtless be laid open to competent and trustworthy enquirers acting under the auspices of our Society.

"Nearly the same remarks, as to the paucity of recent and reliable information on a most important topic might be made as to the saline deposits of the valley of the Weaver and its affluents. These form one of the most remarkable mineralogical features of the island; and, properly regarded, afford an opening for local research, than which there are few more tempting, or more sure to reward whatever exertion
may be honestly and intelligently bestowed upon them. It is certain that the means do not, at present, exist for delineating, with even tolerable completeness and accuracy, the locality and extent of the beds of fossil salt now existing in Cheshire. And much, even of what is locally known, remains unrecorded, and to science useless. We ought also to be better informed than we are as to the limestone rocks on the eastern borders of our district, and the workable slate deposits in the neighbourhood of Ulverston.

"If we aimed at the formation of a good geological map of the two counties, to be formed by imposing, from time to time, upon the best general surveys extant, the corrections suggested by local enquiry, we should perhaps take the course most likely to yield early and satisfactory results in this department.

"Ascending in the scale of observation, we encounter the Botanical Geography of the two counties—and with it may take the distinct but allied departments of Descriptive and Applied Botany. Here we shall begin to feel the need of a judicious but somewhat rigid limitation of the range of our enquiries. It is not with the delightful science of botany, even within our own district that we have to deal; but with its broadest and best recognised results. We have, in Lancashire and Cheshire, many able botanists; and some of them in the Society. All would, no doubt, be ready to put upon record local observations of value, otherwise likely to be lost; nor need we apprehend that they, or any others devoted to a special science, would fail to recognise the over-ruling duty of the Society to give to each department the place and scope dictated by its manifest relation to the general design.

"The influence of altitude, as marked in the orography, and of soil, as evinced in the geology of the country, is first found strikingly developed in the geographical distribution of our indigenous plants; but even here we are compelled to go many steps forward, and refer to the growth of the human population. The land, in being denuded of its ancient woods, drained and cultivated, has, undoubtedly, acquired another soil, and a new climate; and has altogether ceased to afford a fixed habitat for many plants that flourished here in the days of the Saxons. Pending which changes, however, many other plants as well as many foreign animals, have been introduced. Whence the somewhat compound aspect alike of our botany and our zoology. In both we observe that the exotic specimens, if less numerous, are far more important than the indigenous: nay, even that the former have become, on the whole, the more familiar, and the latter the more curious objects of research. To mark, where we can, the steps by which the change has been effected, and then to describe what exists around us, seems to be the only feasible plan. Neither the zoology nor the botany our Teutonic ancestors knew would now be easy to learn, or of much practical value if learnt; and if any of us be disposed to dwell with regret on the chaotic aspect of the past, and the painful impossibility of re-animating extinct genera, we may perhaps find profitable diversion in turning to the future, and considering what further novelties, animal and vegetable, might still be introduced, under the vulgar but powerful plea of utility.

"Of our Agriculture it is commonly believed that the better we know the less we shall be satisfied with it. The existing records are vague and incomplete. But of the methods now in use much might, undoubtedly, be learnt by opening communications with the local agricultural societies and clubs. We have, I believe, amongst us some able men engaged in agricultural pursuits, who could afford material aid in procuring and elaborating such information. And for the extent of land under different crops, from year to year, we have an immediate opportunity of assisting, with such influence as we may possess, the projected collection of the statistics of agriculture by the government. An opportunity it behoves us to seize: for, as we may reasonably hope to be among the first to interpret and to use these returns within our own limits, we should not neglect to take what part we properly may in the preparatory process.

"Our situation in the north-western section of the island makes our Mineral Industry also a most important topic. And first of our Coal. The quantity raised and consumed in various ways within, and exported from, the two counties, has hitherto been known only through the vaguest conjecture. To some extent it must still be so.
But we might do much by the energy and intelligence of those living on the spot to render the conjecture more complete in its basis; and hence, more trustworthy. Again, it is known that the prevailing modes of working are extremely wasteful. And by learning and making generally known the best modes of combining economy with profit, in this respect, we should adopt the most direct means of conferring upon the community an advantage equivalent to placing an additional supply within its reach. There is also a serious waste of human life currently incident to the present mode of raising this mineral. Humanity apart, there is a great lack of economy in this. It has been shown that defective ventilation is the chief cause of the mischief; and though the government has, for some years, had an inspector at work, who annually contributes to the literature of parliament one of the most sensible of its periodical blue folios, we know that the mischief continues. We know, too, that improvement of the kind here required is to be expected rather from the collection and diffusion of sound knowledge of what the most prosperous and intelligent of the coal owners are doing, than from legislative interference, or the perusal of blue books.

"The value of the Salt annually supplied to foreign countries, from the mines of Cheshire, now exceeds two hundred and fifty thousand pounds. The total quantity raised is greater than that raised in any other locality in the world. The consumption in this country is enormous; and can only be roughly conjectured. There are very few more useful substances raised from the earth. Apart from its extensive culinary uses, it subserves an immense variety of manufacturing processes—the glazing of coarse pottery, the making of transparent glass—the hardening of soap—the melting and assaying of metals—and the dying of woven fabrics, being prominent instances. Were it rarer, it would be more closely studied, better known, and more useful still. Its abundance and its cheapness—one of the great unnoticed physical blessings of our land—has been suffered to depress it, its incidents and its methods somewhat beneath the notice of scientific men. To whose discredit I need not say.

"Rather historical than scientific, but not the less appropriately introduced here, is the subject of our Public Works: as the principal edifices, roads, bridges, viaducts, aqueducts, canals, docks, waterworks, gasworks, &c. Few historical changes are fraught with considerations more interesting than that wrought in our own day, in the economy of our highways by the introduction and gradual extension of the railway system. Fortunately we are enabled to trace this change with some approximation to accuracy, by means of official returns. Annual accounts, uniform, and duly verified, for a long series of years, and extending over the whole kingdom, enable all who may take the requisite trouble to follow and mark every step in the financial progress of our turnpike trusts, down to the present time. And as the results of the change are likely, at no distant day, to necessitate a re-organization of the system under which our turnpike roads have hitherto been constructed and maintained, we have here a double inducement to enquiry: the propriety of recording what has been, and is about to pass away, and the probability that our timely attention to the facts may the better enable Lancashire and Cheshire to take an intelligent part in the coming discussion.

"In the maintenance of our township roads we find one of the few subordinate departments of the government of the country which are still left almost exclusively to the narrowest local influences; and so left, as those who are personally affected well know, with but doubtful wisdom. If a short statement were drawn up of the length of these roads now in use in the two counties, the number of officers annually elected to levy and collect rates and keep them in repair—of the length of such roads not reduced to much less than the statutory width, wherever the value of the land has tempted to encroachment, and the length of those fit for the passage of any but the rudest vehicle—its exhibition would probably astonish some of the best informed persons in our larger towns.

"The railways of the two counties have never yet received the distinctive treatment they so well deserve. Apart from the fact that the uses of the railway were first developed, and those of the locomotive originated, within our own district, both have been used so long, to such an extent, and under circumstances so various, as to afford
what is perhaps the best available basis to be found in any one locality for estimating with precision their bearing on the social characteristics of the age.

"Our bridges, viaducts, and aqueducts may claim attention rather by their ingenuity than their grandeur—by their ready and effectual adaptation of ordinary materials to the demands of various exigences; and our modern methods of construction may give most of them but slender chances of antiquity. Yet are they worthy of attentive observation; if only as illustrating the modes of life and action of a population more numerous and more active than the two counties ever before contained. Rivers and valleys have quite ceased to obstruct, or turn aside, our new roads; and the concentration of dense masses of people has repeatedly renewed before us, with various results, the water problem so magnificently solved two thousand years ago by Imperial Rome.

"With canals, as with railways, we were the first to use, and, in England, have hitherto been the largest users. It is now (1855) exactly a century since an Act of Parliament was obtained sanctioning the short canal from the mouth of Sankey Brook up to Gerrard's Bridge and St. Helens—the first made in this country. And where can we now look for a complete and intelligible description of our internal navigation—of the existing lines of canal, their course, dimensions, variations of level, means of water supply, cost of construction and maintenance, number and tonnage of vessels afloat, and men employed, general character of traffic, rapidity of transit, cost of conveyance, &c.?

"A view of our External Navigation, though a very imperfect one, might be obtained from the published accounts of the Board of Trade. But how much more circumstantial and perfect are the records existing, unused, and, except as to current transactions, perfectly useless, in the hands of the officers of each of our outports. Holding our meetings in the first port in the world, we have but one excuse for blindness to the value of scientific knowledge on this topic—the poor one that familiarity has dulled the edge of observation—making of the very fitness of the task a reason for not doing it.

"Another record of our progress will be found in the alterations it has gradually effected in the value and the uses of Landed Property. The amount of the tithes and the land tax in different districts, and the proportion of the former commuted, and of the latter redeemed, are also quite worthy of notice, and might be readily learned from existing documents. And the extent to which our common and waste lands have been enclosed, and copyholds enfranchised, might claim attention under the same head.

"On the subject of Local Taxation, including the poor, the county, and all the connected rates, a reference to the Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, published in 1844, where it will be found treated with admirable lucidity, and by a method perfectly exhaustive, seems more appropriate than any remarks I could offer of my own.

"The Pauperism of the two counties, during the last twenty years, is also well mirrored in the publications of the same department of the government, and needs, to fit the material for our purpose, little more than the labour of selection, with such a view of the contemporary condition of other districts as might fairly exhibit the comparative condition of our own. If we were informed only of the number, locality, and extent of the existing unions, how far they are conterminous with the county boundaries, the annual amount of the poor-rate (properly so called) in each, stated for a consecutive series of years, with any illustrations, afforded by local knowledge, of the variations observed, we should have taken at least one step towards the elucidation, within our own borders, of one of the saddest social problems of our time. What we still want for the entire kingdom—a special pauper census, taken annually, and bringing to light, as indices to the origin of pauperism, every ascertainable particular of the past character, condition, and conduct of each of the sufferers—might easily be tried, under the influence of a Scientific Society, in some single union.

"All we know of the twin social perplexity—Crime—has long dumbly pointed to the same mode of treatment, as the only one likely to yield the fruit we seek. The number,
ages, and degree of instruction of persons committed for each class of offence, the event of trial, and the sentences pronounced, have for some years been regularly made known; and from these data have been deduced some valuable inferences respecting the sources of crime in its various forms. Thus have we, certainly, approached these sources more nearly than was deemed feasible thirty years ago. But there is much yet to be done; and no locality in the kingdom in which it could more fittingly be attempted than our own; nor any body of men more likely to continue the work in the right spirit: a condition obviously essential.

"The organisation of our police—urban and rural—has a kindred interest; and its improvement of late years makes it a hopeful, though, in some respects, hardly an agreeable subject of observation. An account of the extent and cost of the preventive and detective police, correlatively to the growth or diminution of crime, in different districts, has already been attempted for the entire kingdom; but we still want such a comparison for the two counties.

"Avowedly successful as an experiment, our county courts every year increase in value, and have already effected a remarkable change in the administration of justice in Lancashire and Cheshire. But they are not our only local courts. And we still need a proper account of all these courts, the nature and limits of their jurisdiction, the number and powers of their officers, by whom appointed, and how paid, the expense of proceedings, the number of suits annually instituted, and such other particulars as might show the actual working of each of these tribunals, and hence, in some degree, their practical fitness to discharge the duties imposed upon them.

"To describe the Commerce, exterior and interior, of our district, in any other than a somewhat narrow and technical sense, would be to exhibit almost the entire active life of our population. Without this commerce, not one-tenth of our number would find subsistence upon the two thousand eight hundred square miles of land we occupy. But, even regarded from the most technical point of view, there is not yet extant any distinct description of our commerce—its basis, its methods, its growth, its character, its extent, its tendencies, and the apparent indications of its probable future. One topic under this head has a special claim upon our attention. I allude to the recent introduction into this country of Chambers of Commerce—establishments already assuming an office and a power hitherto unknown amongst us; and whence, glancing at their foreign origin, we may yet look for means of further usefulness. The establishment of special tribunals, presided over by eminent commercial men, for the adjudication of commercial disputes, might be deemed too serious an invasion of "the constitution;" but a British version of the French "conseil de prud'hommes"—a body practically adapted to play the part of arbitrators and conciliators between masters and workmen—seems to meet too precisely a well-known and very urgent want of these times not to merit a fair trial.

"Our institutions of a Providential or Charitable nature: as savings' banks, friendly and benefit societies, and burial clubs—with almshouses, hospitals, dispensaries, and others of a more public character, though usually regarded apart, would perhaps be most fitly treated in connection with our workhouses and gaols. The sufferings of humanity, throughout their entire circle, are intimately allied with the interests of social order; and the self-help of the provident, no less than the social help of the charitable, have, when worthily directed, a common purpose with the suppression of crime and pauperism. Our savings' banks have now been fairly in use for nearly forty years; and the time seems to have come when their social tendency might be examined and estimated with safety, especially in a district offering to view a great variety of the classes for whose benefit these banks were founded. The more generally valuable friendly and benefit societies, applying as they now do, or should, some of the most recent and important observations on the sickness and mortality of the town and country populations at different periods of life, and in different occupations, afford a subject of observation interesting alike for its bearing on the material welfare of those most nearly concerned, and for the light it will be found to throw upon the condition and prosperity of what, after all, must be deemed the most important section of society.
“Passing from the institutions intended by society to exert a reformatory or preservative influence upon the adult population, we come to those more hopefully directed to the training of the yet unformed character. Our colleges, schools, libraries, lecture rooms, and museums are not what they were for the last generation. The nature of the change, and its observed effects, do already engross much attention; and it were well if both were more attentively considered, and better known.

“Our institutions of a Sanitary character—as baths and wash-houses, gymnasia and parks; and our places of Amusement—as theatres, exhibitions, concerts, race-meetings, &c., are all worthy of observation; and will be found, in particular, remarkably illustrative of the peculiar influences for the time being in operation among the more educated classes to modify the civilization of the lower.

“Of the public appliances of Religion, perhaps little more can be profitably enquired about, or discussed, in our day, than such details as have already been made known through the last national census.

“But the same census, and those which have preceded it, have placed at our command, a mass of materials, touching the number, ages, and civil condition of the people, our own share of which we have not yet made much use of. We want, in the first place, any local records worthy of trust, even as to small districts, showing the population at periods anterior to 1801. We also want, and might, with no great labour, have, a separate analysis of the materials touching the two counties furnished by the general census, comparatively to the rest of the country, and in relation to all the more prominent and observable elements of our social condition. A work of this description would be scarcely less interesting to the world than to ourselves. Excepting only the metropolis, the Liverpool district is now the one most densely peopled in the whole kingdom. While the population of England and Wales was little more than doubled between 1801 and 1851, that of "the north-western division," formed by Lancashire and Cheshire, was very nearly trebled. At the beginning of the century, our share of the inhabitants of England and Wales was less than ten per cent. of the whole; and in 1801, it was nearly fourteen per cent. In fine, we have, inland, the most important manufacture, and on the coast the largest commercial port in the world.

“Perhaps this part of our subject would hardly be complete, scientifically, without some reference to the Ethnology of the district. This, in its earlier stages, seems to be permanently obscured, to an extent forbidding the hope of any very satisfactory results from its exploration. But the ethnology of our own day offers a fair field for, and a strong inducement to, close investigation. The gradual influx of labour from every part of the kingdom to the seat of the cotton manufacture, and especially from Ireland, during the last fifty years, has, no doubt, materially modified the previous characteristics of the population. And most of the facts required are now on record in the decennial censuses.

“So much for what is to be done. Now for the manner of doing it.

“It is obvious that the data required to be brought together, will, in every instance, be found in one of four different states. That is to say, they will be—

“A. Known, recorded, and published—

“B. Known, and recorded, but not published—

“C. Known, but not recorded—or

“D. Unknown.

“Scarcey less obvious is the inference that to make them available, will require, as to each state, its own kind of ability and exertion. A large proportion of what we have to look for will be found in the state A. This will need, at most, to be selected, verified, and arranged. Much of what has been published on the topics most interesting to us, has emanated from residents in our own district, or members of our own body. The data found in class B would require also the preliminary process of being made accessible, having, in most cases, been called into existence only for more limited purposes. In the class C, may be placed all information—sufficiently accurate for our
purpose, already possessed by individuals, but not yet recorded in any regular form.

Class D would, of course, include all that should not fall within any of the rest. And it is conceived that, by the voluntary agency of the members of the Society, elicited by due instruction and encouragement from our leaders, the whole might, within a few years, be so completed as to form one of the noblest monuments of local learning the world has yet seen.

"The scheme thus imperfectly laid before you, taken in its widest amplitude, would, it is conceived, be in no degree beyond the scope of the assumed duties of the Society. It would not in any manner invade or supersede the functions of any other body, or the proper occupation of any individual whatever. It would impart to our scientific efforts the stimulus of a definite and lofty purpose, and would tend to substitute, among our members, the united strength of co-operation for the divergent weakness of isolated labour.

"Every step taken towards the attainment of the magnificent object in view would be a step gained for ever for all who might thereafter seek knowledge in the same direction. Should we even abandon the work when half done, no part of our labour would be lost. Embued with the theoretic value of a well constructed plan, it would also, so far as it might be carried, form the latest and most perfect record of the science of Lancashire and Cheshire; and by clearly foreshadowing what ought to be done, would at least make more facile its final accomplishment. Adequate elaboration of a single section of the wide field of local science we have so boldly entered—and entered, let me remind you, in days when words of promise are well weighed, and their corresponding deeds closely scanned, and when no mere array of names may win the dues of scientific merit—would at once place us upon an honourable footing with our best comppeers. To make the field thoroughly our own by labour, as it is already ours by prior occupation, would earn for the Society a character not unfitted for comparison with that of any scientific body in Europe."

26th April, 1855. SCIENTIFIC SECTION.

THE REV. DR. THOM, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Rev. Edmund Hinde, B.A., of Hale, was duly elected a Member of the Society.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—

From Alfred John Dunkin, Esq. The Archaeological Mine, including a History of Kent; parts i. to xxi. inclusive, (except some sheets which are deficient.)

From H. J. Cauty, Esq. A Photograph of St. George's Hall, and another of the Liverpool Observatory.

Mr. Cauty sent for exhibition, a series of eleven micro-photographs, taken by Mr. Wenham, Scale of the Podura plomea ; Navicula angulata, Section of the spine of a Hedgehog; Lobster insect; Antenna of a moth; Tooth of a rat; Tongue of a spider, Ipera diadema; Volvox globata; Proboscis of the Scorpion fly; Tongue of the Saw fly; Teeth of the Tadpole.

Mr. Poole exhibited seven numbers of the newspaper printed on board the Marco Polo, and entitled the Marco Polo Chronicle. There were ten numbers issued in all.

Mr. Lidderdale exhibited an ancient engraving, of the date 1670. It was connected with the event historically known as Stockholm's blood-bath; when in 1520, Christian II. of Denmark, "the Nero of the North," caused the Swedish nobility to be massacred.

Mr. Rimmer exhibited a copy of the Statuta Concilii Florentini, 1518.

Mr. Fisher exhibited a volume of tracts on Gardening and Husbandry, of the dates of 1636, 1637, and 1638 respectively.

In illustration of his own paper to be read, Mr. Rylands exhibited upwards of forty
original drawings of snow-crystals; also a design for room-paper, prepared for the Paris exhibition from a combination of two of the forms.

In illustration of his paper to be read, Lieut. W. Lord, R.N., exhibited four charts, showing the results of the self-registering tide-gauge, at St. George’s Dock and Hilbre Island. Those from the town tide-gauge were accompanied by daily registers of the state of the Barometer, and also of the force and direction of the wind,—furnished by Mr. Hartnup of the Liverpool Observatory.

The following Papers were then read:—
On Snow Crystals, by T. Glazebrook Rylands, Esq.; and on the Results of the Self Registering Tide Gauge, by Lieut. W. Lord, R.N.

3rd May, 1855. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—
From the Author, the Rev. Henry Christmas, M.A., F.R.S., Professor of British History and Archæology, in the Royal Society of Literature. A Letter on the Present Condition and Future Prospects of the Society of Antiquaries, of London, addressed to the Earl Stanhope, President, pamph. 8vo. 1855.
From the Editor, Joseph B. Yates, Esq., F.S.A., F.R.G.S. The Right and Jurisdiction of the County Palatine of Chester, the Earls Palatine, the Chamberlain, and other officers; with Introductory Notes by the Editor. Printed by the Chetham Society, 1855.

Mr. M’Quie exhibited three ancient Guide-books, viz., the Liverpool Guide by Moss, 1709; the Picture of Liverpool by W. Jones, 1805; and the Stranger in Liverpool, by Kaye, 1807.
Mr. Comber exhibited two documents, said to have been found in the strong box and closet of Charles II. by his brother James II., showing the leaning of the former to the Church of Rome. This copy had belonged to J. C. Brooke, Esq., Somerset Herald, and was in the handwriting of the close of the 17th century.
In illustration of his paper to be read, Mr. Mayer exhibited several hundred specimens of pottery, chiefly of local manufacture, also a large number of drawings and prints on the same subject.
Mr. Sansom mentioned that the MS belonging to Speed, to which a communication of his brother’s, which had been read on the 8th of February referred, was about to be printed as one of the volumes in the Camden Society’s series.
Dr. Hume read two quotations, one from the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Normandy, and the other from the papers of the Architectural Society of Worcester,—in which some of the Honorary and Ordinary Members of the Historick Society were spoken of in high terms,—particularly Mr. Roach Smith and Mr. Mayer.

The following Paper was then read:—

10th May, 1855. LITERARY SECTION.

J. Towne Danson, Esq., F.S.S., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.
The following Donations were laid upon the table:


From J. Towne Danson, F.S.S. A Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom, from the returns of the Board of Trade; for fifteen years 1840-54.

Mr. E. J. Rogers exhibited eight etchings by De la Bella, 1661, principally views from the gardens of Versailles. Also, ten portraits of the Dukes and Electors of Saxony; a Portrait of Elizabeth Christina, Queen of Prussia; and an engraving after Vincent Gotta, subject St. John the Baptist.

Mr. Stonehouse exhibited an Italian book, supposed to have belonged to Shakespeare, and which exhibited his autograph on the parchment inside the cover. On the subject of the genuineness of the autograph, the opinions of the members were divided.

Mr. Browne exhibited a book entitled "The Sermon which Jesus made on the way to Emmaus," London, 1855.

Mr. Buxton exhibited a copy of Hudibras, with illustrations by Hogarth, 1739.

Mr. Danson laid on the table Lieutenant Maury's Physical Geography of the Sea, and made some remarks on the importance of the subject, 1855.

The Rev. J. W. Hill, M.A., exhibited the following in illustration of his own paper to be read. The Rectory House, Waverton; Drawing of Waverton Church; Photograph of Do.; West Door and Window of Do.; Map of the Parish; Lower Huxley Hall, Waverton; Sketches of the ancient oak trees, Hatton Hall; Fragment of bark of one of the trees; Gateway, Lower Huxley Hall; Bridge over the moat, Do.

A communication was read from T. T. Wilkinson, F.R.A.S., Burnley, entitled "the Burnley Haymakers;" consisting of a local broadside ballad with explanations of the circumstances in which it originated.

The following Paper was then read:

PAROCHIAL NOTES RESPECTING WAVERTON, NEAR CHESTER. By the Rev. J. Wilbraham, Hill, M.A.

[The following is an abstract of this very interesting paper.]

The most ancient name of this parish is Wavetone, as it is thus written in Domesday Book. In Lysons's Mag. Brit. it is written variously, "Waverton, Waverton, or Warton," which is the present vulgar pronunciation.

The parish consists of three townships, viz., Waverton, Hatton, and Huxley. It is agricultural, and contains 4041a. 2r. 37p., statute measure. It is celebrated for its cheese, which is made largely, and sent by railway to London. Of the parish, nearly three-fourths is pasture land. There is a "Fox Covert" of 9a. 0r. 2p., called "Warton Gorse," in the township of Waverton, and another in Huxley township, of 7a. 1r. 12p., both held by the Tarporley Hunt.

Waverton township is four miles S.E. by E. from Chester, and is intersected by the Chester and Ellesmere Canal. The L. and N.W. Railway runs through two townships, viz., Waverton and Hatton, and the first station from Chester is at Waverton. Two coal wharves have recently been established at Waverton, one supplied by the L. and N.W. Railway, and the other by the Canal. Some Roman Cement Works have recently been erected at Egg Bridge, in this township, on land belonging to the freeholders of Waverton.

At each end of the parish, viz., at Waverton and Huxley, there is a post office.

Though Ormerod speaks of this parish as "flat and uninteresting," yet this is relieved by the fine views of the Welsh Hills, in the west, of Beeston and Peckforton.

*Commento di Sr Agrasto da Ficarvolo, sopra la Prima Ficata del Padre Siceo, 1538.
Castles on the south and east, and of Helsby Tor Hill and Delamere to the north. Waverton is very healthy, having a substratum of sandstone. Close to the railway station is a quarry, (the property of the Marquis of Westminster, who is principal landlord of the township,) from which Chester Cathedral was extensively repaired in 1819. The Chapel of the Chester Training College, and perhaps the fine tower of the Parish Church, were also built of the same material.

**Health of the Parish.** The Registers for the last 40 years have 550 deaths, or less than a yearly average of 14. Of these, 153 were above 70, 64 above 80, and 14 above 90 years of age. A head stone records John Williams as 105, and his wife Esther as 95, at the time of their death.

**Population.** On the fly-leaf of the Registers, commencing 1755, is inserted—"On August 22, 1774, there were in the township of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Families</th>
<th>Inhabitants</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>females</th>
<th>Above 14 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waverton</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatton</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huxley</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this Parish 116

In 1851, the Census was

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waverton</th>
<th>Hatton</th>
<th>Huxley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>357</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>187</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Manors. The Marquis of Westminster is the present Lord of Waverton, having purchased it from the Massies, to whom it had come from the Duttons. Of Hatton Manor the Marquis of Cholmondeley is the Lord, one of whose ancestors purchased it from Mr. Massie, to whom it also had come through the Duttons. The old Hall of Hatton is no longer in existence, a modern farm house having been erected on its site. Of the five oaks mentioned by Ormerod, one fell in 1851. Huxley Manor is held by Randle Wilbraham, Esq., whose grandfather purchased it from the representatives of the Bruens. There are two Halls in the township, now occupied as farm houses, one called Upper Huxley Hall, and the other Lower Huxley Hall, which latter still bears the traces of its ancient grandeur. For particulars of these manors, consult Ormerod, Lysons, Sir Peter Leycester's Antiq., Henshall's Hist. of Ches., &c.

**Rectors.** The list of Rectors is given by Ormerod. In 1714, the Bishop became Rector, and the duties were performed by a perpetual Curate. The following is the list of Curates:

- William Calkin.
- Griffith Gardner, who had been Curate to the last Rector, Mr. Prescott.
- Geo. Briggs.
- 1770. G. Salt.
- 1774. Will. Bissell.*
- 1784. Isaac Riley.
- J. Bateman, buried December 10, 1803.
- 1844. J. Wilbraham Hill, M.A. November.

**The Church.** It is dedicated to St. Peter, and is thus noticed in the Charter of Hugh Lupus, in 1093, relating to the grants to St. Werburgh's Abbey, in the city of Chester, "Ricardus de Rullos dedit Ecclesiam et Decimam Wavertome." The church is

* From an old Churchwarden's Account Book, it appears that in the year 1783, there must have been some trouble on the part of the parish respecting Mr. Bissell, as we find—"Paid to Charles Dean, for looking after Mr. Bissell on the Sabbath Day, 1s. Spent about Mr. Bissell at Chester, six days, 3s. 3d. Spent when the parish met about Mr. Bissell, 4s. 3d." The writer has been informed that Mr. Bissell on one occasion jumped out of a window from the Rectory, and was afterwards lodged in a Lunatic Asylum.
unnoticed in Domesday Survey, and was therefore probably built between that Survey and the period here specified. The present church was probably built in the reign of Henry VII. The writer is indebted to the kindness of Sir Stephen E. Glynne, Bart., of Hawarden Castle, for the following observations on its architectural style, the result of two visits, one in 1832, the other in 1851—"and the condition of the church," says Sir Stephen, "was certainly very different at the two periods. Waverton has a nave, and a shortened chancel, with north and south aisles, and a lofty and handsome western tower. The latter is of good late perpendicular character, with a large west window of four lights, and a doorway having bold foliage and armorial shields in the spandrels. It is the great feature of the church, but contrasts rather unhappily with the low and inferior character of the body, which bears marks of having been chiefly constructed in a debased period, perhaps in the reign of Elizabeth. The nave has very low arcades dividing the aisles—on each side three arches, which are pointed but small—the piers octagonal. The northern arches are slightly stilted, and the capitals on this side have an ornament which resembles the nail-head. Over the arcades is a clerestory of square-headed windows. The roof of the nave and aisles are of very fair timber work, of the latter part of the 16th century. The present east wall is said to have been built in 1606. "The church has received much improvement since the accession of the present Incumbent. The tower arch has been thrown open to the nave, and the interior put into a neat and becoming condition, which was not the case formerly." There are four good toned bells, on the largest of which is written, "1615, C. L." A date is also on the second bell, with an inscription which the writer could not decipher, but on the fourth bell, bearing the same date, is "I ASSERT BE OUR SPEED. W. R."

An original certificate of the Sheriff &c. of Cheshire, respecting the bells and plate in the churches of that county, anno 1548, communicated from the Records of the Augmentation Office, by John Caley, Esq., F.S.A., shows that at that period there were only two bells.

"Warton Churche in the hundred of Broxton, Chalise & Patten j., a ring of bells iij."

The Living. Waverton is a Rectory, as well as perpetual Curacy, which is thus accounted for. When Chester became a separate See in 1541, the Archdeaconries of Chester and Richmond were assigned to it for a Diocese. A custom of great antiquity prevailed in the Archdeaconry of Chester, that the Bishop, who is also Archdeacon, in right of his See, should have for a mortuary* on the death of every clergyman dying therein, his best horse or mare, bridle, saddle, and spurs; his best gown or cloak, best hat, best upper garments under his gown and tippet; and also his best signet ring. (Cro. Car. 237.) In 1755, it was enacted by statute 28 Geo. II. c. 6, that these mortuaries should cease, as tending greatly to impoverish the small provision which the clergy were able to leave for the support of their families, and that in lieu thereof, the Rectory of Waverton, after the next vacancy, should be appropriated to the Bishop of Chester for the time being. This took place during the episcopate of Bishop Keene, twelve years after, on the death of the Rev. John Prescot in 1767, from which time to the present, the Bishop of Chester, as Rector, has always received the tithes of the parish, while the duties are performed by a Perpetual Curate, appointed by the Bishop, at a yearly stipend of £60. About the year 1828, however, a purchase was effected from Queen Anne's Bounty, of 12a. 3r. 13p., in augmentation of the Incumbent's income, who also occupies the Glebe and Rectory House, which Bishop Gastrell states was built in the year 1716.

Valor Ecclesiasticus. The Living of Waverton is valued in the King's Book (Henry VIII., 1535) as follows—

R 23 06 08 Pr. A. 0 6 8 Syn 0 1 6 Tri 0 6 8

Terrier. There is an old Terrier painted on panels, in a frame in the church, which the writer discovered by the merest chance, when the church was undergoing extensive

* "Mortuary;" a gift left by a man at his death, to his parish church, for the recompense of his personal tithes and offerings not duly paid in his life time. A mortuary was anciently called soule-sceat (soul-shot), which signifies pecunia sepulchralis, or symbolum animae. After the conquest it was called cors-present, because the beast was presented with the body at the funeral. Jacob's Law Dictionary.
repairs in 1845, and which he had reprinted and restored.* It was set up November 3, 1756. The expense of this table was—*To Richd. Vickers, for painting the Table of Fees, £5 2 0; for setting up, &c., 3/.*

**Charities.** The poor of Waverton seem to have been well cared for, but from gross negligence and unjust appropriation, much has been lost. The following table of benefactors is in the church:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Benefactor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Years of Use</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1629</td>
<td>Hy. Wright</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>use, to be given yearly for ever.</td>
<td>£6 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1638</td>
<td>Robert Farrer</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>10s. ye use</td>
<td>0 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1642</td>
<td>Peter Barns</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>10l. y. use</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1649</td>
<td>William Catherall</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>3l. ye use</td>
<td>3 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>John Tilston</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>gave £20. do. do.</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>William Pue</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>gave 5l. do. do.</td>
<td>5 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1654</td>
<td>John Barker</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>gave £2 11 6 do. do.</td>
<td>2 11 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1654</td>
<td>Tilston Bruen</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>Esq. gave £5 do. do.</td>
<td>5 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1665</td>
<td>Richard Mouison</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>gave £10 do. do.</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1674</td>
<td>Peter Mouison</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>gave £20 do. do.</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1702</td>
<td>Richard Mort</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>gave £10 do. do.</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1702</td>
<td>Mrs. Elizabeth Dutton</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>gave £30 do. do.</td>
<td>30 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1707</td>
<td>Richd. Rephson</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>gave £5 ye use</td>
<td>5 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Waverton only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Benefactor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Years of Use</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1713</td>
<td>Peter Mouison</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>gave £5 do. do.</td>
<td>5 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1724</td>
<td>Robert Rollison</td>
<td>£1 0 0</td>
<td>gave £12 do. do.</td>
<td>12 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total | £144 1 6 |

*“Thos. Lightfoot, Jo. Johnson, Church Wardens, Daniel Cassey, Sidesman, 1704.”*

It is stated that a part of this money was expended in the purchase of land, but there is no evidence on the subject whatever. About two acres in Tattersall, claimed by the Churchwardens, is supposed to have been the purchase made. There is an annual sum of £1 paid to the poor, being the interest on £20 formerly borrowed from the poor's money, to be expended on the Highways of the Township.

**Clubs.** At Huxley the farmers have instituted a Coal Club, for the benefit of the poor during the winter. There are two Clothing Clubs, the larger managed by the Incumbent, the other, a private one, instituted by Lord Henry Cholmondeley, M.P., for the benefit of his cottage tenants at Hatton. The farmers have established a Cattle Club, which has been of great service.

**Schools.** Very little attention seems to have been paid to the education of the children at an early period. So late as 1787, there is an item charged upon the church rate for two dozen "Reading Made Easy’s and ten Testaments, 19/6," divided among the three townships, and "£2 7s 0d. paid Benjamin Dutton, for 47 Sundays teaching." This seems to have been all that was paid for education at that time. In 1844, when the writer became Incumbent, there was no school connected with the church, except a few children collected by a Dame on Sunday mornings, who instructed them much in the manner of 1787. At present there are two Daily and two Sunday Schools in the parish, at extreme ends. The school at Waverton was built by the Marquis of Westminister, but when the children attain a larger growth, they are sent to the Endowed National School at Hargrave. The school at Huxley was built in 1851, through the assistance of the Lord of the Manor and others. This school is under Government inspection. It has been licensed, and was opened for divine service 12th March, 1852, when the late Chancellor Raikes preached. A Curate is supported by the Cheshire Rural Chapel Society and the Landed Proprietors, who performs two full services each Sunday.

A Church Missionary Association was formed at Waverton in 1848, from which period to 1854, the sum of £160 8s. has been paid to the Parent Society.

* The Terrier is of the same nature as that of West Kirkby. Vid. p. 10*.
17th May, 1855. SCIENTIFIC SECTION.

The Rev. Dr. Thom, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Thomas Warburton, of 122, Falkner Street, was duly elected a Member of the Society.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:

Mr. Wilkinson exhibited a portrait of Robin O'Green, published at Lancaster in 1780. It represents him in the act of singing the ballad called the Burnley Haymakers, at the top of which is a rude but characteristic woodcut.

Mr. Johnson exhibited a silver table spoon, the assay mark on which showed the date of it to be 1726. The bowl was of the usual size of the period. The top formed a signet, with the letters "T.T." united in a heraldic knot. It was found in 1850, in the township of Bridge Trafford in Cheshire, and is supposed to have belonged to Thomas Trafford.

Mr. Whitehead exhibited a piece of "meteoric iron," from the banks of the Yenisei in Siberia. It was found by Pallas, and is described as part of a very large mass, 1770.

Mr. Buxton exhibited a MS Magazine, for the purpose of drawing attention to some most beautiful pen and ink etchings by Mr. William Stubs.

Mr. H. S. Fisher exhibited a large collection of dried plants, in illustration of his Paper, the reading of which was postponed.

The Secretary laid upon the table, a copy of the Reprint of Volume I., its price to Members will be five shillings.

The following Paper was then read:

An Account of the Life and Writings of the late J. H. Swale, of Liverpool, by Thomas T. Wilkinson, F.R.A.S.

24th May, 1855. MISCELLANEOUS MEETING.

The Rev. Dr. Thom, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Thomas Comber, of Edge Lane, Liverpool, and Mr. Thomas Melling of Rain Hill, were duly elected Members of the Society.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:
- The Accounts of the Corporation of Liverpool with their Treasurer, 1834, '35 (two copies), '36, '38, '39, '40 (two copies), '41, '42, '43, '44, '45 (two copies), '46, '47.
Minutes of Proceedings before the Committee of the House of Lords, on the Birkenhead Dock Bill, 1844; Minutes of Evidence before the House of Commons, Birkenhead Dock Bill, 1844.
Minutes of Evidence taken before the Committees of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, on the Liverpool Dock Bill, 1844.
Comparison of the Evidence on the Birkenhead Dock Bill in the House of Commons, 8vo. pamph. 1844.
Liverpool Dock Bill, 1844; Ditto with MS Alterations; Ditto, 1845: Act, 1840; Bill, 1848; Ditto with MS Alterations.
Mersey Conservancy Act, 1842.
Draft of Bye Laws for the Borough of Liverpool, with Supplements, 1836.
Liverpool Improvement Bill, 1842; Act, 1842; Bill, 1846.
Liverpool Fire Prevention Bill, 1843; Amended after first reading, 1843;
Abstract of, 1843; Act, 1843; Bill, 1844.
Liverpool Health of Town and Building Regulations Bill, 1842; Act, 1842.
Liverpool Sanitary Bill, 1846 (two copies); Heads of ditto, 1846; Act, 1846.
Liverpool Borough Prison.—Approval of Inspector's Recommendations, 1847.
Liverpool Clergy Endowment Act, 1838.
Liverpool Borough Fund Act, 1840.
Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal Railway Act, 1831; Ditto Canal and Railway Act, 1832; Inquiry into the Tonnage of Coal charged on the Canal Navigation, March, 1849; Supplementary Report, April, 1849; Report on the Charges to Railway Passengers, May, 1849.
Questions for circulation in populous Towns and Districts, issued by the Health of Towns Commissioners.
Return of the Annual Salaries received from the Corporation of Liverpool, (1836-41), 1841; Second Report of the Special Committee of the Town Council, respecting the duties of the Officers of the Council, 1842; Statements of the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, and Clerk of Committees, in reference to ditto, Nov. 1842; Remarks read to the Council respecting their statements, 25th December, 1842.
Liverpool Watering Bill, 1843.
Report of the Borough Engineer on the general Business of his Department, June, 1847; Ditto interleaved with appendices.

From the Society. Proceedings and Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, two parts, January and March, 1855.
From James Kennedy, Esq., LL.B., late H.M. Judge in the mixed Court at Havana. Question of the Supposed Lost Tribes of Israel, with Appendices on the six days of the Creation, and on the Chronology of the World, pamph. 1855. Probable origin of the American Indians, with particular reference to that of the Caribs, pamph. 1854.
From Morris Moore, Esq. Protest and Counter Statement against the Report from the Select Committee on the National Gallery, pamph. 1855.
Mr. Macfie exhibited an ancient MS copy of the Scriptures, with ornamented capitals, &c. It is supposed to belong to the 14th century.

Mr. Sansom exhibited a photograph of a monumental inscription. It was one sixteenth of a square inch in area, and contained nineteen lines, the whole of which could be easily read by the microscope. Each letter was the one thousandth part of an inch in height. It was prepared by Mr. B. Dancer, of Manchester, and could be read with a comparatively low power.

Mr. Thomas Gray exhibited several copper coins, apparently inserted in stone. They were taken from the oyster-beds of Kent, where they had been obviously deposited by shipwreck. Several of them were East India coins, and on one the date 1803 was visible.

Mr. Fisher again exhibited the contents of a large Herbarium, as illustrative of his paper.

The Chairman drew attention to a passage in one of Heylin’s Works, from which it appeared that the Cathedrals of England are of two classes, thirteen being of the old or secular foundation, and the remainder having been founded by Henry VIII., principally on the dissolution of the monasteries.

The following Papers were then read:

Remarks upon the Flora of Liverpool, by H. S. Fisher; On the Illumination of the Diatomaceae when viewed under the Microscope, by Thomas Sansom, A.L.S., F.B.S.E., &c.; and the Concluding Address, by Dr. Hume, Hon. Sec.

At the close of the business of another Session, to which every friend of the Society looked forward with much interest, the Council have requested me to lay before the Members some considerations of a general kind, such as our present position seems to require. I have at once accepted the responsibility of doing so;—believing that we have always a tendency to lose sight of general principles in the details of papers on specific subjects; and also that it is a mark of wisdom to notice favourable facts, for the purpose of exciting a frequent imitation of them, and unfavourable facts,—whether of action or omission,—to secure their avoidance in future.

Our present position is somewhat peculiar. We have been for seven years before the public, and numerous gratifying testimonies have been borne to the zeal and success of our labours. We have also, since the date of the Society's inauguration, had proofs of local interest which have steadily increased;—each list of members has been larger than the preceding one, and we have no reason whatever to suppose that the standing number has yet been reached. It is only during the session which is now closing, however, that the principal members of the Society have been able to satisfy themselves respecting the general arrangement of the business, or to occupy the whole, or indeed any large portion of the ground which they had originally marked out. The past session, therefore, as I may now almost venture to call it, has afforded a more correct representation of the Society's character than any previous one; the degree of success which has attended it is
a better measure of our actual capability; and the volume which is now in preparation will exhibit our whole design and general objects, more truly than any which the members or the public have yet had an opportunity of seeing.

On comparing the first printed List of the Society with the present one, two facts arrest the attention at the same time,—the number of valuable members which the Society has lost, and the still greater number which it has gained. In the removal of the former, Death has gathered in a large harvest, some of the most valued of our original members being gentlemen full of years, whose names had been familiar to the public, and held in high esteem. Others have been separated from us by those accidents which are inseparable from a great commercial community, so that we find those whose names are in our first list, in almost every part of the world, including the remotest colonial possessions of the United Kingdom. It thus happens, that, at the close of seven years, exactly one-third of the enlarged Society consists of original members; and that two-thirds who have joined them,—inspired with the same sentiments and giving earnest more or less of future promise,—have in some degree "entered into the labours" of their predecessors. In noticing our present position, therefore, it is absolutely necessary to allude to first principles, and thus to glance slightly at the past. It may also be well to direct our attention, by anticipation to the future.

The great general object which the founders of the Society had in view, may be expressed in a variety of ways. It was to collect and classify material objects, and to procure information respecting persons, places, and things,—all of which should be illustrative of the two Counties of Lancashire and Cheshire. The publication of results followed as a matter of course; for without this, members who were widely scattered could not be instructed; and others who were ready to assist would be without examples for guidance. It was hoped that the volumes of the Society would in time be a valuable storehouse of materials, for the future historian of the counties, or of any portion of them; and that his task would merely be that of moulding the metal, which we had collected in the ore and prepared for use.

It is evident, however, that though the geographical "extension" of the Society was not great, the intellectual "comprehension" exhibited great variety. Whatever subjects it was proper for a local historian to treat of, it was proper for us to investigate; including such subjects as local meteorology and topography, antiquities, statistics, the biography of distinguished individuals, abstract science and its practical applications, the results of observation and experiment, the nature of the people and their characteristics, natural or acquired.* In the first paper that ever was read to the Society, the following passage occurs:

"Our basis of operations is anything but narrow, for it embraces every subject of historic interest in a given locality. We are circumscribed only in area, and that partly from choice and partly from necessity; but it is difficult to conceive of a Society more comprehensive in its general principles and its details. It is not, for example, a mere Documentary Society, nor is it Archaeological alone, nor Genealogical, nor Topographical. It is not confined to any branch of Natural History, nor to the whole subject; it is not a mere depository of Folk-lore, or a recorder of facts respecting Battles, Churches and Ships. With every one of these subjects, and with every other, it claims a connexion; in so far, and only so far as they tend to illustrate the two counties of which this town is in some respects the natural centre."

During the first three years of the Society's operations, it was sufficiently clear, that there were both materials in abundance, and earnest willing labourers. Of the eleven subjects which are enumerated in the original prospectus, almost every one had met with some elucidation, while the greater number might be said to indicate whole classes of papers. Even of the more detailed subjects, enumerated in an early and special publication of the Society, a very large number had met with attention,—but this seemed to be rather the result of

*The proposer of the first resolution at the meeting at which the Society was founded, expressed himself thus:—"I can fancy that some will at first believe our objects to be too varied; that they will see little harmony or congruity between natural history and architecture, traditions and parliamentary papers, ancient pedigrees and modern manufactures. Let it be borne in mind, however, that all these come within the field of inquiry of the historian; for this is the reason why we cannot omit a single item of our programme."
accident than design. The Society had not yet taken any pains to classify its subjects or to give to each a special evening—and thus there was a danger that some subjects would receive undue attention at the expense of others. Indeed, this fact actually occurred. Four years ago, the following language was used in the Concluding Address:

"It has been assumed not only by strangers but by some of ourselves, that our inquiries are exclusively of an archaeological or antiquarian character; and some gentlemen who would gladly have sought a connexion with us, have kept aloof, from the supposed narrowness of our basis. Now it is important to correct an impression so erroneous. We embrace every subject in which the historian is supposed to take an interest,—in short, every local subject which is worthy of a permanent record."

It is only necessary to say that this error has since been remedied. The systematising of the inquiries of the Society, which took place last autumn, brings before us in order each of our great subjects; and there is no reason that any department or branch of these should suffer systematic neglect. The extension of the Society too, enables us to read and discuss papers, occasionally, of an abstract character, or which are in no respect related to the soil of our two counties. The importance of this last arrangement will be evident, when I state that some of the most valuable papers which have come before the Society this session, respecting inventions, manufactures, and philosophical observations in Lancashire and Cheshire, would actually have been inadmissible under our old laws, except by an alteration of title which would have made the whole appear ridiculous.

The Session which is just closing has presented a degree of uniform success far exceeding the most sanguine expectations of the warmest friends of the Society. It has also solved several difficulties and given a practical reply to many doubts and objections.

One of the first was, that the meetings would be too numerous, and that it would not be possible to obtain a supply of valuable matter for them all. The answer is, that we have had more than sufficient for twenty-one meetings; for, after reading twenty-one formal papers and fourteen contributions of a less formal character, we have been under the necessity of postponing about fifteen papers, some of which were ready and in hand, while others were only in preparation.

Another objection was, that the arrangements are too artificial, and that it is impossible for the members to cultivate Literature, Science, and Archaeology, in exactly an equal degree. It should be borne in mind, however, that each of these terms is relative and expansive, but not of absolute limitation; so that what some call Science others call Literature, e.g., philology, statistics, topography, and ethnology. Our laws also provide for the equalisation of the supply in special cases, but nothing of the kind has been necessary, as papers on all the three subjects have been read during the miscellaneous Meetings.

It was also objected that the members would not attend meetings so frequently held, and that the attendance would be occasionally very limited. This prediction has certainly not been verified, for during no former Session were the meetings so well attended, nor did they excite so lively an interest. For this, various reasons may be assigned, e.g., that the place of meeting is more central, the members are greatly increased in number, and the evenings of meeting are so distinct, and so well known, that arrangements can easily be made for attending them.

It is important to state, at the same time, that the papers have not deteriorated in character; on the contrary, several gentlemen of acknowledged eminence in their several departments, have given us aid of great value. Indeed a practical difficulty is to know how we can do justice to all the authors of papers without making our volume larger than prudence warrants. In another department, which does not so readily arrest the attention, the Society has made some progress. Every meeting has brought some addition to the Library, and occasionally to the Museum. On one or two occasions these have been very large; and even on this last evening of the Session, donations have been laid upon our table, more valuable in quantity, variety, and intrinsic worth, than some of our local societies are accustomed to receive in the course of the whole year. One donation, of great value, consists of parcels of plants for the formation of a herbarium, from Mr. Brent of Folkstone, and Messrs. Bean and Sansom of this town. Mr. Sansom has also kindly undertaken to mount them, and to have them ready for reference by the commencement of next Session.
The future progress of the Society may be anticipated from a consideration of the difficulties already overcome, and from the arrangements which have been entered upon for permanent guidance. One of the most important of them is a provision made in the laws for placing an Annual Volume of Proceedings and Papers in the hands of every member. Of course it will vary, from time to time, in magnitude and interest, but it will be a regular register of our labours, and will keep in useful exercise the knowledge and interest of the members and other friends. Several societies, which in past years seemed not to feel the value of regular publication, have at length entered upon it, and one has just brought up an arrear of eighteen years in its first publication, while another devotes two volumes to twenty-one years.

It may naturally be supposed that a society, which has its centre at one great town of a district will illustrate that immediate neighbourhood with great or even unnecessary minuteness; while many other points of equal importance will, from the absence of investigators, be comparatively unnoticed. Perhaps it is impossible to avoid this difficulty altogether; but in our case it exists only in a small degree. We have members in almost every part of the two counties, and writers of papers even where we have not members; and even those who are resident in or near Liverpool refer their local information and associations to points considerably remote. At present about three-fifths of the members reside within seven miles of the Town Hall; yet, during this seventh session, half the papers have been contributed by persons non-resident; and of the remainder, some have no reference to Liverpool or its immediate neighbourhood.

It is hoped that this will be the case in a still more marked degree, when Mr. Danson's paper and the General Statement which accompanies it have received a wide distribution. It exhibits, in detail, numerous subjects, in connection with which many gentlemen may be able to assist us, and no doubt a large number will generously and kindly render their aid, in a cause of public usefulness, but of no individual benefit. In treating of places of limited extent, or of places which do not afford much matter, some of those papers may be exhaustive in their character, but in general they will be valuable, not merely for their positive information, but from being suggestive to the readers of them.

It should not be supposed, however, that all the papers will be printed as a matter of course. In former years this has nearly been the case, from the excellence of the matter and from the quantity supplied; but in future years the matter may vary widely in quality, while it will undoubtedly be abundant in quantity. The members will therefore expect the Council to exercise a wise discretion.

It is possible, too, to improve the character of our meetings. The objects which are exhibited, from time to time, should always be of interest; for it is obviously trifling with the time of a Learned Society to occupy its members and visitors with the examination of things which are neither rare, nor curious, nor illustrative. In strict order, an notice should be sent to the Curator, of objects to be brought before the meeting; there would then be some guarantee that they were thoroughly deserving of attention. In the matter of miscellaneous communications, also, I may remark, that they might be more frequent and more varied than they have hitherto been. It is a mistake to suppose that papers should necessarily be of any fixed length, they should merely express, fully and explicitly, what the writer has to say. They will, therefore, be very varied in magnitude, and those which are shortest or longest may, in certain cases, be those of most interest.

The conclusion of a session of so much interest is not without a feeling of melancholy, in which I am sure many of the members will participate. It is, at the same time, a relief to those who have occupied positions of prominence; nor will their labours cease with the termination of the meetings. Less than three months will probably suffice to place in the hands of the members another volume; and the recess on which we are all entering will afford new opportunities of prosecuting valuable researches, or of arranging accumulated materials. Let us part in the hope of meeting in October next, not merely to sustain, but to extend the character and usefulness which have thus far crowned our labours.