This Society was founded June 20th, 1818, 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 such subjects as are connected with the General History of the two counties.

The objects and operations of the Society were extended, from local and special to general, August 31st, 1854; so that it now covers the whole field of intellectual inquiry. The principal subjects have been classed under the following three general heads:

I.—ARCHAEOLOGY;—including Archaeology in general, with a particular reference to the History and Antiquities of Lancashire and Cheshire.

II.—LITERATURE;—including Literature, Criticism, and the Fine Arts; with Topography and Statistics.

III.—SCIENCE;—including Abstract Science, Natural History, Experimental Philosophy, and Practical Mechanics.

Besides the usual officers, there are eighteen ordinary members of Council. These are divided into three Committees of six each, corresponding with the three sections, and having charge of Archaeology, Literature, and Science respectively. Each of the Sections meets monthly during the Session, i.e., from the 18th of October to the middle of May. Meetings are also held, from time to time, of a MISCELLANEOUS character; to afford opportunity for brief descriptions of objects illustrative of antiquity, natural history, arts, manufactures, manners 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.

Since the Society was founded, it has issued a volume of Transactions annually; and by the present Laws, it must continue to do so. From the voluntary labour expended in their preparation, the intrinsic value of the matter, and numerous donations of plates from members and others, these volumes have attracted considerable attention, and have given a much greater return to the members than the amount of subscription would otherwise have entitled them to.

During the short period of seven years, the Society has succeeded in forming an interesting LIBRARY and MUSEUM. The Town Council have kindly expressed their readiness to set apart sufficient space for both, so soon as it can be spared, in connection with the Free Public Library and Museum. The collection is very varied in character; embracing Books, Manuscripts, Maps, Autographs, Drawings, Prints, Paintings, Antiquities, Curiosities, Articles of Manufacture, Objects of Natural History, Models, Specimens of Ancient and Mediaeval Art, &c., &c.

The Members of the Society pay on election an Entrance Fee of a Guinea. Resident Members, (viz. those having addresses in Liverpool, or residing within seven miles of the Town Hall,) pay a subscription of a Guinea annually, and Non-resident Members of Half-a-Guinea. Any one may become a Life Member by paying ten such Subscriptions, exclusive of the Entrance Fee, in a single sum.
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