

From the Editor. The Farington Papers; edited for the Chetham Society, by Miss Farington, 1856.

From the Committee of the late Church of England \*Institute. Parliamentary Papers, viz.—Reports, 21 vols.; Journals of the Lords, 29 vols.; Journals of the Commons, 101 vols.; Miscellaneous, 13; Total 164 vols.

Mr. Crosse exhibited an ancient black letter Chronicle, containing details of English History from 1108 B.C. to 1578 A.D.; also Sylvanus Morgan on Geometry or Dialling, 1652.

Mr. John Peacock, of Hough Green, Chester, exhibited a large number of Roman and other Antiquities from Chester, some of which had been found so recently as that very day. They embraced the following—

Fibula found in Northgate street.

Ditto and Spear Head.

Thuribulum and Spoon.

Silver Coin of Vespasian.

Roman Tile, and part of another Tile, with the letters LEA upon it.

Portion of a Mortarium, with the words MARINUS FECIT.

Roman Stylus (supposed.)

Fibula, from Eastgate street.

Two small Vases.

Antefix, with the letters LEC. XX., and figure apparently of a boar rampant.

Gold Ring, with a Sapphire, from Northgate street.

Coin with inscription "Tetricus" (?)

Irish Farthing of Charles I.

Two Coins of Aurelius.

One supposed Abbey counter.

Mr. Poole exhibited a peculiar breech-loading rifle, self-cleaning, and capable of being fired 400 times in an hour. It is patented by Mr. Bentley.

The Secretary announced that the Excursion of the Society would take place on the 24th of June, to Preston and neighbourhood.

The following papers were then read:—

THE ANCIENT GEOMETRICAL ANALYSIS, ILLUSTRATED FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE LANCASHIRE GEOMETERS.† *By Thos. T. Wilkinson, F.R.A.S.*

ON SOME OF THE RECORDED CHANGES IN THE LIVERPOOL BAY, PREVIOUS TO THE YEAR 1800.‡ *By Joseph Boulton, Esq.*

The author, amongst other illustrations, exhibited a chart upon which were laid down the lines of high and low water mark, for the years 1689, 1755, 1813, and 1847; from which it appeared that the coast line from the Rock point to Dove point receded in the first interval, but that the low water line from the Rock point to Leasowe Castle advanced. Westwardly of the Red Noses the advance was considerable; on the other hand westward of the castle and in Hoylake, low water mark has receded. There are remarkable changes also on the north side of the Channels, the Burbo bank of Collins's survey being split up into several patches on Eyes's chart. In place of the shelf or bar stated by Collins to be all dry at low water, and extending from Dove spit to Burbo bank, Eyes gives a channel of from one and a half to seven fathoms deep.

The author then entered upon the subject of the coast at Wallasey Leasowes, and

\* By the "Literary and Scientific Institutions Act," (17 and 18 Vic. cap. 112, sec. 30,) it is enacted that when any such society is dissolved, its remaining property shall be handed over to some other society or societies, for the promotion of similar objects.

† Transactions p. 75.

‡ The reading of this paper was omitted, owing to the lateness of the hour. The following is an abstract.

reviewed the evidence in favor of the received opinion that an ancient lighthouse existed there. He entered into the subject in considerable detail, quoting various writers and acts of parliament, and concluded that the so called old lighthouse must have been a shortlived twin brother of the patriarch who still holds his ground at Wallasey Leasowes, having no existence prior to 1761, and probably being defunct and washed away within a few years afterwards.

On the Eastern margin of the Bay considerable changes also had taken place, between the date of Collins's survey and the year 1800. The channel had moved nearly its own breadth, or 1200 yards westward. In the course of his investigations, the writer had stumbled upon traces of a village named Altmouth, situated at the junction of the river Alt and the sea. This village is mentioned by Camden. Mr. Edward Littledale had politely afforded the opportunity of examining the records of the Alt commission in their printed volume. From these it appeared that formerly considerable apprehensions were experienced lest a portion of the locality might be inundated, in consequence of the shifting of the sandhills, which formed a secure barrier. Measures were therefore adopted to prevent the moving of the hills. Mr. Boulton conjectured that the village had been deserted in some panic, or had possibly been overwhelmed by some sand drift, as at Nineveh, and so deserted and lost.

CONCLUDING ADDRESS. *By J. T. Danson, F.S.S., V.P.*

Gentlemen, called to address you on the close of an eighth session, I find the task as easy and agreeable as it is honorable. I have nothing to remind you of that is not pleasant to remember. We still prosper; and our prosperity exhibits all the conditions of a natural and permanent progression. It is alike removed from the zeal that leads to exhaustion and the indifference that augurs decay.

The Session has afforded us 20 meetings, and we have heard read and have discussed as many papers: some of them admirable alike in design and execution, and all of them worthy of the attention they have received. I shall make no effort to place these papers in the order of their respective merits. Where, as here, excellence is in any degree general, particular eulogy, awarded on the dictum of individual taste, might well be deemed invidious. Nor would I willingly move one step towards ending the friendly competition hitherto so fruitful of good, with the meaner aspect of personal rivalry.

Their subjects have had relation, more or less distinct, to our three lines of study—Archæology, Literature, and Science—in proportions not very far from equal. Such difference as there is, however, affords some ground for the inference that Archæology, our first chosen subject, is receiving least, and science, our last chosen, receiving most attention. In view of the care and skill constantly evinced by our honorary secretary in the arrangements for our meetings, this preponderance, slight as it is, can hardly be deemed accidental. And perhaps we should do well to receive it as a warning that, in proportion as our Society expands its operations, the topics most nearly allied in character with the interests of the passing moment are likely, if our archæological and literary members do not come to our rescue, to usurp an undue share of our time. And it were surely not well that the hours we spend here, saved—as for most of us they must be—from days of needful and unchosen labour, should be devoted, in anything more than their due proportion, to topics suggested by, or suggestive of, the very toil from which we here seek relaxation. Having myself aforesaid been somewhat urgent in favor of our scientific section, it may the better become me to mark the earliest indication of any such tendency.

Touching more generally the results of the Session, I am conscious that I shall best interpret the sense of the Society in speaking with much modesty. All we have yet achieved must needs be dwarfed by comparison with what we have openly proposed, and do earnestly propose, yet to do. Thus much I may say—that our numbers have been largely increased, and that, as the forthcoming volume of our Transactions will prove, the larger body has displayed a commensurate increase of activity and power.