

NOTICE.

THE paper which is here re-printed was read at the Third Ordinary Meeting of the Historic Society, on the 14th of December, 1848. The favour with which it was received by the members present, led to a resolution that it be printed apart from the usual transactions of the Society, and circulated with the Queries which now accompany it. Imperfect as the latter confessedly are—and any such concise list must of necessity be imperfect;—it is hoped that they will not prove an inefficient medium for the systematic and comprehensive collection of information on the multifarious subjects which enter into the plans of the Society. It was well remarked by Dr. Hume, at the meeting at which the hints were submitted to the Society:—“The arrangement suggested may or may not be the best; that is a matter of comparatively little consequence. The object aimed at is the establishing of order, the sketching of a great general outline, which every movement, however subordinate or immaterial at first sight, would tend to fill up. The adoption of this management would spread over the whole district embraced by the Society, such a net-work of observers, as would secure every fact of importance for future use.” To secure the services of this widely extended band of observers is the object of the Council in this publication, and it is their most earnest wish that all into whose hands this pamphlet may come will look over the hints and queries, and consider if there be not some branch of the

many subjects alluded to, on which they may be able to communicate information to the Society. Let all, whether members of Society, or not, remember that the value of such knowledge as the Society asks, (which while confined to themselves is of little comparative value,) may lead to important results when made the common property of a large number of working and enquiring minds. While soliciting information from *all*, the Council cannot but acknowledge the success which has attended the establishment of the Historic Society. They refer with pride to the published transactions; with hope to the promised assistance; and with gratitude to the accumulating and interesting collections already in their possession. A Society so received must have been needed, and cannot but be successful.

HINTS ON THE BEST MODE OF CARRYING OUT THE OBJECTS OF
THE HISTORIC SOCIETY.

In the part which I have taken in the establishment of this Society, it has been my aim that it should be a practical and useful Society, and I have no other than a practical view in thus early bringing before you, a few hints as to the best means of working out the objects for which we have met. That little or no apology is needed from one who wishes to help this Society in its onward course, is shewn by its rapid progress, the large attendance at its meetings, and the interest expressed in its welfare by many whom distance and other causes prevent us from welcoming among us. I shall therefore proceed to the consideration of the work which we have undertaken to do, and of the best and most effectual means of doing it.

In his inaugural addresses Dr. Hume has eloquently dwelt on the necessity which existed for such a Society. The silently but gradually mouldering ruins of ancient castle, and mansion, and abbey; the decay or destruction of many a valuable charter and historic record; the scattered and *often careless* possession of many an interesting relic of ancient or mediæval art, are all incitements to the vigorous prosecution of our intended plans. But these are not all—look around and see what a vast and interesting store of every sort of useful and important detail is every where accumulating—do these demand no systematic collection, no judicious arrangement? I am not making, for I am not required to make, a public apology, where I felt I needed to make none of a personal nature. The attempt to arrest the progress of decay, and to systematise that which is so fast accumulating, is not only justifiable, but further neglect would be certainly blameable. Acting on this impulse the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire was pro-

posed, and the response made to the Prospectus issued, proves that the feeling in favour of the Society is both energetic and widely spread throughout the district,—a district rich in materials to reward the diligent and well-informed antiquary.

The work to be done by our Society is the collection, arrangement, and as far as our funds will permit, the publication of all that relates to the history, topography, natural history, statistics, and personal history or biography of the district. The variety, intricacy, and importance of such a sphere of action, render it in every way not merely desirable, but indispensable that our Society should enter on its career with due attention to *systematic* collection and arrangement, that while each member is separately engaged on that branch of knowledge for which his previous studies and taste may fit him, the general working out of the ultimate objects of the Society may be steadily kept in view.

We must take care that in commencing our operations, we begin on a sufficiently broad and comprehensive basis. Nothing is worthless or useless which can throw the smallest light on the past or present condition of the district. We are laying the foundation for a superstructure, of which we cannot estimate the ultimate length, breadth, or importance. Let us not then, by at first contracting our foundations, erect a pyramid of which the apex is wrongly placed, which each course of material—let it be never so well cemented, and cramped, and dovetailed—renders but the more certain of destruction. The comprehensiveness which is worthy of such a Society as ours will bring all the information which is collected into its proper place, so that the whole structure will be both symmetrical and enduring.

The collection of two or three facts,—in themselves, and while separate, comparatively unimportant,—will often be found to throw light on each other, and will not unfrequently lead to the clearing up of doubtful points, or the discovery of error. In this light all may be workers. No one need fear that he is a useless or unimportant

member of the Society. Let him produce a single fact, or a single specimen, and he will deserve well of, and add to the value of, the Society.*

Systematic and comprehensive collection must be carried into every part of the great field of information. The Society must seek its materials in public libraries and museums, among family papers and church records, in the deeds which history emblazons, and in those minor but interesting events which history passes over. "The threads of private life," says a modern author, "followed through several generations, would exhibit the course of events in a new and peculiar form." A method of genealogical study may be pursued, having for its objects higher views and nobler purposes than the collection of mere catalogues of names from court rolls, and dates of changes of property. Genealogy may be so studied as to exhibit the changes of society, the progress of civilization; and no district can be better suited than ours for such a method of discriminating research. Nor must we forget the great and interesting natural features of the district, its geological divisions as well as its parochial limits, the varieties of its occupants whether as relates to their physical, and intellectual qualities, or to the extent and minute subdivision of the labour in which they are engaged. We must trace their gradual but sure advance from a people inhabiting an almost savage district, to their present high station in the scale of manufacturing importance.

This collection of facts must form our first and most serious ob-

* "If a collection could be made," says the Bishop of Norwich, "of all the isolated and floating facts connected with the various branches of topographical knowledge, it is obvious that an invaluable body of information, and ample stores of materials might be amassed, of the utmost importance to the traveller, the antiquarian, the man of science, and the naturalist. It is a wide field of enquiry, and open to all, for there are few, if any, persons in existence so devoid of observation and curiosity, as to be incapable of deriving some advantage from the situation in which they are placed."

ject, but it must lead to another and almost equally important work, that of classification and arrangement. Our facts will be useless if we must consume much valuable time in hunting for each modicum of information of which we have need. Our library should be and will be the centre whence its stores can be circulated among the members of the Society. Twenty or a hundred isolated facts remain but so many separate and comparatively useless facts while scattered among so many members of the Society. Collected here, and arranged in their proper order, they become so many sources of knowledge to the hundreds of members who may have access to them.

It is not too much, looking to the varied qualifications required in any one who undertakes to write a good history of a county or district, to enquire who is equal to such a herculean task? Where shall we find in one mind the profundity of knowledge, the laborious and patient research, the skill in generalisation, the talent for detail, the aptitude for so many and so varied investigations; the taste, energy, and self-sacrificing zeal which can carry such a labour to a successful termination? But, what few individual minds can fairly be hoped to accomplish, may be done by the united and vigorous working of such a Society as this. While in the outset of our career, we may be usefully employed in collecting and publishing such information of a general nature as may both interest, and, I may venture without offence to add, instruct the members, and give stimulus to further investigation, a great body of specific information as to every part of the district may gradually be collected, to be one day the basis of a connected history of the two counties.

I may now proceed to offer, but with great diffidence, some of the modes to be adopted in the collection and arrangement of our materials.

In the first place, in order to secure uniformity and system in collecting information, I have drawn up a paper of queries, which may be sent, not only to members of the Society, but to all official persons, the clergy, and gentry of the counties, asking infor-

mation on the various details of their parishes or districts. These queries have not been hastily drawn up, or adopted without consideration. I have consulted the best lists adopted by other Societies,* and am especially indebted to the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, the *Archæological Journal*, and to a pamphlet entitled "Heads for the Arrangement of Local Information," by Dr. Stanley, Bishop of Norwich.

I hope I shall not be accused of presumption in thus gathering together a series of hints of *what* should be observed, and *how* we should observe. The list has been so compiled that it may be as comprehensive as possible as to objects to be investigated, and as suggestive as possible of the points in investigation which are most necessary to be attended to.

It is not too much to suppose that the answers to such a body of queries, will be productive of much varied and most valuable information. Whenever any remains of an interesting character exist, whether Celtic, Roman, Saxon, or mediæval, some one, we hope, may be found who may become a willing co-labourer with ourselves.

While these queries are in circulation, we, at the fountain head, must not be idle. System and sub-division of materials will be our great means of successful arrangement. Let me throw out a hint of the way in which our materials may be divided and kept in order.

Separate books, or other means will be provided, so as to enable the facts collected to be arranged into

1. A MONASTICON, or record of all monastic remains; whether buildings, tombs, inscriptions, utensils, seals, &c.

* What in England is left to chance or single-handed enthusiasm, has been in France carefully considered by the Government. Classified series of queries were addressed by the late Minister Guizot, to the 33,000 Communes or Parishes in France, and these have served as a basis to many of the lists circulated in our own country by different Societies.

2. An ECCLESIASTICON, or similar record of all that relates to parochial churches, chapels, and other ecclesiastical buildings, and of all objects such as tombs, crosses, &c., connected with them.

3. A CASTELLARIUM, a similar record of all castellated remains.

4. A MANSIONARIUM, a similar collection relating to all ancient mansions and houses of a certain degree of importance, and to their connected remains.

5. A VILLARE and PAROCHIALE applying to all buildings and remains of towns, villages, parishes, &c.; including all public, civil buildings, &c.

In these classes should be included plans, drawings, and admeasurements of all the objects, &c., whether in general views, or details of even the most minute parts.

6. A CHARTULARIUM, including as complete a catalogue and account, as possible, of all ancient documents referring to the five preceding classes. The manorial history of the county may be included in this division.

7. An OBITUARIUM, containing notices and pedigrees of ancient families, notices of celebrated characters, and collections of all that relates to the public and private life of all classes who are or have been inhabitants of the district.

8. An ordinary of arms, containing authentic copies of all existing remains of mediæval heraldry, and of all inscriptions which accompany them. Church windows, monuments, shields, whether external or internal, in or on churches, mansions, or architectural remains, should be most carefully examined, and all heraldic devices, badges, and cognizances, copied with the greatest care and precision.

9. An index of all printed books relating to the district.

10. An index of all MS. collections connected with the district, or throwing any light on any of the families of the county.

11. An index of all Acts of Parliament, as well public as private, local and public plans, charts, surveys, trigonometrical diagrams, &c.

12. A catalogue of all pictures, prints, collections of drawings, &c.

In these four classes references should be made to the present depositories of all rare and valuable articles.

13. A double index of all objects of antiquity found in or relating to the district. 1st.—Parochial, mentioning dates of discovery, and locality. 2nd.—Systematic, giving a classification of objects, dates of manufacture, &c.

In this list a minute collection of all notices of the discovery of coins, medals, &c., will be inserted.

14. AN ITINERARIUM. Notices, plans, and surveys of all British, Roman, and other ancient roads or ways, to be embodied in a map of the district, and in a general report of the means of communication and defence of the district.

15. AN INDEX COMITATUS, containing statistical details, tables of population, and notices of various economic matters relative to the two counties.

16. Natural history, geology, &c. A flora, hortus siccus, &c.

17. Ballads, traditions, customs, &c., &c.

This list may be extended to any greater number of sub-divisions, as materials are sent in to the Society, and facility of reference requires the separation.

It is not too much to say, that in the first great division, the Architectural history, at least, of both countries remains to be written. Had an antiquary as able and zealous as Whitaker embraced a larger sphere of action than the original parish of Whalley, and honor of Clithero; had as industrious and painstaking an enquirer as Mr. Beck, done for other monastic remains what he did for the splendid foundation and ruins of Furness;—still while any portion of this extensive district remains without its historian, there will not be wanting ample room for fresh labourers in a field which

has given such results. I do not underrate the particular excellence of Ormerod's Cheshire, or Baines's Lancashire, when I say that they have not, in either case, exhausted the subjects on which they have written.

In all cases of architectural remains, the want has been that no sufficient attention has been given to all the details: to the careful admeasurement, and correct delineation, not only of the great general features, but of the smallest portions. We must bear in mind that the recent labours of the antiquary and the architect, have given powers of discriminating periods, and fixing dates, which but a few years ago would have been thought impossible.

Wherever there is a fragment of ancient architecture, there let a member of our Society be found, with pencil and measuring line, ready to enrich our stores with the correct and minute details, which only careful personal survey can give.

To the division which relates to Genealogy, it is evident that all may easily contribute. The custodian of almost every parochial register may find in it much that is as novel as it is valuable. Any accurate observer who will transcribe all the monumental inscriptions in any church, chapel, or burial place, will be doing a great service to the future historian. We want a good history of the *people* of the district. I need not point out how valuable it will be to accompany the information with exact copies of all armorial bearings, or how important is the next branch in my list, that of an ORDINARY OF ALL ARMS connected with the district.

“Among the best services which district Societies could render to their respective districts,” says a writer in the *Archæological Journal*, “would be obtaining and preserving authentic copies of all armorial bearings and inscriptions within their localities, which were executed previously, say—to the accession of Elizabeth, or the Revolution of 1688. These it would be a great matter to have faithfully copied, before time or the hand of the spoiler, or restorer, shall have effaced them. Such copies would throw light on each other,

and assist essentially in verifying the genealogies and arms of the county families in times past, and become valuable documents in the hands of local historians. Examples of coat armour, badges, crests, &c., that can be referred to the 13th, 14th or the early part of the 15th century, are especially deserving of notice." The same writer says, with regard to the mode of copying arms, "if engraved on brass they may be rubbed off on paper in the usual way, either with heel-ball or black lead. If carved on stone or wood, they may sometimes be copied either by the application of wet unsized paper, or by rubbing with tissue paper and black lead. If they are on glass, and accessible, they should be traced on paper. When a drawing is made, it should be executed with the most scrupulous fidelity, and exhibit the peculiar forms of the shield and charges. In the application of wet unsized paper, or rubbing, it is very important to clear out the lines, &c. well first, with a *wooden* point and a brush. On no account should metal points be used, because of scratching the original." The whole of this paper, which is contained in the 5th vol., (No. 17.) of the *Archæological Journal*, is very useful and interesting.

I have before adverted to the importance of double indices of all antiquities, coins, &c., found in the district. Ex. gra. the very curious brooch exhibited at the last meeting of the Society, and of which a description and wood cut will be found in the second number of the transactions, would be entered in the first index under the parish in which it was found, and in the second under the name "brooch" would be described, and the wood cut representation inserted. So with the Hoylake antiquities, and with any others which may be entrusted to us either permanently, or for exhibition, at any of our meetings. Of what value would such an index now be, had it been regularly kept by the Antiquarian Society from its foundation.

It surely cannot be unreasonable to hope that in such a Society there is enthusiasm enough to furnish at no distant day, a complete series of rubbings of the brasses in the two counties. They are not

so numerous that there might not be found a place for the display of the whole series, and they would form a very interesting and important feature in the museum of the Society.

The mention of the word museum reminds me, that it may be well to say, that though unexpected difficulties have arisen in connexion with one plan which the council had in view, their attention will be constantly given to the best means of securing at the earliest possible period, this distinguishing and most useful part of the constitution of the Society. They know that many most valuable presents are now only awaiting the establishment of a proper receptacle for their exhibition, and they feel that the exhibition of such objects would not only afford much gratification, but would greatly tend to educate the members and their friends in archæology, and would prevent the destruction and dispersion of many future discoveries.

In the meantime, until a suitable plan of arranging the museum of the Society can be found, the possessors of interesting remains, historical or artistic, can confer no greater boon on the Society, than by allowing them to be exhibited at its meetings, and described and figured in its transactions. The loan or gift of voluminous or expensive works relating to the two counties, or to general topographical or archæological knowledge, I need hardly allude to as another most important means of aiding the infant Society. The necessity of constant reference to such works, by all who take a part in the working of the Society, is a sufficient apology for thus noticing this desideratum. It would also render the exhibition of antiquities more valuable to the student, could sufficient time be secured when sending them, for a few remarks to be prepared before the meeting.

In all our researches in architectural antiquities, it is most desirable that as far as possible, an uniform mode of exhibiting them may be adopted. Thus in ground plans, it has often struck me, that if all societies and all engravers represented certain known architectural

periods, say the Norman, early English, decorated, and perpendicular by different arrangements of line, as the heralds do in representing the different colours, much benefit would accrue, as it would enable the archaeologist to read the history of the church, as the heraldic student reads an emblazoned shield.

It need not be pointed out how indispensable is accuracy in all undertakings of this nature. Whatever is uncertain or beyond our own knowledge, should be submitted to the investigation of competent persons; and in discoveries of an antiquarian nature, every fragment should be preserved, and scrupulously examined. Broken pottery, and fragments of any ornamented article, will often determine the existence of a Roman or British station. Too much care can never be taken, in removing antiquities from the soil in which they are found, or in noticing the exact relative position in which different articles are lying when discovered. I am contemplating that many of our members will be starting out as working archaeologists, and I am, therefore, I hope, strictly in order in thus begging many an enthusiastic discoverer, to be patient in investigating, and tender and careful in removing all objects he may find;—to be strict and accurate in all measurements; watchful over every line of the pen or pencil;—to omit no essential part, either of the general or of the detail;—to take nothing on trust;—to copy with the greatest fidelity, all inscriptions;—and above all, whatever is undertaken, to do all that can be done to illustrate the whole subject, whether it be a building, or whatever the subject matter may be. If begun with good will, and carried on with system and care, archaeological pursuits will end in pleasure; while all crude and hasty investigations, however important and valuable their subjects, must end in nothing but disappointment and discredit. I will in concluding these imperfect hints repeat what I have observed, that the present times are favourable, not only to general endeavours to extend the field of archæology, and natural history, and topography, but the spread of this general interest in these subjects almost demands the

more limited, but therefore more minute labours of local societies. The grand trunks of the archæological societies, (to use a well understood phrase of the day,) require a constant succession of feeders, and where can these elements of success to the parent institutions be so well fostered, as in societies like that which we are now endeavouring to bring into a healthy state of operation.

QUERIES.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PARISH OR DISTRICT.

- Name of parish, township, or district, hundred, &c.
 Its length and breadth, and acreage, in statute measure.
 Number of acres in tillage, pasture, waste and woods; and in lakes, meres, with length, breadth, and depth of each.
 What rivers, brooks, or canals pass through it, or bound it?
 What turnpike or other roads pass through it; what length of turnpike road is there in the parish?
 Are there any forests, woods, parks, within it.
 What is the general scenery of the parish or district; is it open, enclosed, hilly, plain, undulating; are there any remarkable views?
 Explain the general geological character of the parish.
 Are there any good maps, plans, or surveys of the parish, published or unpublished; or any charts relating to its sea line?
 Name the boundaries of the parish.
 What is the present POPULATION OF THE PARISH? what was its population at former periods?
 State the number of houses, inhabited, uninhabited, in ruins, or building; mention the number of houses which last year paid window tax, and amount of duty paid.
 What is the derivation, or supposed derivation of the name of the parish?

ANCIENT STATE OF PARISH, EARLY BRITISH PERIOD,

- What was its ancient condition?
 Do any remains or discoveries shew that it was a British or Roman station?
 Do any BRITISH ROADS OR TRACKWAYS pass through the parish?
 Are they still to be traced, and if so in what direction; are they direct, or devious, following the sides of hills, or running over them?
 Of what materials are they composed, and in what form are they made—sunken, flat, or barrelled; measure the breadth, and give plan if possible, noticing points at which the road is visible?
 Are there in the parish any presumed CELTIC remains, such as :—
 Rocks or stones which are objects of popular tradition or superstition, whether natural rocks, *in situ*, or placed by the hand of man.

Solitary stones, or stones placed two or more together, in circular, elliptic, or oblong form, or with another placed horizontally on them so as to form a kind of altar

Rocking stones, turning stones; rock basins, or hollows formed in large stones; stones having holes through which the body of a child might pass, or so placed that a child or adult could just squeeze through them.

Lines or rows of stones, covered galleries of stones.

Cairns, either simple heaps of stones, or surrounded by circles of stones, or in groups.

Tumuli. Give correct sketches of the outline or profile of the mounds.

Are there any traces of presumed early British habitations, or of the rude Cyclopean masonry?

Have any bones, axes, spears, or arrow-heads, shields, torques, vases, coins, pins, rings, or other remains, been found; in whose possession are they; could they be obtained for the museum or for exhibition, or could a drawing or description be made for the Society?

ROMAN PERIOD.

Are there any traces or presumed traces of ROMAN ROADS in the parish? [Roman roads, especially in cultivated or enclosed districts are seldom to be traced throughout the whole extent, points therefore are to be carefully noticed, at which, from finding coins or other Roman remains, it is presumed the road touched. The occurrence of a Roman camp, is also an indication, as there was almost always a road more or less permanent, leading to it. A Foreign or unusual name given by local tradition to a modern road, will often be a guide.] Where there are known stations, draw a line on the map from station to station, and then taking into account the natural features of the country, see how the distance agrees with that in the Itinerary. The Roman engineers were fully sensible of the physical difficulties of hilly and mountainous regions.

Note the mode of construction of the road, the materials geologically considered; the breadth; whether flat or barrelled; paved; if above the present surface, or cut as a channel into the ground, or through the solid rock are there any traces of tracks for wheels on the rail-road principle.

Are there any presumed ROMAN REMAINS, as milestones, traces of walls, tumuli along the line of road, or any remains where no road is supposed to exist?

Have any traces of a ROMAN CAMP been discovered; or any remains of any station or outpost supposed to be Roman; if so, note carefully the position, admeasurement, and bearings of its sides, any traces of stone or brick-work, giving their exact position, trace the entrances and any indications of roads, embankments, or drains leading from the camp, giving a ground plan and profile of the fosse, agger, and vallum.

What name is given to the camp?

Is there reason to suppose that any British station or encampment in the district, was occupied by the Romans?

Are there any remains of Roman edifices, temples, amphitheatres, &c., or of works of presumed Roman construction, such as walls of towns, subterraneous constructions which may have served for wells or store-houses, aqueducts or drains?

In the event of the discovery of Roman edifices, carefully note any traces of apparatus for warming apartments, by flues passing under the floors; or for warm baths; examine all remains of stucco or plaster inside or outside the walls, and remark the colours. Sift the earth to discover coins or objects of art, often found in the darker coloured earth occurring in the site of ancient habitations. If a river is in the immediate vicinity, dredging may be resorted to, with a prospect of bringing Roman remains to light. Observe and make notes of soil and all particulars of the debris; nothing should escape the diligent and keen investigator, and nothing should be thrown away without the most scrupulous investigation.

Is there any Mosaic pavement; or the remains of cubes of clay which may have formed such a pavement?

Should there be any remains of either of the above descriptions, note the bearing by compass, the geological characters of the stone, measure all dimensions, and if possible give a ground plan.

Have any implements, ornaments, or arms, fragments of helmets or shields, torques, spear-heads, or swords, been found; of what metal are they; all such articles should be carefully delineated, if possible, and treated with caution to prevent injury?

What coins have been found? Too much stress cannot be laid on the importance of allowing coins, medals, &c., to be inspected by competent persons *before* they are submitted to any process of cleaning. In the event of a mass of coins being found not easily to be disunited, a little vinegar will be the best means of separating them.

Have any vases; pottery, fine or coarse; vessels of glass, been discovered? Particular care is, of course, necessary in securing vessels of the latter description; minute descriptions should be given of the substance and composition, form, colour, &c., of any articles found.

Have any milestones, altars, inscribed stones, or specimens of Roman sculpture been discovered; where are they now deposited?

It may be borne in mind by the inhabitants of the district embraced within the range of the operations of the Historic Society, that the discoveries in their field of observation have produced some of the finest remains of antiquarian interest; witness the helmet, &c., found at Ribchester, the umbo of a shield figured by Whitaker, the rich treasures of Cuerdale, &c. Some part of the district in the

vicinity of the Roman roads and stations could not fail amply to reward antiquarian search.

- Are there any objects presumed to be of the period extending from the departure of the Romans from Britain, to the era of the Norman Conquest; any buildings presumed to be of the Anglo-Saxon period; any traces of military occupation during that period?
- Have any Anglo-Saxon fibulæ, or personal ornaments, coins, vases, or other objects of art of the Anglo-Saxon period been discovered?
- Are any Runic or sculptured crosses standing in the parish; or have any such been discovered, removed, or destroyed?
- Do you know of any objects of art, or remains of any kind, not enumerated in the preceding questions, which there is any reason to suppose are of a date antecedent to the Norman conquest?

MEDIEVAL AND MODERN PERIODS.

- Is the parish named in Domesday-book, and under what name; who are mentioned in that survey as having, or as having held, lands, &c.?
- If the parish is not so named, what is the earliest date at which its name occurs?
- MANORIAL HISTORY.**—Is the parish divided into one or more manors, and what are their names, if more than one?
- In what families have the manor, or manors, been vested?
- Name the present possessor, or possessors, of manors.
- Are there any peculiar manorial courts, rights, customs, privileges, tenures, or any other remarkable practices connected with the tenure of land in the parish?
- What **MANSIONS** are there; of what style of architecture, and by whom are they inhabited; are there any fine collections of books, pictures, statuary, antiquities, or other works of art, in the possession of any families in the parish?
- Are there any **RUINS OR REMAINS OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS**, civil, military, or ecclesiastical, of a period subsequent to the Norman conquest?
- Have any foundations of buildings been discovered, or are any traceable in the parish; in all cases give ground plans, if practicable, and careful measurements.
- Have any such remains been destroyed, or injured, within the memory of man?
- Wherever there are remains of ancient buildings, describe the general situation, and present appearance of the remains; give careful measurements of the general dimensions, and of all the parts; describe and measure all doors and windows; all tombs, inscriptions, heraldic devices, crosses, utensils, &c., &c., connected with them. If possible give accurate sketches of the general views, and of parts, laying down a ground plan, on which may be expressed the situation of all tombs, crosses, &c., &c. [If any discoveries have been, or may be, made within such ruins, of objects of ancient art or manufacture, a notice entered in the general index of the Society will be of essential

service to the future historian. Any objects which it is not possible to place, either permanently or temporarily, in the museum of the Society, may, it is hoped, be forwarded for exhibition at one of the meetings, and for the purpose of having sketches taken for preservation in the books of the Society.]

Do any traditions point to sites of buildings, &c, not now to be traced by any remains.

ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENT.—State the different cures of souls in the parish or district, as rectories, vicarages, endowed or other curacies, with their real as well as rated value, in the king's books, and whence the emoluments arise, what changes or additions have been made by legal enactments, Queen Anne's bounty, &c.

Name the incumbents of the livings, chaplains, curates, &c., from the earliest to the present times, pointing out such as have been distinguished by talents, conduct, &c.

In whose gift are the various church preferments?

What benefactions have been given to the parish—how are they distributed?

* * Particular information is earnestly requested as to the PAROCHIAL REGISTERS; their earliest date, present state, and as ample extracts from them as can be given. *No subject is of more importance to the antiquarian and historian, and in no way can clergymen do greater service than by rendering accessible the valuable documents in their custody. The benefit which they will confer, will not be confined to this particular Society, but will extend to all engaged in the pursuits of archæological and topographical investigation.*

THE CHURCH.—Is the Church ancient or modern? If ancient, what are its general plan, and dimensions?

A ground plan, giving the position of all monuments, piscinæ, closet-like recess or aumbrey, chantries, roodscreens, &c., and noticing the different styles of architecture in the various parts, would be most valuable.

EXTERNALLY.—Of what materials is it; are there any Roman-like bricks about the doors and windows, or in the body of the wall; any rude masonry, presumed to be of the Saxon period, or anything remarkable in its construction?

In what position is the tower; how many stages has it; is it embattled; has it a beacon-turret or spire, and of what shape?

How many doorways are there; of what form are the heads—semi-circular, or pointed, acute or equilateral, struck from two or four centres; of ogee-form or flat?

Note the mouldings of the doorways, and, if possible, give sections, and sketches of any ornaments.

Are the doors themselves ancient, and of what form is the iron-work?

Describe the windows, especially those at the east and west end of the church; of what shape are their arches; have they dripstones; are the mullions and transoms plain or moulded; is the tracery of the heads in flowing or in perpendicular lines?

Are there any niches for images; water-stoups externally; any figures,

with or without shields of arms; shields of arms, ciphers, dates, or inscriptions?

Is there a rood-loft staircase, or any remains of one; any bell-turret on the gable of the nave or aisles; any low side-window, and in what situation; or any other peculiarity worthy of notice?

Are the buttresses flat or graduated, and how ornamented and terminated; are the parapets plain or embattled; have they pinnacles, or in gable-crosses, or gurgoyles; are there any sculptured bands, or moulded strings, under the windows, or as continuations of the dripstones, or elsewhere?

Are there any covered gates or *lich-gates* to the churchyard; any crosses, or any remarkable trees in the churchyard?

Are there any remarkable tombs, of what material?

INTERNALLY—How is the Church divided; describe the pillars, whether simple, clustered, cylindrical, or angular, whether plain or ornamented bases or capitals?

Are the pier arches semi-circular or pointed—plain or moulded; is there a gallery or triforium over the aisles; describe the openings, and note if there are any windows (clerestory windows) in the upper walls of the nave or chancel?

Describe the arch between the nave and chancel, and any moulded string-crosses, sculptured bands, stone panelling, niches, corbels, or brackets?

Is the ceiling groined or flat—of stone, wood, or lath and plaster; if the roof is ancient, describe how it is supported, whether the timbers are plain, carved, or painted; if there are any carved bosses, or shields of arms, inscriptions, or paintings; if the ceiling is modern, notice if any remains of the corbels or supports of the concealed or destroyed roof remain?

Are there on the walls any inscriptions, or ancient paintings, diapered or heraldic designs, or any ancient stained glass, either of figures or heraldic devices in the windows?

Notice and give measurements of the font, and of any piscinæ, (with or without a shelf,) aumbrey, low-silled window, sedilia, chantry, rood-loft, screen, or stairs, or remains thereof. If any sedilia remain, note if any of them had any perforation at the back, as if for confessional purposes. Remark any perforations of the piers or walls, (squints,) constructed so as to give a view of the altars, &c., and any small passages through the chancel walls below the level of the windows, communicating either with the churchyard or with an aisle, directly or diagonally.

Describe all ancient monuments, whether on the walls or pavement, whether raised or concave, with devices, incised slabs or brasses, altar tombs, monumental figures, inscriptions; and give a list of all existing monuments, and copies of all armorial bearings.

If any carved-work remains, in the pulpit, altar-piece, lectern, screens, rails, communion-table, seats, church-chest, or poor-box; if the

font is ancient; if any inscription, armorial bearings, or ornaments are on the communion-plate; or if any ancient embroidery exists connected with the church furniture, a notice will be highly desirable. The directions (page 13,) as to rubbing brasses, and taking impressions of carvings, engravings, &c, will be of service.

Have the bells any commemorative inscriptions?

Is any school-building attached to the church?

What **DISSENTING CHAPELS** are there in the parish; when built; how endowed, &c.; have any of their ministers been distinguished as men of learning or talent?

EDUCATION.—Is there any endowed Grammar School; by whom founded; how endowed; and what is its present condition, whether with reference to the building itself, its efficiency, or the number of scholars?

Name the master or masters.

What other educational establishments are there—public and private?

Is there any library connected with the church or parish; by whom given or founded, and how kept up; the number and description of books, average attendance, and facility offered to the parishioners for reading?

What is the state of education generally in the parish; what facilities and encouragements for education are held out; are there any instances of extraordinary talent, or meritorious conduct in the schools; can it be stated what number per cent. of the parishioners are unable to read or write?

Name the eminent **NATIVES** of the parish, or eminent persons connected with, or resident in the parish.

Have any *eccentric persons* been natives of, or resident in the parish?

IDIOM, CUSTOMS, &c.—Are there any words or phrases peculiar to the people of the district; have they any remarkable legends, ballads, or traditions?

Are any ancient customs or games kept up in the parish; or are there any customs of which the origin is unknown, or which are peculiar to the parish?

Are there any peculiar customs observed at funerals, or subsequently, respecting the dead?

Are there any trees, wells, or springs, which are of superstitious interest, and at what distance are they from the parish church?

Is any superstitious attention paid to any species of quadrupeds, bird, or insect?

Are you aware of any published or unpublished accounts of these superstitions, customs, or of any glossary of the provincial dialect?

GEOLOGY, &c.—What is the general nature of the soil of the parish; on what stratum does the upper soil rest; what is the general depth of the upper stratum?

Have any remarkable geological, fossil, or mineralogical specimens been found in the parish? What fossils or minerals are most commonly discovered.

Are any mines or quarries at present worked, or are there any such disused; what is the quality of the stone, and for what purpose is it principally used?

Are there any mineral or remarkable springs?

Have you noted any remarkable atmospheric phenomena, any extraordinary effects from storms, lightning, or other powerful natural causes, any great and unusual barometrical variations; or have you made any observations as to temperature, quantity of rain, &c.

NATURAL HISTORY, &c.—Can you give a list of undomesticated animals—of the common and rare birds—of appearance and disappearance of particular species—of fish which frequent the rivers, lakes, &c.—of the common and rarer insects, &c., which are found in the district?

“Residents on the coast,” says the Bishop of Norwich, “have often favourable opportunities for collecting facts relative to the migration of birds, and other circumstances connected with natural history, either from actual observation, or by communicating with sea-faring persons, who might frequently impart much interesting information.”

The Bishop notices birds flying against the glass of light-houses— assembling of birds on the shore, as if for migration—birds settling on ships, &c., as being points for observation.

Have you paid attention to the mollusca, shells, plants, &c., thrown on the sea-shore; can you give any list, or information, or procure specimens for the Society?

Enumerate such plants as may be considered at all rare, mentioning the soil and site in which particular plants or trees thrive more abundantly; and, if possible, send specimens of plants to form a *hortus siccus*.

Do any local or general Acts of Parliament apply to the parish; name them, and any works, published, or in manuscript, relating to, or containing information respecting it?

[It is felt by the writer, and will be felt by all to whom these queries are addressed, that such a list can barely touch on and point out a few general lines of enquiry, which each recipient will best be able to fill up for himself. In towns, the markets, and fairs. The affairs of the municipality. Police, and statistics of crime. The large field of parochial economy, which comes under the head of education, has hardly been noticed. The charitable institutions, the statistics of employment of the population, the regulations of parochial relief—the details of the tillage of the district, the grain principally grown, and date of introduction—its breed of cattle, and peculiar customs of husbandry, the extent of drainage, &c., &c.—the number of cottage gardens and allotments, the institutions for the encouragement of the industrious poor—their amusements and games—health and disease—manufactures and occupations—the dress, dwellings, habits of life, and conditions of the labouring classes; these and many other kindred subjects, all worthy of investigation, and all valuable to the writer who would describe the whole life of the district, can only be introduced here, and united in one general recommendation that none of these points be lost sight of by those able and willing to communicate information.]
