

REPORT FOR 1896.

During the year, fifteen resident and five non-resident members have joined the Society ; while of residents one has died, three have resigned, and two have been amoved ; and of non-residents two have died and six have resigned.

Ten meetings were held during the session, at which eleven papers, all bearing upon the history of our two counties or their inhabitants, were read.

The Society has joined the Archæological Congress, and thus becomes entitled to the admirable index to papers printed in the *Transactions* of kindred societies, which members will observe are issued to them bound up with our own *Transactions*.

The Council is glad to announce that its efforts to preserve the ruins of Birkenhead Priory have been crowned with success. The Corporation of Birkenhead not being legally able to acquire the ruins, a fund was raised, to which the Society contributed five guineas, on condition that Mr. E. W. Cox, on behalf of the Society, should have the direction of the excavations and conservation of these ancient buildings. The ruins are now the property of the Corporation, and the work done under Mr. Cox's direction has given great satisfaction, and resulted in many important discoveries.

A separate report on the Excursions held during the year, from the pen of Mr. W. E. Gregson, the indefatigable Excursions Secretary, is appended.

MEMBERS ELECTED, 1896.

Jan. 16. *Birkenhead Free Liby.	Nov. 19. *James Williamson.
„ 16. Rev. J. Brearley, M. A.	„ 19. *H. Madrell, Jr.
„ 30. Hubert Peck, M. D.	„ 19. *J. R. Watkins.
Feb. 15. C. S. Beeston.	Dec. 3. *G. A. Duffus, M. D.
Mar. 2. *W. E. Plummer.	„ 3. *W. J. R. Dunn, M. D.
„ 2. *Hugh Cullen, Jr.	„ 3. *Alfred Gilbertson.
„ 2. *W. Whinnerah.	„ 3. *W. E. Parry.
Nov. 5. *J. A. Pilkington.	„ 3. *Edgar Martin, M. D.
„ 5. Thomas May.	„ 3. *Thomas Roberts.
„ 5. A. W. Radley.	„ 17. *John Radcliffe.

PAPERS READ, 1896.

Jan. 16. "Notes upon Formby Parish" - - -	W. E. Gregson.
„ 30. "Town Guilds" - - - - -	T. Stanley Ball.
Feb. 13. "The Records of an old Liverpool Club"	C. F. Birbeck Wilson.
„ 27. "The Evolution of the Mediæval Hall" -	E. W. Cox.
Mar. 12. "The King's Mills of Ancient Liverpool"	Richard Bennett.
„ 26. "Halsall Church" - - - - -	Henry Taylor.
Nov. 5. "Lancaster Castle" - - - - -	E. W. Cox.
„ 19. "The Lesser Halls of Lancashire" -	James A. Waite.
Dec. 3. "Mrs. Hemans's Places of Abode in and near Liverpool" - - - - -	G. T. Shaw.
„ 3. "Notes on St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool, from the Municipal Records" - - -	Henry Peet, F.S.A.
„ 17. "On an Altar and other 'Finds' at the Roman Station of Wilderspool" - - - - -	Thomas May.

EXCURSIONS, 1896.

During the past summer this Society arranged four half-day excursions. These were as follows :—

On Saturday, July 4th, arrangements were made for a visit to Ince, Stanlaw, and Thornton-le-Moors, in Cheshire. Seventeen members and friends composed the party, and spent a very interesting and profitable afternoon, under the guidance of Mr. E. W. Cox. The old and interesting church at Thornton-le-Moors was thoroughly examined, as well as the monkish grange at Ince. Time would not admit of a visit being paid to the site of Stanlaw Abbey, of which, however, few, if any, remains are in existence.

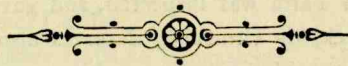
On Saturday, July 18th, a visit was paid to Hoghton Tower, which was very kindly thrown open to the inspection of the Society by Sir James de Hoghton. The Honorary Secretary met the members at Hoghton Tower, and acted as guide over this beautiful and historically interesting residence. This excursion was attended by twenty members and their friends.

On Saturday, August 15th, an excursion was made to Ormskirk and Lathom. Mr. James Bromley spared no pains to make this an instructive and pleasant afternoon. Not only was Ormskirk Church thoroughly examined, but a visit was paid to the ancient and interesting almonry at Lathom, and the curious open-air bath at the Bath Farm was inspected, and gave rise to many theories. Dr. Peck, of Ormskirk, deserves also the thanks of the Society for the trouble he took over this excursion. Seventeen members and friends joined this party.

On Saturday, September 19th, the last excursion was made, to Bunbury Church, Beeston Castle, and Peckforton. Mr. John Hargreaves and Mr. E. W. Cox combined to guide and instruct the party, and are deserving of the heartiest congratulations of the Society for arranging and carrying out a most delightful day.

Anyone attending this excursion could not fail to be the wiser in matters historical and archæological. Bunbury Church as a specimen of ecclesiastical building is in its way unique, and from the artistic and historical points needs only to be seen to be appreciated; whilst Peckforton, as an instance of a modern habitation on the plan of a Norman Castle, is not matched in the country. After partaking of tea, Mr. Cox and Mr. Hargreaves very kindly gave short accounts of the places visited. This excursion was attended by eighteen members and friends.

It is to be regretted that more members do not avail themselves of these excursions. They are very troublesome to arrange and are remarkably cheap, and no person can become an able antiquary or archæologist without placing himself in contact with the glorious monuments in church, abbey, and castle which have been bequeathed to us by a long line of pious and noble ancestors. Short accounts of the excursions to Ince, Ormskirk, and Beeston have appeared in the Liverpool papers, through the kindness of Mr. Waite.



The Historic Society of Lancashire & Cheshire in account with the Hon. Treasurer,
FOR THE YEAR 1896.

RECEIPTS.

Balance brought from last year's account...	£86 0 3
Subscriptions received	192 13 6
Sale of <i>Transactions</i>	16 2 6

PAYMENTS.

Sessional Expenses—	
Fire Insurance.....	£0 16 0
Teas	6 18 4
T. Brakell, Ltd.—Printing.....	13 4 0
Rent	10 10 0
Secretary	26 5 0
Treasurer's Disbursements—	
Stamps	2 5 0
	£59 18 4
T. Brakell, Ltd.—Printing, &c., vol. 47.....	£113 0 0
Indexing	2 2 0
Copies of Archaeological Index to bind with volume	2 3 9
Sketches for Illustrations	3 3 0
	120 8 9
Subscription to Archaeological Congress	£1 1 0
Do. to Record Society.....	1 1 0
Donation to Birkenhead Priory Fund	5 5 0
	7 7 0
Excursion Account—Printing	2 3 0
Balance in Bank and in hand, to next year's account	104 19 2

£294 16 3

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H. D. ESHELBY, *Hon. Treasurer.*