

COMMUNICATION.

WILLIAM FARRER.

1861-1924.

THE death of so distinguished a Lancashire antiquary and historian as the late William Farrer ought not to pass without notice in our *Transactions*. A welcome and well-deserved tribute to his character and work as a scholar has been rendered by Professor Tait of Manchester in the *English Historical Review* for January 1925, so that there is no need to dwell further upon them.

Mr. Farrer was a member of this Society for about thirty years, resigning in 1920. He contributed an essay on the Barony of Grelley to the volume for 1901, and sent a brief note of a Rochdale Charter to that for 1915. He assisted the Local History and Palæographical Schools at the University. He had little personal connection with Liverpool, though the Farrer estate included valuable land in the heart of the city, the Stock Exchange being built on a portion purchased from the trustees.

At last his strenuous work told upon him. In the spring of 1924 he had an illness, and was examined by a specialist. At the time he wrote: "There is nothing wrong organically, but nature has kicked at being overworked, and a long rest will be required It does not do to overtax nature, however keen one may be." He therefore decided to lengthen his usual summer holiday in Norway, where he enjoyed the salmon fishing, but intended to reach Whitbarrow by August 28. On August 16, in acknowledging some proofs of the third volume of his *Honors and Knights' Fees*, he wrote cheerfully: "Very fine weather here for many weeks, with sun

and very few dull or wet days. Very different to the English weather, so far as I can make out. Fishing is over, so I just 'laze' about." Next morning he appeared to be in his usual health at breakfast, but shortly afterwards, having been left alone, was found dead sitting in his chair. So concluded an active and distinguished career.

The body was brought to England and buried at Witherslack, Westmorland, on August 25.

being a youth of "laxer powers," his friends were afraid that he would squander his patrimony, and so in June 1802, when he was but 21, they persuaded him to enter it on his estate—his own name first, then to his wife, Peter Shaw, clerk, and then to another uncle, James Shaw, at Kildale, clerk (petitioner's father). Robert died without male issue, through a son Thomas (named), and so did the elder Peter, leaving having died also the churchman, schoolmaster, but it was alleged that Robert had made a later settlement—was twice as before contented—to claimant's injury. He therefore asked for an inquiry (copy of James Shaw's petition, p. 102).

Secretary General, etc. The following information about these bells has been kindly sent me by Mr. E. H. Gifford, F.S.A.:

"The first two bells you mention are by William Clibdy of Wellington in Shropshire. The tower (1800) bears his initials within a shield and I can identify the tower bell as his by the type of bellring. The cast a bell for Walsley in 1801 at Holt, and so these Shropshire bells may possibly have been cast at Holt also. It would be easy to ship them by the Derwent to Shropshire. For all of these transactions see an article on Lancashire and Cheshire bell-founders in which Clibdy is mentioned—E. H. Gifford."

Atkinson's History, etc.—William Scott of Wigan, bell-founder, a James brother, maker of Alnham in 1801. It was alleged by the public in February 1802 (45) he was employed to recast it. The weight was 10 lb and he was to receive 12s for the work. The bell was returned to Alnham in April