

PROCEEDINGS,  
TWENTY-THIRD SESSION, 1870-71.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

*Royal Institution, Colquitt Street, Liverpool, October 18th, 1870.*

REV. A. HUME, D.C.L., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The Minutes of the Annual Excursion having been taken as read, and signed, the SECRETARY read the following

REPORT.

In presenting their Report of the Twenty-second completed Session, the Council have the pleasure of stating that the intellectual material has been unusually abundant. There was a full supply of suitable Papers, and the promises already for the ensuing Session are still more gratifying. They have the further satisfaction of saying that the delay in the issue of the Annual Volume, which in past years caused inconvenience to the Members, has in the last Session been overcome—the Volume was printed off in the middle of September, and in a few days after was in the course of distribution. They recommend to their successors a careful attention to promptness of issue; and that no author of a Paper be allowed to keep the press waiting beyond a very limited time.

Several documents of very great value have lain over for the present, including the ecclesiastical lists forwarded by the Rev. Mackenzie E. C. Walcott, B.D., respecting certain Churches in the city of Chester and in the diocese when it included the two counties; these will be of great interest, not only to the Members of the Society, but to the public at large.

The Annual Excursion, which, however, forms no necessary part of the business of the Society, took place on Saturday, the 18th June. The Members and their friends visited Hawkstone, where, through the kindness of Lord Hill, they had free access to his grounds, and had the pleasure of dining together in the Waterloo tent.

An important event, which marked the closing year, has been the visit to the town, for the third time, of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Though its investigations nominally coincided with only part of the subjects embraced by this Society, in reality

it covered a much larger space—very little which is comprised in your programme, except Literature, being foreign to their investigations. The stimulus which has thus been given to intellectual inquiry, and the new interest awakened in the public mind, cannot fail to produce important results to the community at large, and especially to the members of our local learned societies.

When the Association visited the town in 1854, this Society had only been six years in existence, and had just entered on the occupation of its larger area, instead of, as at first, merely the subjects which illustrated the history of the two counties, yet the Members had the gratification of entertaining the Association at the close of its labours, and they presented honorary life memberships to twelve who had occupied a distinguished position in its ranks. In the interval three of these have been removed by death—Lord Ross, Sir David Brewster, and Dr. Whewell—all of whom had stood in the front rank in those departments of general knowledge which they cultivated respectively.

On this occasion the Society elected six Honorary Members, and to avoid difficult or invidious selection, they nominated those whom the Association itself had chosen for the performance of important duties. These were the present President and his two immediate predecessors, and the three Lecturers during the week of the Liverpool meeting, viz., Professor Huxley, D.C.L., F.R.S., Professor Stokes, Sec. R.S., D.C.L., J. D. Hooker, of Kew, M.D., F.R.S., Professor Tyndall, LL.D., F.R.S., Professor Rankine, LL.D., and Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., &c., &c.

At the end of the concluding general meeting, the Society's diploma was presented to each of these gentlemen, and a set of the ten Volumes constituting the second series. Through the kindness of Mr. Mayer, the Society were also enabled to present to Professor Huxley, the President, a Mazer Bowl, similar to those given on two previous occasions, viz., in 1849 and 1854.

During the past Session various interchanges of the Society's Volumes have been made with other Societies, and an extension of this reciprocity is recommended, so as indirectly to enrich the Society's Library by the surplus Volumes which remain in stock.

With the view of making the Libraries of the various Societies which meet in this building more generally useful, the Council concurred in a suggestion emanating from the Literary and Philosophical Society. It was, that the various fragmentary Libraries be made available to all the Members of the Societies to which they respectively belong; an arrangement which would evidently contribute to the promotion of more fraternal relations.

In the earlier history of this Society, several handsome donations were made from time to time in aid of the printing and illustration of the Volumes, and the Members therefore received much more than they were entitled to in virtue of their subscriptions merely. Of late years such donations have been less frequent, because the idea has seldom been suggested; and as the size of the Volume has not been diminished, the finances of the Society have been drawn upon for printing purposes, in a larger proportion than usual. This error, so far as it is one, can be remedied by occasional donations for illustrations as before, by printing in full only the more important Papers, and by disposing of

portions of the surplus stock, some Volumes of which are of great intrinsic value, though little known to gentlemen who have lately joined the Society.

The balloting lists have been prepared in accordance with the laws, and duly forwarded to the various Members of the Society.

The Report having been unanimously adopted, the President stated that as the Treasurer's financial statement, had not been prepared in its usual form, its consideration would be postponed till a future meeting. This having been agreed to, the election for the Council and Officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. The result announced from the Chair, is shewn on page iv.

The PRESIDENT then delivered his INAUGURAL ADDRESS.\*

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November 3rd, 1870.

Rev. A. HUME, D.C.L., &c., President, in the Chair.

The following objects were exhibited:—

By Mr. T. J. Moore.

1. Specimens of Encaustic tiling, from St. John's Church, the oldest in the city of Chester, and lately rebuilt by the Marquis of Westminster; and Roman Samian ware and coarser pottery, from among ancient fortifications in the same city;—these articles having been recently presented to the Derby Museum, by Mr. Aaron Whitty.
2. Two Abyssinian MS rolls, illustrated with portraits and ornaments, and written in the Ethiopic character. Procured by officers of the late military expedition to Madagascar.
3. A curious native West African hand loom, for mat weaving, containing a specimen of the work which it was designed to execute; and with it a bag containing some of the dried grass, of various colours, used as weft.
4. Two living fish. They are remarkable and rare: they walk over dry land seeking water, and inhabit the ponds about Rio. They are probably the first seen alive in Europe. They were brought over and presented by Captain J. A. Parry, R.M.S.S. "Pascal." There are in the Derby Museum six others living, well worthy of inspection by the curious.
5. The latest natural history rarity: a dead specimen of a huge mud turtle or tortoise, from the Upper Nile, brought home by Captain Horsfall. This is said to be a great delicacy. The specimen exhibited shewed one striking peculiarity of the living creature, viz., the imperfect union between the upper and lower shells, as compared with tortoises, terrapines, and even turtles. These are formed for living in mud or the ooze of freshwater rivers and streams.

\* Transactions, page 1.