

hood. We can hardly call them "the rude forefathers of the hamlet;" for they lived, as the military say, "in the open," like the Jews who, in time of peace, deserted the walled towns, each living on his own cultivated spot in the country, "every man under his vine and under his fig tree."

April 22nd, 1875.

REV. CANON HUME, D.C.L., President, in the Chair.

A ballot was taken, in accordance with Law XII, for the formal ejection of the following members of the Society—each of them having been several years in arrear of his subscription. And they were respectively ejected:—

Rev. W. R. Burgess, M.A.
 James Hewit, Esq.
 James Milligan, jun., Esq.
 George Massie Pearce, Esq.
 H. I. Highness the Prince Rhodocanakis.
 C. Backhouse Robinson, Esq.
 John A. Ward, Esq.
 Isaac M. Wood, Esq.

The following papers were read:—

I.

INEDITED POEMS OF WILLIAM ROSCOE, PART II, *by H. Ecroyd Smith.*

II.

REMARKS AT THE CLOSE OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION.

By the President.

Though I do not intend to lay before you anything which can be called a Closing Address, I think it may be useful to take a view of our exact position, in the way of a brief Summary. We will thus see what we have gained and what we have lost, and to what extent: and this is precisely the sort of information, furnished by experience, which ought to afford us lessons for future guidance.

This evening concludes the work of twenty-seven sessions; so that we have already reached an age which several Metropolitan Societies have not yet attained. On the 20th of June, 1848, this Society was founded, at a public meeting, with the Mayor in the Chair;—and its first session was 1848-9.

The Index which has been issued recently to the Members, shows

what work the Society did in the first twenty-four years. I need not recapitulate; I will only say that it is now three years older.

The officers who have served the Society from the first, may be seen from any of our recent printed volumes; I will therefore refer merely to the list of Presidents. To the present time they have been only six in number; but then we affix no limit to the tenure of office. The names of those who have served the Society in that capacity are the following:—

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|----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Francis Earl of Ellesmere | 6 sessions—1848—54. |
| Chas. W. Earl of Sefton | 1 „ —1854—55. |
| Gen. the Hon. Sir Ed. Cust, K.C.H. 8 „ | —1855—63. |
| Rt. Hon. Wm. E. Gladstone, M.P. 3 „ | —1863—66. |
| Joseph Mayer, Esq., F.S.A. | 3 „ —1866—69. |
| Rev. A. Hume, D.C.L. | 6 „ —1869—75. |

I have thus, by your kindness and indulgence, served practically two terms; and I wish now to intimate, with great respect and with a very agreeable recollection of your kindness, that I am unable any longer to bear the responsibilities of the office. Three years ago, I was equally desirous to retire; but partly the wish of the Council, and partly some peculiar circumstances connected with the Society, have retained me in office till the present time.

I can now retire from the chair, in the comfortable feeling that many crooked things have been put straight, and that the Society is at present in a thoroughly sound position. It may suffice to enumerate a few facts.

1. It possesses a large and valuable collection of Books in its Library.
2. It possesses a small but interesting collection of objects. The Museum cases are at the rooms of the Town Museum in William Brown Street.
3. There is a Catalogue of both, of which a new and greatly enlarged edition is in the press.
4. There is a very large number of copies of the past twenty-six volumes in stock, for sale to future Members or the public;—amounting to more than 2,000 in all. The sale prices of these are printed in the annual volumes; and it would be to the Society's advantage to effect a clearance of a considerable number of them.
5. The Balance Sheet for last year, which should have been ready on the 18th of October, shows a balance in hand; and the one for the session now closing will be of a still more favourable character.
6. During the past session, Members who were merely nominal have been erased from the roll: and further changes have been caused by deaths and removals from the neighbourhood.

7. On the other hand, during the past session, we have enrolled 33 new members, of whom 27 are Resident and 6 Non-resident.

8. During the closing session, there has been a full and regular supply of Papers, all of a good character; and, as the publication of the volume promptly is desirable on many grounds, it is hoped that no circumstance will occur to delay its issue.

9. Last year, the annual volume was in the hands of the Members before the 18th of October; and the directions of the Council were rigidly followed in its distribution. It thus happened that it was not sent to any Member whose subscription was in arrear.

10. A supply of Papers for some meetings of next session has been already procured; in order that from the first day the business may go on without slackness, and with abundant material.

11. When the Society had attained very large dimensions, in 1854, it was found necessary to secure the services of an Assistant Secretary, whose duty was to perform the acts which the honorary officers—such as Secretary, Librarian, and Curator—superintended. A very large amount of the Society's success depends on the due performance of these duties: and for twenty years this officer was never wanting. But, since the retirement of Mr. Dyall in October, 1874, these duties have been performed by the honorary officers alone; and hence, the work of the Society for the past year has been unusually burthensome. The Honorary Curator has removed from Liverpool, and the Library has been undergoing a thorough examination, so that of late it has been impossible to make much use of it. It is indispensable, therefore, for the good working of the Society, that a new Assistant Secretary be appointed; and the more distinctly the duties are described which he is to perform, the better.

Within the twenty-seven years of the Society's existence, the town has more than doubled its population and has risen greatly in relative importance, in the two counties with both of which it is connected. Yet we must take special care that this never becomes a mere Liverpool Society; but that, on the contrary, it remains true to its title as the Historic Society of *Lancashire and Cheshire*. With reasonable attention, it should continue to progress from year to year; but the greatest care should be taken that neither its intellectual nor its pecuniary resources diminish,—especially through any laxity in the general administration.