



PROCEEDINGS,
THIRTY-FIRST SESSION, 1878-79.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
Royal Institution, Colquitt Street, Liverpool, October 18th, 1878,
REV. CANON HUME, D.C.L., VICE-PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The completed volume for Session XXX, [Vol. VI, Third Series,] was laid upon the table.

In the absence of the Honorary Secretary, the Chairman read the following

REPORT.

THE Society this evening completes its thirtieth Session ; and the thirtieth volume of its Transactions and Proceedings lies upon the table. This fact is of itself very significant ; for it shews that the promise with which the fathers of the Society set out, in 1848, has been honourably and punctually fulfilled, and the retiring Council do not fear a comparison of their thirty volumes with a similar number, the production of any other provincial Society in the United Kingdom. The character of their volumes may be seen from the enumeration of Titles and Illustrations given in Canon Hume's General Index ; but it extends over only the first two series, or twenty-four volumes in all.

The past Session has been one of great interest, though without excitement ; the meetings were well attended, and the papers were such as to sustain more than the average amount of interest. There was an unusually large number of objects exhibited, bearing on local archaeology, or on ethnology and other kindred subjects.

The number of papers read, including one or two minor communications, was fourteen ; and there are eleven printed, either in the Transactions or Proceedings, including one that had lain over from the previous Session. It is not necessary to give an analysis of their contents ; but it may be worth remarking, that they are illustrated by nine plates. Some of these, however, illustrate the miscellaneous objects which were laid before the Society. The volume extends to 208 pages.

On no previous occasion, for at least ten years, has the property of the Society been in such a satisfactory condition. The Library—now a large and valuable one, though little used—has been put in perfect order, and it is available for the use of members ; while the stock, or copies of volumes unsold, is so large as to cause an embarrassment of riches.

The Society's small collection of museum objects, still at the Town Museum, William Brown Street, is in good order, though it has not increased much of late. The miscellaneous property has all been identified and recovered, and is accounted for by the officers in charge of it respectively.

The financial condition of the Society is more satisfactory than it has been for some time past. Though the members are not so numerous as they were in former years, the resources have been used economically ; and thus every demand has been promptly met ; and there will be a balance in favour of the Society, after the distribution of the volume to the members and others.

The retiring Council have been reminded of late of the age of the Society ; for Canon Hume, who has signified his intention of retiring from all active participation in its labours, was one of its founders, and has never been out of office. He served for sixteen years as *Honorary Secretary* ; for six as *President* ; and eight nominally as *Vice-President*, but performing duties of all kinds as necessity arose. He has, however, consented to remain on the Council for the forthcoming Session ; and the increase of younger men, of great ability and promise, affords ground of hope that the future will be distinguished like the past.

Another of the three founders of the Society is its warm friend Mr. Mayer, whose liberality and earnestness in the promotion of its interests are well known ; but who cannot attend its meetings as usual, owing to distance and the condition of his health. But the Council believe that the Society will do itself honour, and shew a grateful appreciation of Mr. Mayer's numerous acts of kindness, by requesting him to accept the position of *Honorary Life Membership*.

The Balance Sheet will be submitted by the Treasurer.

The balloting lists have been made out in accordance with the Laws, and are now in your hands.

It was moved by F. J. BAILEY, Esq., seconded by E. W. M. HANCE, Esq., and resolved :—

That the Report now read be printed, and circulated with the Proceedings.

The Treasurer's audited Balance Sheet was then read, but was regarded as provisional only, more payments and accounts being still expected.

It was moved by E. W. M. HANCE, Esq., seconded by J. H. GIBSON, Esq., and resolved :—

That the Balance Sheet be passed provisionally ; and that in its complete form it be printed and circulated with the Proceedings.*

A Ballot was then taken for the election of Council and Officers.†

It was then formally moved, seconded, and unanimously resolved :—

That Joseph Mayer, Esq., one of the founders of the Society and frequently its benefactor, be elected an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

On the motion of F. J. BAILEY, Esq., seconded by J. G. JACOB, Esq., a special vote of thanks was passed to Canon Hume, for his long and valuable services to the Society.

November 14th, 1878.

THOMAS GIBSON, Esq., in the Chair.

The following objects were exhibited :—

By the Rev. Canon Hume.

1. Three "mantles" or "mats," as they are called, from New Zealand, all of them made by a very tedious process, it being not unusual for the manufacture of one of them to last longer than a year. The oldest "mat" was one with tassels of cord suspended from it, the material being the *phormium tenax* or New Zealand flax. This one dates from before the introduction of wool into the country. The next in interest was black with white weft ; but the richest and most beautiful was a silky white one with a splendid woollen border. In all three it was noticed that one of the four sides was not ornamented, this being the side which goes round the neck of the wearer.
2. A chieftain's belt, of New Zealand flax, curiously worked.
3. An image called "Whuckapackack," with the tribal mark or tapu on it.
4. A double human figure, used as the figure-head of a prahu war canoe. One man sits on the head of the other ; and both have the tongue protruded, in one case touching the breast.

* See page 118.

† See page viii.