

PROCEEDINGS.

SEVENTEENTH SESSION, 1864-65.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Free Public Library, 18th October, 1864.

PETER R. McQUIE Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

The SECRETARY read the following

REPORT.

The labours of the Council in the year which has just closed have not been of a character to require a very detailed or special notice, the business having been carried on with accustomed success and no unusual event having occurred during the Session except the tercentenary celebration of the birth of Shakspeare.

The total number of members on the roll is 409; viz., 54 *life*, 182 *resident*, 148 *non-resident*, 2 *lady-associate* and 23 *honorary* members. Nineteen Papers were read at the nineteen meetings held in the Session: two were attended by a miscellaneous company, including ladies and gentlemen not members of the Society, and one of these, the Shakspeare meeting already referred to, was remarkably successful, both in respect to the great number of persons present at it and the rarity and value of the illustrative books and other objects exhibited. A full report of the meeting will appear in the Annual Volume, now nearly ready for publication; but the Council cannot omit this opportunity of offering its warm acknowledgments to the Exhibitors generally, and in particular to J. F. Marsh Esq., of Warrington, for affording to the members and their friends an opportunity of inspecting his very valuable collection of original editions of Shakspeare and other works of the Shakspeare period.

One most important duty which devolves upon the present Annual Meeting is the appointment of an Honorary Secretary in the room of the Rev. Dr. Hume, who, having been one of the chief originators of the Society in 1848, has held the office of its Honorary Secretary throughout the whole term of its existence. Previously to the last Annual Meeting, Dr. Hume tendered his resignation, but was on that

occasion prevailed upon to resume his office for another year. The Council have felt that on his retirement from duties which have been performed with so much ability and zeal, and with a success to which the prosperity of the Society bears such ample witness, it was due both to the Society and to Dr. Hume that some official recognition of those services should be made. They therefore recommend the presentation to Dr. Hume of a Diploma of Life Membership; and believing that it will be a general wish that the honours of a Society like ours should be awarded to those who have benefitted it by their labours, the Council have nominated Dr. Hume for election on the present occasion as one of the Vice-Presidents. Their anxiety as to the appointment of a suitable successor has been ended, in a manner upon which they congratulate the Society, by the consent of Nicholas Waterhouse Esq. to accept the office of its Honorary Secretary.

The interchange of serial and other publications between this Society and those in union with it has continued as heretofore; recent additions to the Library, chiefly from this source, have been bound and placed in the lately purchased bookcase, which is now quite full, and the succeeding Council will find it necessary to provide accommodation for those further accessions which are steadily being made. The Museum occupies a set of cases in the Gallery of Inventions and Science; it is being re-arranged under the supervision of the Curator, with the object of increasing the interest and usefulness of the collection.

In accordance with the Laws, the names of gentlemen recommended for election to the Council are submitted herewith.

COMPARATIVE ACCOUNT OF THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF
THE SOCIETY.

	Life.	Resident.	Non-Resident.	Lady Assoc'ees.	Total.	Honorary Members.	Gross Total.
Session XVI	57	183	156	2	398	25	423
" XVII — Died } or Resigned	3	13	16	..	32	2	34
	54	170	140	2	366	23	389
New Members	0	12	8	..	20	..	20
	54	182	148	2	386	23	409

It was moved by J. R. HUGHES Esq., seconded by J. H. GIBSON Esq., and resolved unanimously:—

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

It was moved by E. F. EVANS Esq., seconded by THOMAS SANSOM Esq., F.B.S.E., and resolved unanimously:—

That the thanks of the Society be given to the Officers and Sectional Members of the Council for their services during the past Session.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by DAVID BUXTON Esq., F.R.S.L., and resolved unanimously:—

That this Society desires to convey to the Rev. A. Hume, D.C.L., &c., &c., its cordial and special thanks for his zealous and efficient services, both as one of its founders and, from the period of its organization to the present time, as its Honorary Secretary; and, as the highest official Testimonial of its appreciation of those services which the Society can bestow, elects Dr. Hume a Life Member on and from this date.

It was moved by WILLIAM BURKE Esq., seconded by the Rev. DR. HUME, and resolved unanimously:—

That the thanks of this Society be given to J. F. MARSH Esq., of Warrington, for exhibiting to the members and their friends, at the Shakspeare Tercentenary celebration, on the 20th of April last, his valuable collection of early editions of Shakspeare and other rare works of the period.

It was moved by J. T. TOWSON Esq., F.R.G.S., seconded by THOMAS DAWSON Esq., M.R.C.S., and resolved unanimously:—

That the thanks of the Society be given to F. J. JEFFERY Esq., F.G.H.S., for his donation of seven valuable illustrations for the Annual Volume for the past year.

A ballot having been taken for the Officers and Sectional Members of the Council, the result was announced from the chair. (See page iv.)

Thanks were voted by acclamation to the Chairman for his services during the evening, and the proceedings terminated.