

After a brief conversation on the subject of the Paper, letters were read from Lieut.-General the Hon. Sir Edward Cust and Joseph Mayer Esq., expressing their regret at not being able to be present at the meeting.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. DR. HUME.

David Buxton Esq., F.R.S.L., the Chairman of a Committee appointed to conduct the arrangements for presenting a Testimonial to the Rev. Dr. Hume, then said,—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The duty which I have to perform is one which will require very few words from me. We are assembled to-night to perform a graceful act : not to prolong the meeting by mere talking. The Testimonial which is now before you is intended to mark, by a substantial and lasting gift, the estimation in which Dr. Hume is held by members of the Historic Society—remembering that he was one of the Society's founders, and that from the day of its establishment in 1848 up to 1864, he filled the office of Honorary Secretary with an energy and devotion of which the present and past success of the Society are the evidence and the fruit. It has devolved upon me unexpectedly to have to represent the Subscribers and the Committee ; but I am sure that while I consult my own feelings I shall most fitly embody theirs and do that which is most proper to the occasion if I decline altogether the language of panegyric, and in the simplest terms express our sense of the very valuable services of Dr. Hume, and our personal regard for him. I cannot do this better than by reading the Address, which, with the plate before you, forms the Testimonial we are met this evening to present :—

“ This Address, with a Service of Plate, is presented to the “ Rev. Abraham Hume, LL.D., D.C.L., F.S.A., &c. &c., from the “ President and many Members of the Historic Society of Lancashire “ and Cheshire, on his retirement from the office of Honorary Secretary. “ Having been one of the founders of the Society (in 1848), he pro- “ moted its usefulness and prosperity for sixteen years as its Honorary “ Secretary, with a zeal, ability and success of which this offering is “ designed to be a lasting Record and Testimonial.

(Signed) “ DAVID BUXTON,

“ Chairman of the Testimonial Committee.”

I have now, Dr. Hume, on behalf of the Subscribers, the great pleasure of handing to you this Address, and of asking you to accept along with it, the service of plate which is upon the table, and I am sure I only say what every member of this Society would desire to say, when I wish that you may be blessed with health and long life to continue your useful and honourable labours.

The Rev. Dr. Hume, who was most cordially received, in reply, said—Though I am not, like Moses, slow of speech, there is one subject on which I never could speak, and that is on the subject of myself ; and if my words be few on the present occasion I trust that you will not conceive that I am wanting in appreciation of the high honour—or, rather, I should say, for I prize it more—the great kindness which has been shown me this evening. Our Historic Society was founded in May, 1848, and I can assure you that every labour I have

undertaken in connection with it has brought its own reward. There is a pleasure associated with every class of work, and according to a man's tastes and habits, so he selects the field which he wishes to cultivate. I did that, and I have been as happy in the doing as others have been in the witnessing. It is at least equally pleasant to give as to receive in matters of intellectual instruction. I remember well the evening when the suggestion was first made to found this Society. It was at Mr. Mayer's house. There were present Mr. Mayer, myself, and Mr. Pidgeon, an artist, who is now resident in London. I am very proud and happy to mention the names of these gentlemen to show how much their cordial co-operation supported me in carrying the Society through, especially in the early part of its history. Mr. Mayer, as you are aware, has always been an unfailing friend to the Society, and is so at the present hour. Our ambition was to found a large intellectual association, not at first, but eventually, consisting of gentlemen of varied tastes and habits, and especially to publish a volume annually. In both points we have succeeded, and I am glad to say that several other learned Societies over the country have taken example by us, and have gone and done likewise.—After briefly referring to the pleasure which he had taken in antiquarian pursuits, and the many kind friends which their cultivation had given him the opportunity of making all over Lancashire and Cheshire, the reverend gentleman concluded—And now what shall I say respecting the beautiful and magnificent gift which you have been kind enough to offer to me? I may say that I should have received with pleasure a cup of cold water, in recognition of your kind feeling, from the friends who have offered me this; and if I feel unworthy of a tribute so handsome, it is something to feel that it is a testimony worthy of those who present it. As such, I assure you that I appreciate it. It has often been said that I am a man of varied tastes and habits. In one sense that is true; but in another sense, as I am in the habit of saying, I have only two ideas in the world. These are Religion and Education. The one concerns my professional occupation; the other forms at once the burden and the pleasure of my life. All that I have been able to do in connection with this Society comes under the department of Education—of course, in a large and general sense, not in a mere scholastic sense—and I am glad to find an appreciation of it, and that my exertions have been useful. They have been earnest, but without any expectation of reward or thanks. Nevertheless, I should be churlish not to value an act so kind and a gift so handsome as this. I thank you with all my heart, and I shall always regard it as a memorial of the kind friends who have placed it at my service.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.
