

THE ANNUAL EXCURSION.

This took place on Saturday, June 18th; the locality chosen being Hawkstone, Shropshire, the seat of Lord Hill, who had kindly granted permission for the visit of the Society. The party, numbering about 80 members and friends, including ladies, left Lime Street Station, and proceeded to Wem Station, where open carriages were in waiting to convey them to Hawkstone Park. The company were delighted with the charming scenery of the park, and the large variety of interesting objects, including the ancient ruin of Red Castle.

Dinner was served at the Western Hotel, in the Waterloo tent, kindly lent by Lord Hill for the occasion, the tent having historic interest from the fact that it was used by an ancestor of Lord Hill's soon after the battle of Waterloo to celebrate that great victory.

After dinner a number of toasts were proposed by the Rev. Dr. Hume, who occupied the chair, and several others of the Society. The Chairman having proposed the usual loyal toasts,

Mr. Meadows Frost, of Chester, gave "Success to the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire." That was the first part of his toast, and it would be received perhaps with moderate applause, but with inward satisfaction, as it was wishing success more or less to themselves. The second part, he said, would be received with loud applause, for he connected with the toast the name of Mr. Joseph Mayer, a gentleman who was known far and wide for his vast liberality. His intelligence and goodness of heart had endeared him to every one who knew him.

Mr. Mayer, in replying, said he felt very much obliged to them for the kind way in which they had received his name in connection with the toast; and as a humble worker in the Society he appreciated the first part of it very sincerely. For twenty-two years they had fought the battle against prejudice and ignorance, for none but the ignorant would speak out against them. Thoughtful men stood aside and said, "What are these men so earnest about? there must be something in what they are doing." They would listen, and did listen; and he thought that to the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire the whole country was indebted for suggestions that were never made by any other Society.

Mr. Buxton proposed the health of the Chairman, and expressed his gratification, and, he was sure, that of the other members of the Society, that Dr. Hume was now able again to resume the presidential chair.

The Chairman replied, and thanked them all for their kind wishes. The toast having been responded to with loud applause, Mr. Charles Dyll proposed the health of the ladies, which was replied to by Mr. Parratt, jun., and the proceedings terminated.

Tea was partaken of, like dinner, under the cool and refreshing shades of the tent, and shortly afterwards the whole party returned in the conveyances to Wem. The ride back was equally as pleasant as the journey in the morning. A drive through the quaint old streets of Wem was also much enjoyed, after which half an hour was agreeably spent in a visit to the old churchyard. The train for home started at half-past eight o'clock, and the party arrived in Liverpool shortly after eleven, exceedingly delighted with their visit to Hawkstone Park.