

reviewed the evidence in favor of the received opinion that an ancient lighthouse existed there. He entered into the subject in considerable detail, quoting various writers and acts of parliament, and concluded that the so called old lighthouse must have been a shortlived twin brother of the patriarch who still holds his ground at Wallasey Leasowes, having no existence prior to 1761, and probably being defunct and washed away within a few years afterwards.

On the Eastern margin of the Bay considerable changes also had taken place, between the date of Collins's survey and the year 1800. The channel had moved nearly its own breadth, or 1200 yards westward. In the course of his investigations, the writer had stumbled upon traces of a village named Altmouth, situated at the junction of the river Alt and the sea. This village is mentioned by Camden. Mr. Edward Littledale had politely afforded the opportunity of examining the records of the Alt commission in their printed volume. From these it appeared that formerly considerable apprehensions were experienced lest a portion of the locality might be inundated, in consequence of the shifting of the sandhills, which formed a secure barrier. Measures were therefore adopted to prevent the moving of the hills. Mr. Boulton conjectured that the village had been deserted in some panic, or had possibly been overwhelmed by some sand drift, as at Nineveh, and so deserted and lost.

CONCLUDING ADDRESS. *By J. T. Danson, F.S.S., V.P.*

Gentlemen, called to address you on the close of an eighth session, I find the task as easy and agreeable as it is honorable. I have nothing to remind you of that is not pleasant to remember. We still prosper; and our prosperity exhibits all the conditions of a natural and permanent progression. It is alike removed from the zeal that leads to exhaustion and the indifference that augurs decay.

The Session has afforded us 20 meetings, and we have heard read and have discussed as many papers: some of them admirable alike in design and execution, and all of them worthy of the attention they have received. I shall make no effort to place these papers in the order of their respective merits. Where, as here, excellence is in any degree general, particular eulogy, awarded on the dictum of individual taste, might well be deemed invidious. Nor would I willingly move one step towards ending the friendly competition hitherto so fruitful of good, with the meaner aspect of personal rivalry.

Their subjects have had relation, more or less distinct, to our three lines of study—Archæology, Literature, and Science—in proportions not very far from equal. Such difference as there is, however, affords some ground for the inference that Archæology, our first chosen subject, is receiving least, and science, our last chosen, receiving most attention. In view of the care and skill constantly evinced by our honorary secretary in the arrangements for our meetings, this preponderance, slight as it is, can hardly be deemed accidental. And perhaps we should do well to receive it as a warning that, in proportion as our Society expands its operations, the topics most nearly allied in character with the interests of the passing moment are likely, if our archæological and literary members do not come to our rescue, to usurp an undue share of our time. And it were surely not well that the hours we spend here, saved—as for most of us they must be—from days of needful and unchosen labour, should be devoted, in anything more than their due proportion, to topics suggested by, or suggestive of, the very toil from which we here seek relaxation. Having myself aforesaid been somewhat urgent in favor of our scientific section, it may the better become me to mark the earliest indication of any such tendency.

Touching more generally the results of the Session, I am conscious that I shall best interpret the sense of the Society in speaking with much modesty. All we have yet achieved must needs be dwarfed by comparison with what we have openly proposed, and do earnestly propose, yet to do. Thus much I may say—that our numbers have been largely increased, and that, as the forthcoming volume of our Transactions will prove, the larger body has displayed a commensurate increase of activity and power.

In our Archæological Section, the earliest periods of British history have received additional illustration from Mr. Hinde's paper on The Ancient History of Northumbria, and Mr. Harwicke's on The Roman Remains at Walton-le-dale; and the mediæval and modern periods, find able contributions in Mr. Marsh's Account of the Warrington Grammar School, Mr. Stonehouse's Day in Low Furness, and Mr Boardman's Notes on Liverpool a Hundred Years ago.

The papers of the Literary Section have been even more various. Mr. Buxton on The Saxon Element in Poetic Composition, and Mr. Ramsay on The Character of Hamlet, have given to criticism the first place. We are also indebted to Mr. Buxton for an historical paper on The Rise of the Manufacturing Towns of our District, and to Mr. Moore for a practical and philosophical essay on The Poor-law System as it affects Education and Morals; while Mr. Dove's exhibition of, and comments on, some original letters of Dr. Franklin have contributed to render more vivid and more truthful our conceptions of the character of that great man. In the statistical—the least inviting—department of the Section, we have had two elaborate papers on the population of Liverpool and of the Manchester District.

The Scientific Section has received from Mr. Tudor some valuable Zoological Notes on the Banks of the Mersey; from Mr. Moore illustrations of several curious facts connected with mammalia; and from Mr. Gregson the continuation of a remarkable paper on The Lepidoptera of the Liverpool District. In microscopic botany, we are indebted to Mr. Sansom for a precise description of a fungoid disease in the pear. Mr. Hartnup has favored us with an excellent practical description of the best marine meteorological instruments, and of the means of testing their accuracy—a subject, the importance of which in this locality can hardly be over-estimated; and has also given to us the results obtained during four years, from the self-registering anemometer and rain gauge. And in two of the most important papers read during the Session, (those of Dr. Oppert, on The Cuneiform inscriptions of Ancient Babylon, and of Mr. Wright, on The Ethnology of Britain at the close of the Roman Period,) we have had gratifying evidence of the recognition of our labours by men to work in association with whom is itself an honor. Of the paper read this evening it were needless of me to say one word. It is before you and you have shown that you know all its value.

This enumeration cannot be made without some feeling of pride; but it is of more importance to remark that there may—unless I am much mistaken—be gathered from the records of the closing Session evidence in no degree faint or doubtful that there is amongst us a very general disposition to use, and to seek to increase, our knowledge for purposes ever growing higher and wider as we advance—a better, a more elevated, and a more just appreciation of the value of knowledge for its own sake, and of the very search for it as an ennobling means of mental discipline. To wish that this tendency may gather strength with every succeeding Session, and that under its influence we may continue to regard the future with hopes ever growing brighter and better founded as we proceed, is only to desire that our Society may realise at once its legitimate destiny, and the loftiest to which we can reasonably aspire.

Thanks were then voted to the Rev. Dr. Thom and Mr. Danson, as the two vice-presidents who had been most frequently in attendance. Thanks were also voted to Dr. Hume, and the proceedings terminated.