

were made. Up to the period when Minton did so much to advance this branch of the art, nothing had been achieved equal to the Liverpool manufacture. At Herculaneum also, in this immediate neighbourhood, excellent pottery had been manufactured.

The entire company having descended to the reception room, Mr. Mayer expressed before their departure, the great pleasure which he experienced in having the members of the Society present with him, as his guests and fellow-students of antiquity.

Dr. Robson complimented Mr. Mayer on his liberality, and the taste he had displayed; and concluded by proposing the thanks of the gentlemen present.

Dr. Hume, especially on behalf of the Historic Society, seconded the motion which was at once adopted unanimously;—and the meeting separated.

4th December, 1856.—SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

J. TOWNE DANSON, F.S.S., V.P., in the Chair.

(Held half an hour before the usual Ordinary Meeting.)

The Chairman stated the object of the Meeting, and read the notice convening it.

Mr. Mayer proposed that a Diploma of Life Membership be presented to David Thom, D.D., Ph.D., in acknowledgment of his long connexion with the Society as a Vice-President, and an active member of the Council since its commencement.

Dr. Hume seconded the proposition, and mentioned some particulars of Dr. Thom's interest in the Society.

After some remarks from Mr. Peter R. M'Quie, Dr. Macintyre, and the Chairman, the Resolution was put and adopted unanimously.

15th April, 1857. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A Special General Meeting of the Society was called for the purpose of presenting an address to William Brown, Esq., M.P., at the usual place of meeting, in St. George's Hall, on the morning appointed for laying the foundation-stone of the Free Public Library and Museum.

It was afterwards arranged to present the address at the Town Hall; where the Society attended in its official capacity. This arrangement was adopted for the public convenience; as other public bodies were desirous to present Addresses at the same time. An elevated dais was occupied by Samuel Holme, Esq., deputy Mayor, and William Brown, Esq., M.P. The various Deputations were introduced by James A. Picton, Esq., F.S.A., Chairman of the Library and Museum Committee;—the Historic Society being first in order.

The President, Major-General the Hon. Sir Edward Cust, K.C.H., D.C.L., commenced the proceedings with some remarks in reference to the occasion of the meeting and the general business of the day, and then called on the hon. Secretary, Dr. Hume, to read the following:—

ADDRESS

“ TO WILLIAM BROWN, ESQ., M.P.

SIR,

You this day lay the foundation stone of a building, to be devoted to a Free Public Library and Museum; and you have also, with a spirit worthy of so good a cause, signified your intention to erect it exclusively at your own cost.

We might, on *general* grounds, congratulate the public and ourselves as the recipients of such a noble gift; and any body of men might, with much propriety, tender to you their grateful acknowledgments. But the Members of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire feel that they have a peculiar right to do so. It is their pleasing duty to record facts of interest respecting this part of the country, and to cultivate an extended intellectual spirit; their meetings are held within the walls of St. George's Hall; the Society has itself collected a Library and Museum for the use of its own members; and a place of deposit has been promised for this collection as soon as sufficient space can be spared in the public Museum of the town.

It affords the highest gratification to every person in this great community, to see one of its members spontaneously producing from his abundance such a valuable and suitable offering for the benefit of the public at large. It is particularly gratifying to this Society, that one who has been enrolled among its members from the first, and who occupies a prominent official place within the area of its operations, should afford such material aid to the intellectual objects which it labours to promote. Nor can it be less satisfactory to yourself, to witness the high appreciation of your generous conduct, as evidenced by the enthusiastic and grateful recognition of all sections and grades of society.

We regard the principal ceremony of this day, as initiatory in more senses than one. We trust that it will induce many others of our "Merchant Princes" to emulate so good an example; and we rejoice to see facilities for completing the education of our ordinary schools, as well as for carrying general intelligence to lower grades of the community. We foresee, in the new erection, the appropriate home of some of our Societies and Institutions, for Literature, Science, and the Arts; and we look forward with hope to its affording valuable aid towards a higher class of Education than any that Liverpool yet possesses.

May you be spared to witness length of years and years of happiness, and to see amid the praise and honour of young and old, the valued fruits of the beautiful tree which you this day plant among us."

REPLY

"TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

GENTLEMEN,

So totally unexpected are the honours which my fellow-townsmen are conferring on me,—for my desire in some slight degree to aid and promote their onward progress in acquiring knowledge of the useful arts of life,—that it exceedingly embarrasses me to find suitable language to express my feelings; particularly to the Historic Society, of which I have been, I fear, an unworthy member.

My only apology is, that I have not time at my command, or that knowledge which would enable me to make myself useful in fishing the inexhaustible preserves of antiquarian lore which is so extremely useful in verifying and correcting many important parts of History. Therefore, all I can do is to try to mend, and extend the net in some slight degree; that you may have a greater power of withdrawing more and more from those preserves, the treasures which they yet contain. In this duty I consider that we are all called upon to assist.

No one can appreciate more than I do your useful labours,—in all your three chosen lines of inquiry, Archæology, Literature, and Science,—and I can assure you that I am much gratified at your desiring to present me such an address, couched as it is in language most flattering.

To be considered the associate of such a Society gives me position and rank amongst my fellow-men, and this is a great stimulus to make myself worthy of such a position.

Gentlemen, permit me, in conclusion, to thank you sincerely for the honour you have conferred upon me."

[Both the Address and Reply were beautifully emblazoned on vellum, and mounted in handsome frames. The latter is preserved in the Society's Library.]