

27th June, 1857. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

EXCURSION TO MANCHESTER.

On Friday the 27th of June, the Annual Excursion of the Members and their friends took place, to the Art Treasures Exhibition at Manchester. The party, which consisted of about 200 gentlemen and 100 ladies, left Liverpool at half-past nine a.m., and proceeded by Birkenhead Chester and Warrington.

At the entrance to the Exhibition, they were met by several other members, resident in Manchester and the neighbourhood; and for about two hours the party separated into numerous private groups for the more convenient examination of different portions of the Exhibition. After one o'clock, a large number were conducted through the Gallery of Paintings by Ancient Masters, and the principal characteristics were pointed out by George Scharf, Jun., Esq. Conversational explanations were also given to similar parties, in the Gallery of Modern Portraits, by James Crossley, Esq., F.S.A., and in the department of Antiquities, by Mr. Chaffers, Mr. Mayer, and Dr. Bell.

At half-past three, about 250 sat down to dinner, in an apartment which had been specially screened off for the purpose. The Chair was taken by the Rev. A. Hume, D.C.L., Honorary Secretary. The principal table was also occupied by the Lord Bishop of Manchester, William Fairbairn, Esq., F.R.S., Rev. Thomas Corser, M.A., Colonel Hamilton, George Scharf, Jun., Esq., Professor Crace Calvert, Joseph Mayer, Esq., F.S.A., Mr. Chaffers, &c. Several sentiments, having special reference to the intellectual progress of Lancashire and Cheshire, were proposed and suitably acknowledged. The company broke up soon after five o'clock, and left the Exhibition by the returning train at seven.

25th July, 1857. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

VISIT OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

[The Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland held its Annual Meeting this year at Chester, from Tuesday the 21st till Wednesday the 29th July. On the invitation of the Council of the Historic Society, the Members and Associates resolved to visit Liverpool on Saturday the 25th.

The party from Chester, including Lord Talbot de Malahide, and comprising about seventy ladies and gentlemen, arrived at the Landing-stage a few minutes before eleven. Here they were joined by the Council of the Historic Society, who were to direct them in the arrangements of the day; and conducted on board the Satellite steamer, which had been placed at their disposal by the agents of the Cunard Company. The whole party then enjoyed a pleasant sail up the river, during which time the juvenile band of the Orphan Boys' Asylum played several airs.

Arriving at the Garston Docks, carriages were waiting to convey the ladies and gentlemen to Speke Hall, which they had been invited to visit by the proprietor, Richard Watt, Esq. After about an hour spent in examining its architectural peculiarities and antique furniture, they were summoned to a spacious marquee erected on the lawn, where an elegant *déjeuner* was provided. After returning to Garston by the same carriages, and re-embarking, the Satellite proceeded to visit the United States' Frigate Niagara; and by the permission of Captain Hudson and the officers, the Atlantic Telegraph Cable and the arrangements connected with it were examined.

On arriving in Liverpool, some of the party visited St. George's Hall, under the guidance of John Woodruff, Esq.; others Mr. Mayer's Museum, through which they were conducted by the proprietor; and the remainder the Sailors' Home, which was described by J. T. Towson, Esq. A reception-room had been provided at the Adelphi Hotel, which was regarded as the point of reunion; and here a collation was in readiness at half-past five.]

At eight o'clock, a Special General Meeting of the Society, in the form of a Conversation, was held in the apartments of the Town Hall. These, including lights, had been placed at the disposal of the Society by the Worshipful the Mayor, V.P., *ex officio*;

and the subsequent arrangements were made by the Society. The company in attendance amounted to about 1,000.

The lobbies were decorated with rare green-house plants from the Botanic Garden, and from the orchestra in the large ball-room the banner of the Society was suspended. In other parts of the building, various objects of interest were exhibited. These included models of the proposed approaches to St. George's Hall, model of the Ripley Institution, Lancaster, various architectural drawings and models, curious specimens of naval architecture, a series of Shaksperian characters designed for stained glass, specimens of stained glass, rare illustrated books, illuminated manuscripts, microscopes, stereoscopes, philosophical apparatus, and photographs.

About half-past nine the refreshment-room was thrown open; and J. T. Danson, Esq., V.P., expressed on behalf of the Historic Society the official welcome which they gave in open meeting, to their guests and fellow-labourers. He concluded by proposing "The Health of Lord Talbot de Malahide, and success to the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland." His Lordship after suitable acknowledgments, proposed "Prosperity to the Town of Liverpool," and subsequently "the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire."

Shortly before the visitors from Chester retired, Mr. Mayer, the Honorary Curator, presented to Lord Talbot, on behalf of the Society, a beautiful mazer bowl. It was made from part of the timber of Prince Rupert's cottage; was inlaid with silver; and surmounted by a suitable inscription. The latter, after expressing his thanks, called for wine, and drank from it for the first time to the sentiment, "The Lancashire Witches."

At eleven o'clock, the military band in attendance played the National Anthem, with which the meeting terminated.