

Through the kindness of John Shaw Leigh, Esq., the owner of the adjoining property, who, on application, at once granted me permission to make a further search in the neighbourhood, I hope during the summer to be enabled to lay before you something more on the subject, as I think, by a careful examination of that part of the country, to find other remains, with works of the Romans.

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V.—CLOSING ADDRESS,

*By the Rev. A. Hume, LL.D., F.S.A.*

On the first evening of this Session, I had the honour to address a few remarks to the Society, stating somewhat in detail what had been sketched but briefly in the Prospectus. Some of those who had gladly enrolled themselves along with us, knew little but the general *objects* of the Society, and it was necessary to mention for their and the general information, such principles of procedure as were most likely to be followed up. We then looked forward to the future; and though seven months have not elapsed we can now speak of the "past" Session. We then spoke with timidity, and ventured only to indulge in a feeling of hope; we can now speak with confidence, and address each other in terms of honest congratulation.

During the first Session, there are difficulties to be overcome which are not likely to present themselves again; while on the other hand, facilities for the discharge of ordinary routine duties have not yet been acquired. On the present occasion, we have held only nine meetings; we have not yet obtained apartments of our own; our library and museum are not yet available to the members; many who are anxious to be useful to us do not know how to act; our tracts of queries and instructions are still only partially distributed; several of our members have not yet had leisure sufficient to furnish the papers which they contemplate and have promised; and hundreds of the best and most intelligent people

in both counties are still unaware of the fact that such a Society exists. These points are mentioned, not by way of discouragement, but as difficulties yet to be overcome; and the present measure of our success will of course be vastly increased, as one by one these difficulties disappear.

But if we turn from what should be done, and what may yet be done, to what *is* done, we shall perhaps find the best guarantee for future success. I am convinced that not one of our members realises to himself the full amount of what we have accomplished; and it is only by a careful summing up and analysis, that I am able to state to you the following gratifying facts.

1.—At our first meeting, on the 18th of October, the members were one hundred and eighty in number; they are now one or two over two hundred and fifty. This is not a large number to be connected with such a Society, but it is large in our circumstances. No similar society in the town of Liverpool has ever risen much above half that number; and none has ever attempted the extensive usefulness, which we have thus far successfully realised. There would be no great difficulty in doubling this number before the close of another Session; there is however strong reason to believe, that in the natural course of events, it will be greatly increased. The character and distribution of our Members are also points of importance. The town of Liverpool contains as nearly as possible one-half, the other half is almost equally distributed between the two palatine counties,—with a few exceptions at other and more remote points.

2.—The contributions to the Society in the way of donations, have been not only numerous but valuable and varied. Several gentlemen have been frequent contributors, or have sent large packages on single occasions; and yet we have not received the more formal presents of the most important contributors; nor need we expect them till we have a suitable place for depositing our articles. It is a gratifying fact that the interest in this respect has