

PROCEEDINGS.

FIFTEENTH SESSION, 1862-63.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Free Public Library, 18th October, 1862.

ALEXANDER CRAIG GIBSON, F.S.A., CURATOR, in the Chair.

The SECRETARY read the following

REPORT.

The Council, at the conclusion of their year of office, have to report that the regular course of the Society's proceedings has been pursued with the usual success; and they retire with the confident feeling that the position of the Society, during the period of their service, has, in some important respects, been materially improved.

The total number of members on the roll of the Society is 420; viz., 57 *life*, 183 *resident*, 152 *non-resident*, 2 *lady associate*, and 26 *honorary* members.

Eighteen Meetings were held, at which twenty Papers were read during the Session. Three of the Meetings, of a more popular character, were attended by ladies; the last partook of the nature of a *Soirée* and was numerously attended. On that occasion the Derby Museum was lighted up for the first time and some of the chief objects of interest were explained by Mr. Moore, the Curator. The arrangement by which ladies and other non-members are occasionally invited to the Society's Meetings has proved to be advantageous both as respects the general attendance of Members and the variety and interest of objects exhibited in illustration of the Society's three great subjects of enquiry; the Council also think it likely that it may be the means of adding to the number of lady-associates, and recommend its continuance.

In their last Report the Council had pleasure in acknowledging the kindness of the Town Council, through their Library Committee, in granting to the Society the use of a suitable room in the Free Public Library, for the purpose of holding its Meetings. That accommodation has been increased by additions since made to the comfort and elegance of the room. Hitherto the Library and Museum have been comparatively inaccessible to the Members generally, owing to the difficulty of approach and uncertainty of attendance at the room in Ranelagh Street where they were placed; but during the year just expired accommodation has been provided for these also within the Free Public Library. The Museum and miscellaneous objects, in four large cases, occupy a separate apartment; and, to receive the books, a very elegant and commodious book-case has been purchased, at a cost exceeding £100. Although this is a large sum, the Council felt justified in expending it, trusting that voluntary contributors would reimburse the Society, in a great part, if not all, of the amount. In this manner a portion of the outlay has already been repaid and the Council expect further contributions from other Members, before whom the subject has yet to be brought. They have great pleasure in acknowledging the kindness of some gentlemen, not Members of the Society, who have shewn their sympathy in its pursuits by assisting in this purchase.

Donations of their published Transactions and Proceedings have been received during the past Session from several Provincial learned Societies with which this Society had not previously been in union; and an effort to complete various imperfect series of such volumes has been partially successful. The fourteenth annual volume is expected to be ready for delivery about Christmas, when the plates necessary to complete the last will also be supplied.

As the new volume is not wholly printed off, the Council deem it prudent to recommend the postponement of the Treasurer's balance sheet for a short time; they are, however, in a position to state that a balance in their favour, not less in amount than that of last year, may be expected when the accounts are formally produced.

The Delegates nominated by the Society to co-operate in the management of the Gallery of Inventions and Science are unable to report that satisfactory progress has been made towards the fulfilment of the duties imposed on them. The expressed inability of the Library and Museum Committee of the Town Council to contribute funds for defraying the cost of management appears to render hopeless, for the present at least, the accomplishment of the principal design. This impediment is the more to be regretted as the closing of the Exhibition at the end of the present month would, under more favourable circumstances, have afforded ample opportunity to establish the proposed collection on a promising basis.

The names of six new Sectional Members of Council, and of a Vice-President, in lieu of those who retire, are submitted, agreeably to the laws, in the printed balloting lists.

COMPARATIVE ACCOUNT OF THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF
THE SOCIETY.

	Life.	Resident.	Non-Resident.	Lady Associates	Total.	Honorary	Gross Total.
Session XIII	52	185	150	2	389	27	416
„ XIV—Died, re- signed or erased . . }	1	11	7	..	19	1	20
	51	174	143	2	370	26	396
New Members	6	9	9	..	24	..	24
	57	183	152	2	394	26	420

It was moved by the REV. THOMAS MOORE, A.M., seconded by JOHN R. JAGO, Esq., and resolved unanimously,—

That the Report now read be adopted, and printed and circulated with the Proceedings of the Society.

It was moved by THOS. REAY, Esq., seconded by WM. MATHISON, Esq., and resolved unanimously,—

That the thanks of the Society be given to the Officers and Sectional Members of the Council for their services during the past Session.

It was moved by the REV. A. HUME, D.C.L., Hon. Secretary, seconded by WILLIAM BURKE, Esq., Treasurer, and resolved unanimously,—

That the thanks of the Society be given to the Town Council and their Library and Museum Committee for their liberality and kindness in affording accommodation in the Free Public Library and Museum for the books and other collections of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.

It was moved by JOHN G. JACOB, Esq., seconded by the REV. THOMAS MOORE, A.M., and resolved unanimously,—

That the thanks of the Society be given to those gentlemen who have contributed Illustrations to the forthcoming volume.

A ballot having been taken for the Officers and Sectional Members of Council, the result was announced from the chair. (See p. iv.)

It was moved by the REV. A. HUME, D.C.L., seconded by J. G. JACOB, Esq., and resolved unanimously,—

That this meeting do now adjourn to the 14th of May next, for the purpose of receiving the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts.

At the adjourned Annual General Meeting, held at the Museum of Antiquities, No. 8, Colquitt Street, on the 14th May, 1863, A. Craig Gibson, F.S.A., presiding, the Treasurer submitted the following Statement of Accounts for the year ending 18th Oct., 1862 :—