Proceedings of the Annual Meeting

For the Year 1868.

The annual meeting of the members and their friends took place on July 14th, and proved, perhaps, one of the most successful ever held. The locality selected was Windsor and Eton, one peculiarly attractive, both in an historical and architectural point of view.

The party assembled in the Castle Yard at half-past ten, and were conducted into the entrance hall, where they were received by the Queen's librarian, Mr. B. B. Woodward, F.S.A. Addressing them, he expressed his gratification that he had the Queen's permission to throw open to the Society's inspection those portions of the building not usually seen by the public, which might serve to illustrate its early history. It was to be regretted that there was no labourer in the study of English remains who could do what Niebuhr had accomplished for Italy. He pointed out the nature of the ground upon which Windsor Castle was built, which, he argued, showed that it had never been a fortress of any great magnitude, where a lengthened stand could be made, but rather a place of refuge for the wives and families and cattle of the population in cases of sudden assault. In certain hilly counties they would find the tops of the hills covered with trenches and mounds; in others, where there was a steep escarpment, forming a natural defence, they would find the earthworks of different shape. Roman camps were always placed with a view to such a command of water as would enable them to be held for a length of time; but these were constructed with a view to a very short resistance—a day or two at most. There was scarcely a mediæval castle which was not connected with the site of some primæval fortress of the ancient Saxons. That there was such a stronghold at Windsor in the time of William the Conqueror is quite certain, for it is mentioned in the Domesday survey. We know that Edward the Confessor had a palace here, but where it was we have not been able to ascertain. Tradition points to New Windsor, but the remains are not sufficient to establish the locality. Those remains appear more probably to belong to a mansion of the sixteenth century—some portions which have been transferred to some neighbouring cottages undoubtedly are of that date. The site of the Castle was, then, perhaps, that of Edward the Confessor's house at Windsor, and as Anglo-Saxon dwellings were mostly of timber, it is not surprising that very few indications should remain of it after the stone building was erected. William the Conqueror had a sort of hunting lodge here, and under all the Norman sovereigns works appear to have been going on, until Henry I. took up the work and enlarged it very much. This mound, though very fine, does not equal in size or height the mounds of many castles of less importance. There was hardly room for a donjon in the grand Norman style, nor was there any space for men to assemble and form between the donjon and the descent of the hill, to defend the last line of works. The large semicircular tower, called Edward the Third's Tower, was one of the Norman gateways. There are still some of the jambs on one side of the gateway, and portions of the hinges remaining. Another evidence of the Norman date of this work is the existence of two sally-ports cut through the solid chalk rock on which the castle is built, which are evidently of the time of Stephen, or Henry III.—times when the defence even of a Royal Castle was a matter by no means of mere form. The next stage is the building of the castle proper. We have records of the reign of Henry III., of the

employment of masons, carpenters, and various workmen here, not only of the first St. George's Chapel, but the whole parapet and the three towers overlooking the lower ward. Mr. Parker would speak more fully of the various steps by which the buildings of the lower ward became what they now are, and he would not enter into details which, however interesting to the antiquarian, as sometimes deciding points of great importance, were wholesomely forgotten when they were studying the growth of the building as a whole. The reign of Edward III. brought us to one of the famous names in English history. It was not sufficiently remembered that the clergy at one time engrossed the whole of the practical knowledge and learning of the age; and the celebrated William of Wykeham was clerk of the works, or, as we should say, the architect, at a weekly salary of seven shillings, and practically superintended the work. There is a whole series of accounts of the conversion of the original donjon into the Round Tower; but there is no mention of any expenditure for raising the mound—a clear proof that the mound already stood there. Edward III. erected the Round Tower for a special purpose, to be the seat of his newly established order of the garter. There was on the main floor a sort of gallery, with seats for the knights, with a round table in front of them—the servants waiting on the inside. This was the real round table concerning which we heard so much—not like that shown at Winchester, but the very thing. Ascending the Round Tower, and looking down on the inside, there may still be seen the remains of the square lean-to or pent house that covered the round table. The wooden substructure was the oldest part of the building, and the masonry of Edward III. was still as strong as ever. The next step in the progress of the Castle is that of Henry VII., who built what now forms part of the library. Beyond that is the portion of Queen Elizabeth, a long narrow room, built for a picture gallery. Charles II., with that remarkable taste which distinguished him, turned what Wykeham had built into something differing little from the manufactories of later years. Scarcely anything was done worth remembering until the time of George IV., under whom Wyatville was employed. He was a poet, not an architectural antiquary, and built for beautiful effect, not for historical correctness. Of what has since been done, it was perhaps not well to speak at all.

The visitors were then conducted to the earliest part of the building, in the south-west corner of the castle, the more adventurous descending the sally-port under the York tower, the floor having been taken up to allow of the inspection. They also visited the portions of the foundations mentioned by Mr. Woodward, and noticed the groove of the portcullis which still remains. From thence they were conducted to the servants' hall and the state dining-room, where the magnificent carvings of Gibbons were inspected. On reaching the library, which is under Mr. Woodward's special care, the visitors were allowed to inspect many objects of interest not usually shown to the public, including the Sobieski Missal, a miniature by Holbein, the seals of King Theodore, Charles I.'s Shakespeare, and a number of valuable autographs. The fireplace, a fine specimen of early English renaissance, bearing the date of the 25th year of Queen Elizabeth (1583), was expressly pointed out. It was much to be regretted that time did not permit even a hurried glance at one tenth of the objects of interest.

At the termination of the inspection of this part of the building, the Ven. Archdeacon Bickersteth, in the name of the Society, tendered him their hearty thanks for the courtesy he had manifested, expressing his satisfaction that the Royal library was in such good hands.

Mr. Woodward, in reply, expressed his satisfaction in meeting the

members, and was pleased that he was enabled, by the Queen's permission, to throw open those portions of the building most interesting to the Society. He rejoiced, too, that the Bucks Archæological Society had not been stopped by the river, but had, as societies of that kind should do, visited places conterminous to their own county.

From the library the visitors were conducted, under the guidance of Mr. Parker, of Oxford, over the other portions of the building. He first called their attention to the Round Tower, before which they stood. This, he said, was originally built by Edward III., to receive the celebrated Round Table, which was placed in a narrow gallery, with a penthouse roof, just within and against the outer walls. There are remains of this wooden roof, and of the arches under the gallery, of the character of the time of Edward III. The tower was built upon old earthworks of very early character, and the mound was the keep of the original castle. He then pointed out some fragments of the Norman castle of Henry I. and II., chiefly sculptured capitals of the latter reign, which had probably belonged to the chapel, as that was usually the richest part of the building. Then, in passing the exterior of the Royal Tombhouse, now the monument to the late Prince Consort, he mentioned that it is on the site of the old chapel of Henry III., and the north wall is still of that time. He then led them to the cloisters, and showed them the outside of the wall with the fine arcade of Henry III. Upon it are some remains of the original painting. The cloisters were pointed out as, in one respect, similar to those of Westminster Abbey, taking the place of the aisle, although outside the chapel proper. The stone bench in the cloister, although appropriate, was not often met with. In St. George's Chapel, Mr. Parker pointed out the extreme beauty of the groined roof, observing that in English architecture every stone in the groined roof is cut to fit its place; whereas, on the Continent, where vaulted roofs are far more common, they are simply square stones, forced into their places, and kept there by cement. He also drew attention to "Parson Shorn's Chapel," a name which most Buckinghamshire people would remember. Mr. Parker observed that he was an incumbent at Long Marston, who discovered some mineral springs at North Marston, supposed to be good for the cure of gout, and who was made a saint, not by the Pope, but by the people, who honoured him much, and erected altars and chapels to his honour, not only in his own neighbourhood, but in Norfolk and at Canterbury also. The earliest part of St. George's Chapel that was built was the Chantry Chapel of "Parson Shorn," at the north-east corner, with two rooms for the chantry priests over it, forming one of the towers. After this was finished, there was a break in the work, and an interval of time before St. George's Chapel was continued, the royal gang of workmen being sent to North Marston to rebuild the choir there, a worthy shrine in honour of Parson Shorn, whose relics had been given by the king to the chapter of St. George's. The offerings of the faithful at this shrine were numerous and important, and these were of material assistance to the dean and chapter in carrying on the work at St. George's. The next part to be built was the choir, with its aisles, and the vaults and their aisles. This part was executed in the time of Edward IV., who is buried on the north side of the altar, in the king's aisle, which was the entrance to the chapel from the chapter-house. A temporary wooden roof was put over the choir at the head of the vaults and the aisles, and remained for several years. The "upper church," as it is called—that is, the clerestory and the vault of the choir—was not built until the reign of Henry VIII., as appears by the contract with the masons for building it, and the pattern of that of the nave. These vaults were long among the most wonderful pieces of construction in the world, and must

always be matter of admiration for the scientific skill with which they are built. Passing into the choir, Mr. Parker observed that some people found fault with the flags, but they were consonant with the original object of the building, and, moreover, they might observe how much more easily he was heard there than in the nave, showing that then our ancestors *understood the principles of acoustics better than we do*; and he believed that if the Houses of Parliament were hung with curtains or flags, the debates would be heard to much greater advantage.

After inspecting the various antiquities of the building, the visitors were admitted, by the special kindness of the dean, to Wolsey's Chapel, which is now being fitted as a memorial chapel to the late Prince Consort, at the cost of the Queen and the Royal children, under the direction of Mr. G. G. Scott. The beautiful mosaics in the roof, by Salviati, were duly admired. The splendid mosaic pictures, now in course of being painted by Mr. Herbert, were also inspected, so far as they are yet allowed to be seen. Of the designs (inlaid in marble), one of which has been presented by each member of the Royal Family, only four are as yet visible: that presented by the Princess Louise, with the motto "Steadfastness and truth," represents Moses blessing the children of Israel; that by the Princess Beatrice, the figure of Nathaniel, with the motto "Sincerity;" that by the Prince Arthur, the figure of Samuel, with the words, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth," and the motto, "Eloquence and harmony;" and that by the Princess Helena, the figure of Solomon, with the motto, "Wisdom and science." It is to be hoped that before long *these works of art, so valuable in themselves, and so interesting as regards* their object, will be thrown open to the British public.

It should be stated that the Dean of Windsor had most courteously desired that every object under his care should be thrown open to the visitors, and had commissioned Mr. Parker to be their guide in his absence.

Leaving the royal residence, the visitors descended the "hundred steps," and soon reached the precincts of Eton College, where they were hospitably entertained at luncheon by the Rev. W. B. Marriott, who also kindly exhibited several valuable illustrations of the clerical vestments, both of the Eastern and Western Churches. Proceeding to the library, the visitors were received by the Provost, the Rev. Dr. Goodford, who pointed out many objects of antiquity, especially a series of the great seals of the successive sovereigns, affixed to various grants to the college. The earliest of these is that of William Rufus; there is also a grant of land from King John, and two charters of Walter Giffard, the first Earl of Buckinghamshire (these are attached to charters belonging to the lands afterwards given to the college); a prayer-book of Queen Mary; a MS. of the Koran, and many others, which it would be tedious to catalogue.

At three o'clock, the company attended divine service in the College Chapel, and afterwards made a brief inspection of the building, under the guidance of Mr. Parker, who pointed out some of the beauties and defects of the modern glass windows, observing that the rawness of the blue colour is a defect which in old glass is always modified by the use of a diaper pattern in brown, *which softens it down. The roof is a modern erection*—a fine open timber roof, equal to any in the world—and it may be noted that timber roofs have many advantages, especially in lightness. They are more common in England than on the Continent, where, as before mentioned, vaulted stone roofs are less scientific, but also far less costly. Mr. Parker went on to observe that the Gothic style is an English invention, that is, was first fully developed in England in its purity, free from any mixture of the Romanesque style. All comparison with foreign work tends to establish that point. Each successive change of style took place

thirty or forty years earlier in England than on the Continent. The choir of Lincoln Cathedral had long been a favourite study of his, and it happened that the documentary evidence of its age was particularly strong. He had at first been perplexed by the evidence, which seemed to point to a Burgundian architect as having designed it; but after the fullest investigation, he had come to the conclusion that the architect, whose name was Du Noyers, was a Lincolnshire man, though his ancestors had come over with William the Conqueror. In Lincolnshire English architecture happened to be in a particularly advanced state just at the moment when Gothic was developed from a mixture of the Roman and Byzantine, after the return of the Crusaders. When he visited Lincoln with some of the most eminent French archæologists, they agreed with him that there was nothing in France like it of the corresponding period, and therefore he claimed for England the parentage of Gothic architecture.

The Annual Meeting.

At four o'clock the meeting for transacting the routine business of the Society was held in the Hall of Eton College, the Ven. Archdeacon Bickersteth, D.D., presiding.

The Secretary, the Rev. C. Lowndes, read the Report of the Committee, as follows:—

"The Society, having now attained its majority, your Committee have much satisfaction in reviewing its position and prospects at the close of this the twenty-first year of its existence. During its minority much useful work has been accomplished in the accumulation of a considerable store of information, which has been published in the 'Records of Buckinghamshire,' in the establishment of a Library and County Museum, and the collection of Antiquities, Drawings, Manuscripts, etc., illustrative of the History of the County. The roll of members during the first year of its existence contained only 55 names, but on the 31st of December last it contained 247. During the past year 14 new members were elected, and 11 were removed by death and resignation. Among those removed by death the Society has to deplore the loss of Colonel Hanmer, one of its oldest members and a Vice-President.

"Your Committee have nominated the Rev. C. O. Goodford, D.D., Provost of Eton, to the vacant office of Vice-President, and recommend you to elect him to-day.

"Your Committee beg leave to resign into the hands of the Society the trust reposed in them during the past year, and to express their willingness to resume their duties if re-elected. They trust that all the members will exert themselves to make known the objects and proceedings of the Society when an opportunity offers, to obtain subscribers, and to collect information on subjects of Architectural and Archæological research. Although the Society's operations have been progressive, and have already been of the highest advantage to the County historian, still it requires the fostering help and patronage of the generous and cultivated minds of the nobility and gentry of the county. With these aids it is hoped that the Society will attain a position of still greater usefulness, alike satisfactory to its promoters and conducive to the interests of truth."

The High Sheriff (J. Carson, Esq.) moved that the report be adopted, printed, and circulated. He expressed his satisfaction at the success of the meeting, which had been the means of conveying a great deal of valuable information.

C. G. Du Pre, Esq., M.P., concurred in thinking the report very satisfactory, and seconded its adoption most cordially.

Mr. J. K. FOWLER called attention to the desirableness of providing more suitable accommodation for the Museum of the Society, suggesting that one of the rooms over the Corn Exchange at Aylesbury might be found available. He thought that if a better room was provided, clergymen and others might not only assist the Society by their labours and their contributions, but by sending any ancient remains which might be found in their respective localities.

The adoption of the report was carried unanimously.

On the motion of J. WHIGHAM, Esq., the whole of the former officers were re-elected, and the name of Dr. Goodford, Provost of Eton, was added to the list of Vice-Presidents.

On the motion of the Rev. W. J. BURGESS, seconded by J. E. BARTLETT, Esq., sixteen new members were elected.

The Chairman then called upon the Provost of Eton to read a paper on Eton.

The Rev. Dr. GOODFORD said he had been connected with Eton College for upwards of thirty years, and it was more through fondness for it than his knowledge of the subject that he was induced to accede to the application to read a paper. A member of the House of Commons had recently stated in his hearing, that he had gone down to Eton to find out of what use the Provost and Fellows of Eton were, and the result of his inquiries was the discovery that the Fellows were of no use at all, and that the only use of the Provost was to give entertainments. He was not confident that the members of the Bucks Archæological Society would leave Eton duly impressed with the conviction that he did his duty even in that matter. If they should, in his paper, hear something which they had not heard before, they would, perhaps, give him credit for endeavouring to do what he had undertaken. He would not enter into the history of the College, which all who took an interest therein could obtain from other sources, but would confine himself to some details which were not accessible to those who did not occupy his position in the College.

The paper read by Dr. Goodford will, by his kind permission, be published in the "Records of Buckinghamshire."

The Rev. H. BULL, in moving a vote of thanks to Dr. Goodford, said he did not care for the Parliamentary estimate mentioned by Dr. Goodford, but hoped that the Provost and Fellows would be enabled to resist all acts of spoliation, which, not only in the days of arbitrary kings, but under a free constitution, were apt to overtake the institutions of the country.

ACTON TINDAL, Esq., seconded the vote of thanks, and expressed the interest which he felt in everything pertaining to the College, observing that his only connection with it was that two of his sons were here enjoying the benefits which he trusted they would never forget.

The PRESIDENT next called upon the Rev. W. B. Marriott to read a paper on "Vestments," which was illustrated by a number of photographs, chiefly taken from the rev. gentleman's work on the subject.

This Paper will also be printed, by the kind permission of Mr. Marriott, in the "Records of Buckinghamshire."

C. G. DU PRE, M.P., moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Marriott for his valuable paper. The subject was one with which they were not so familiar as they should be. He hoped, from the facts which had been laid before them, much useful knowledge would be acquired, and much prejudice removed.

Mr. PARKER (who had been appealed to by Mr. Marriott on several points) in seconding the motion, said, the theological questions involved were rather for the clergy; but all the information he had been able to

obtain in Rome singularly bore out Mr. Marriott's views. He believed that rich vestments did not come into use till the time of Charlemagne, when the temporal power of the Pope was established. So far as regarded the Catacombs, before the time of Constantine they did not venture to paint Scriptural subjects at all. The "Good Shepherd," a conventional subject, was perhaps adopted as appropriate to Christian thought. As to the work of De Rossi, he was a man brought up in the Catacombs, and except on matters which the Church had decided he was to be relied on. He must observe, however, that no drawings, except photographs, were trustworthy as representatives of ancient monuments. In one of the very earliest representations of our Lord and his Apostles, about A.D. 390, most of the latter appear in the ordinary dress of Roman gentlemen, but two or three wear a dress closely resembling the modern surplice and stole.

The ARCHDEACON, in presenting the vote of thanks to Mr. Marriott, said that he was very much mistaken in the good sense of the Clergy and Laity of the Church of England, if they could not settle the question of ritual, in a way consistent with their attachment to the Reformed Church, without any breach of unity, and without any disturbance.

The HIGH SHERIFF moved, and R. ROSE, Esq., seconded, a vote of thanks to the Archdeacon, which, having been acknowledged, the meeting closed.

After the meeting, the members of the Society were hospitably entertained at dinner by the Provost, the Rev. Dr. Goodford. At the close of the repast, the Provost, according to the custom of the College, gave the toast, or rather a sentiment, to the memory of him by whose bounty it was he had been able to entertain them in that hall. That sentiment was the blessed and pious memory of King Henry VI. He would propose it in the usual form, "*In piam memoriam.*" If some of the ladies present did not understand it, he was sure that all antiquarian ladies did.

The PROVOST then said there was another toast, not a sentiment, which they did not meet without drinking, and which was always drunk wherever Englishmen assembled together, "The Health of our Gracious Sovereign the Queen."

The Ven. Archdeacon BICKERSTETH said a toast had been entrusted to him which he was quite sure, whoever the advocate might be, would be received with pleasure by all present. He congratulated the company on the complete success of the meeting. This was the second time that the Archæological Society had been entertained within the historical precincts of Eton College, and although they had pleasant recollections of spending long summer days in an intellectual way in their annual excursions, for many years past, he could truly say that he had never attended one, where he had gone through so long a day, with so much satisfaction and pleasure, from its beginning to its close, as he had on that day. For this success they were greatly indebted to the kindness of the Provost; and, although the meeting had been enlarged beyond what was originally expected, in consequence of the Provost's kind invitation, yet his hospitality had proved fully equal to the occasion. Personally, he felt under great obligation to the Provost; for a curious kind of, he would not say disagreement, but of difficulty, and not of recent standing, had existed between the Provost of Eton and the Archdeacon of Buckingham with respect to the visitation of this place. In ancient times the authorities of Eton bought off the Archdeacon of Buckingham by a small pecuniary payment, in virtue of which he was considered to have discharged his Visitation duties as regards Eton College. He (the Archdeacon) was there as a visitor of Eton College, and he was never better pleased than to find himself the guest of the Provost of Eton. He begged to assure the Provost, however, that he should faithfully respect the compact entered into between the former

authorities of Eton and the Archdeacons of Buckingham. The toast he was going to propose was "The health of the Provost of Eton," long known among Eton men, and known also to every one who knows anything of England's literature and education, and also, he might now say, not unknown to the antiquarians of the good county of Bucks. In proposing his health, with their best thanks for the pleasure he had afforded them that day, they of the county of Buckingham would carry away with them a lively recollection of the Provost's kindness, the memory of which would rest in their minds; for, although archæologists, they were not incapable of gratitude for recent kindnesses. He could not sit down without expressing the satisfaction with which he had joined in the service in the College Chapel, and had seen a large body of the youthful aristocracy of England worshipping there. It was a sight which seemed to blend the future with the past, and which had added not a little to the pleasure of the day.

The PROVOST of Eton said he knew they had not much time to spare, and he would not detain them long. The Archdeacon had spoken of himself and his efforts to make the meeting agreeable and pleasant. The statutes of the College say that the Provost ought to be a sociable man, and that he should assemble them together *juxta socialem mensem*. He begged to assure the Archdeacon, who had said that the Provost and Fellows of a former day had bought off the Archdeacons of Buckingham, that his predecessors had no such mean pecuniary ideas of the matter. The fact was that the founder, Henry VI., being desirous to make the officers of the foundation more independent, had obtained leave to exempt the College from Archidiaconal visitation, on payment of a certain number of marks. He was most glad indeed to see the Archdeacon not as visitor of, but as visitor to, the College. The Bishop of Lincoln, whom every one must respect, was the Visitor of the College, and even their respected Diocesan could not be received under that title. If all those whom he was pleased now to see around him were to become visitors of the College, he feared there would be a great many alterations in the statutes. He rejoiced especially that the Society had come this year, for next year he might perhaps be under a "governing body." But if he were still in a position to entertain the Archæological Society of Bucks, whenever the time came round for their visit to Eton, he trusted they might have as agreeable an excursion as they had this day. He said there was one other toast which he would call upon them to drink. They knew that to conduct any company required a head, with some capacity for leading. Their President had brought together that day a company, twelve or fourteen times as large, he believed, as when they assembled there the last time. He proposed the health of the President of the day, the Archdeacon of Buckingham. There were no doubt other officers to whom some part of the success of the day was to be attributed, but in these matters he always looked to the head.

Archdeacon BICKERSTETH said that that was an honour which he did not expect. There was very little credit due to him for the success of the meeting. If he had not been sustained and supported by the help of a very efficient officer, he could not have performed the duty which had devolved upon him on that occasion. The success of the day was chiefly due to their tried and valuable secretary, the Rev. Charles Lowndes, to whom the Society was eminently indebted. He had been consulted as to the arrangements and details of the meeting, and was very happy in having so valuable a coadjutor. It was chiefly to the Rev. C. Lowndes that the Society was indebted for its prosperous condition.

The Rev. C. LOWNDES having responded, the proceedings of a most agreeable day were brought to an end.