

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CAMDEN SOCIETY,

ELECTED 2nd MAY, 1863.

THE Council of the Camden Society, elected on the 2nd May, 1863, feel assured that the Members will receive with satisfaction the Report of the Auditors, which shows that the financial condition of the Society continues to be satisfactory.

The Council regret to announce that since the last General Meeting the Society has lost by death the following Members:—

Rev. JAMES ADCOCK, M.A.
The LORD BAGOT.
WILLIAM BIRD, Esq.
BERIAH BOTFIELD, Esq. M.P., F.R.S., F.S.A.
HUMPHREY BRANDRETH, Esq.
GEORGE RICHARD CORNER, Esq. F.S.A.
JAMES WILLIAM FARRER, Esq.
JAMES ROBERT GOWEN, Esq.
The LORD LYNDHURST, LL.D., F.R.S.
JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS, Esq. F.S.A.
ARTHUR PAGET, Esq.
JOSEPH PARKES, Esq.
WILLIAM SALT, Esq. F.S.A.
NEWMAN SMITH, Esq.
WILLIAM TOOKE, Esq. Pres.S.Arts, F.R.S. and F.S.A.
Rev. GODFREY WRIGHT.

Several of these gentlemen rendered excellent service to this Society. Mr. BERIAH BOTFIELD served on the Council. Mr. CORNER acted as an Auditor and was elected on the Council. Mr. SALT, to whose liberality many literary societies have been indebted for valuable assistance, was on several occasions on the Council, and yet more frequently served as Auditor; his sudden removal, whilst carrying on many labours for the benefit of historical literature, is a subject of very deep regret—a man more generous, or personally more estimable, can scarcely be conceived. Of

Mr. J. BOWYER NICHOLS it is only necessary to remind the Members that he was one of the Founders of this Society, that in conjunction with his Sons he has been the printer of all our publications, and that he has granted us the use of his rooms in Parliament Street as a place of meeting for the Council, and (for some years past) for our General Meetings.

Since the last Anniversary the following publications have been delivered to the Members—

Wills from Doctors' Commons. EDITED by **JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS**, Esq. F.S.A. and **JOHN BRUCE**, Esq. F.S.A.

Trevelyan Papers, Part II. EDITED by **J. PAYNE COLLIER**, Esq. F.S.A.

These two books belong to the preceding year. The Council trust they have justified the notice given of them in the last Report.

The publications of the year 1863-4 have been—

I. The Life of **Marmaduke Rawdon** of York. From the Original MS. in the possession of **ROBERT COOKE**, Esq. Edited by **ROBERT DAVIES**, Esq. F.S.A.

a volume replete with interesting pictures of the state of society in Rawdon's period, and edited with great care and judgment by **Mr. DAVIES**. This book has been universally acknowledged by reviewers to be one of the most interesting and best edited of our publications.

This was followed by

II. Letters of **Queen Margaret of Anjou**, **Bishop Beckington**, and others, temp. **Henry VI**. Edited by **CECIL MONRO**, Esq.

a work of much importance in reference to a period of our history which is peculiarly obscure. The Society is under great obligation to **Mr. Monro** for calling attention to these letters, and for the care with which he has edited them. The manuscripts from which this and the preceding volume have been derived are in private hands, and but for the existence of this Society would probably never have been given to the press.

As another book for this year's subscription the Members will receive a **Fifth Volume** of **The Camden Miscellany**, containing:—

Five Letters of **King Charles II.**, communicated by the **Marquis of BRISTOL**, President of the **Camden Society**.

Letter of the Council to **Sir Thomas Lake**, relating to the proceedings of **Sir Edward Coke** at **Oatlands**; and, Documents relating to **Sir Walter Raleigh's** last Voyage. Communicated by **S. R. GARDINER**, Esq.

A Catalogue of **Early English Miscellanies** formerly in the **Harleian Library**. Edited by **W. CAREW HAZLITT**, Esq.

Letters selected from the Collection of Autographs in the possession of WILLIAM TITE, Esq. M.P., V.P.S A.

Sir Francis Drake's Memorable Service done against the Spaniards in 1587. Written by ROBERT LENG, Gentleman, one of his co-adventurers and fellow-soldiers. Edited by CLARENCE HOPPER, Esq.

Inquiry into the Genuineness of a Letter dated February 3rd, 1613, and signed "Mary Magdaline Davers."

Our volumes of Miscellanies have always been welcomed by the Members, and the Council feel that the varied and interesting character of the present Collection, which owes much of its value to the liberality of the President in placing the curious Letters of Charles the Second at the disposal of the Council, and of Mr. Tite, who, in like manner, has contributed a characteristic Series of Letters, will be as acceptable as any of its predecessors.

The following Work has been recently added to the List of suggested Publications:—

List of Persons who compounded for not taking up Knighthood at the Coronation of Charles the First.

Since the last General Meeting a suggestion has been made to the Council, that the Camden Society would be doing good service to the cause of historical literature, by applying to the Judge of the Court of Probate for an extension of the privilege now enjoyed by literary inquirers at Doctors' Commons to all local registries and to all other courts in which Wills have at any time been proved.

The Council readily entertained the suggestion; and with a view to giving greater weight to the application requested the co-operation of the Society of Antiquaries. This was very cordially agreed to; and a Joint Committee of the two Societies was appointed to carry out this object. The Joint Committee thereupon drew up the following Memorial, which, having been signed by the President and Council of the Society of Antiquaries, and by the President and Council of the Camden Society, has been forwarded to Sir James Wilde.

*The Society of Antiquaries,
Somerset House.*

MY LORD,

ON the 18th February, 1859, many of the undersigned, conjointly with other persons interested in literary research, addressed a letter to the late Sir Cresswell Cresswell, in which his attention was directed to the manner in which the labours of persons engaged in literature were affected by the regulations of the Record Office

for Wills. After stating the facts upon which their application was grounded, the writers concluded with the expression of a hope that the time had arrived when the practice of the Record Office for Wills might be assimilated in the case of literary inquirers to that of the Public Record Office, in which almost unlimited freedom of inspection, with the power of making transcripts, is given to such inquirers.

After a correspondence between Sir Cresswell Cresswell and the applicants, for which we beg to refer to the inclosed printed paper, Sir Cresswell opened at the Principal Registry a department for Literary Inquirers, under certain printed Regulations which are dated the 11th March, 1862.

The sixth clause in these Regulations specifies the nature of the documents to which access was intended to be given. This Clause is in the following terms: "The Visitor will be allowed without fee to search the Calendars, to read the registered copies of Wills proved before the year 1700, the Probate and Administration Act Books to the same date, and to make extracts from such Wills and Books."

In putting these Regulations into practice, a question has arisen, whether the privilege thereby afforded shall be treated as limited to the copies of Wills and books belonging to the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, which alone at the time of the original application were deposited in the Principal Registry, or whether the same liberty shall be extended to other testamentary documents, which since the year 1859 (but not entirely since the date of the Regulations issued in March 1862) have been transferred to the same depository.

The undersigned beg to submit that the more liberal interpretation of Sir Cresswell Cresswell's Order best accords both with the letter and with the spirit of his concession. And they are not aware of any reason for excluding from literary research the documents which have been brought in from the other London and provincial registries, and which contain historical materials of a similar character to those found in the books and papers to which the Regulations admittedly apply.

The undersigned very respectfully suggest to your Lordship that if you would be pleased to declare your view of the proper construction of the Order in question, the expression of your opinion would ensure the harmonious working of the Regulations, would be a guide to the applications of literary inquirers, and a rule to the Officers as to what they are to grant and what to refuse.

If it should happen that your Lordship thought it right to issue any new paper of Regulations, the undersigned would venture to request that it might be considered, whether something might not be done towards rendering accessible that extremely valuable collection of materials for the history of the domestic condition of our ancestors, the INVENTORIES which used to be brought into the Office on proving a will. Such an INVENTORY was adduced on the proof of the will of Shakspeare. It probably contained a minute account and valuation of his personal estate. It may still exist at the Record Office for Wills, but the undersigned are informed that the Inventories are not in a condition in which they can be produced to inquirers.

The undersigned further suggest that in the case supposed, it might be considered whether the limit of the year 1700, which is every year thrown further back, might not be altered into a period (say) of 150 years, which would be a limitation always equi-distant from the current time.

The points which have been enumerated affect only those who can apply personally at the Principal Registry, but the undersigned, as, in a certain sense, representatives

of a great body of historical and literary inquirers, have been urged from many quarters to point out to your Lordship that in all parts of England, as well as in London, there reside investigators of our topographical and genealogical history, not numerous in any one place, but some of them peculiarly distinguished—authors of books of the highest value, books which constitute a peculiar and most important feature in our national literature. To such persons access to the registered copies of Wills preserved in the district registries would be little less valuable than the same privilege has been found in London.

At present they are not (as literary men were in London before Sir Cresswell Cresswell's Regulations of 1862) totally excluded. The kindness of some registrars, and the payment of fees (irregular and uncertain) at other offices, enable some of them to procure access; but no really important work can thus be carried on. On their behalf we appeal to your Lordship, in the hope that by some arrangement emanating from your authority they may be made partakers of a privilege which has made literary men deeply grateful to Sir Cresswell Cresswell, and will in due time lead to great improvements in all literary works which are based upon historical truth.

Sufficient time has not elapsed to admit of our receiving an answer to this application. But the Council feel sure that the application will meet with the approval of the Members. If Sir James Wilde be pleased to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, he has it in his power to make arrangements which will associate his name with those great benefactors to historical students, Sir George Cornwall Lewis, Sir John Romilly, and Sir Cresswell Cresswell.

By order of the Council,

JOHN BRUCE, Director.

WILLIAM J. THOMS, Secretary.

20th April, 1864.

WORKS OF THE CAMDEN SOCIETY.

For the Subscription of 1838-9.

1. Restoration of King Edward IV.
2. Kyng Johan, by Bishop Bale.
3. Deposition of King Richard II.
4. Plumpton Correspondence.
5. Anecdotes and Traditions.

For 1839-40.

6. Political Songs.
7. Hayward's Annals of Elizabeth.
8. Ecclesiastical Documents.
9. Norden's Description of Essex.
10. Warkworth's Chronicle.
11. Kemp's Nine Daies Wonder.

For 1840-41.

12. The Egerton Papers.
13. Chronica Jocelini de Brakelonda.
14. Irish Narratives, 1641 and 1690.
15. Rishanger's Chronicle.

For 1841-42.

16. Poems of Walter Mapes.
17. Travels of Nicander Nucius.
18. Three Metrical Romances.
19. Diary of Dr. John Dee.

For 1842-43.

20. Apology for the Lollards.
21. Rutland Papers.
22. Diary of Bishop Cartwright.
23. Letters of Eminent Literary Men.
24. Proceedings against Alice Kyteler.

For 1843-44.

25. Promptorium Parvulorum: Tom. I.
26. Suppression of the Monasteries.
27. Leicester Correspondence.

For 1844-45.

28. French Chronicle of London.
29. Polydore Vergil.
30. The Thornton Romances.
31. Verney's Notes of Long Parliament.

For 1845-46.

32. Autobiography of Sir J. Bramston.
33. Correspondence of Duke of Perth.
34. Liber de Antiquis Legibus.
35. The Chronicle of Calais.

For 1846-47.

36. Polydore Vergil's History, Vol. I.
37. Italian Relation of England.
38. Church of Middleham.
39. The Camden Miscellany, Vol. I.

For 1847-48.

40. Life of Lord Grey of Wilton.
41. Diary of Walter Yonge, Esq.
42. Diary of Henry Machyn.

For 1848-49.

43. Visitation of Huntingdonshire.
44. Obituary of Richard Smyth.
45. Twysden on Government of England.

For 1849-50.

46. Letters of Elizabeth and James VI.
47. Chronicon Petroburgense.
48. Queen Jane and Queen Mary.

For 1850-51.

49. Bury Wills and Inventories.
50. Mapes de Nugis Curialium.
51. Pilgrimage of Sir R. Guylford.

For 1851-52.

52. Secret Services of Chas. II. & Jas. II.
53. Chronicle of Grey Friars of London.
54. Promptorium Parvulorum, Tom. II.

For 1852-53.

55. The Camden Miscellany, Vol. II.
56. Verney Papers to 1639.
57. The Ancren Riwe.

For 1853-54.

58. Letters of Lady B. Harley.
59. Roll of Bishop Swinfield, Vol. I.

For 1854-55.

60. Grants, &c. of Edward the Fifth.
61. The Camden Miscellany, Vol. III.
62. Roll of Bishop Swinfield, Vol. II.

For 1855-56.

63. Charles I. in 1646.
64. English Chronicle 1377 to 1461.
65. The Hospitallers in England.

For 1856-57.

66. Diary of John Rous.
67. The Trévelyan Papers.
68. Journal of Dean Davies.

For 1857-58.

69. The Domesday of St. Paul's.
70. The Liber Famelicus of Sir James Whitelocke.

For 1858-59.

71. Savile Correspondence.
72. Blonde of Oxford.
73. The Camden Miscellany, Vol. IV.

For 1859-60.

74. Diary of Richard Symonds.
75. Papers relating to Milton.
76. Letters of Lord George Carew.

For 1860-61.

77. Narratives of the Reformation.
78. Correspondence of James VI. with Sir Robert Cecil.

For 1861-62.

79. Chamberlain's Letters temp. Eliz.
80. Proceedings in Kent 1640.
81. Parliamentary Debates 1610.

For 1862-63.

82. Foreigners Resident in England 1618-1688.
83. Wills from Doctors' Commons.
84. Trévelyan Papers, Part II. to 1643.

For 1863-64.

85. Life of Marmaduke Rawdon of York.
86. Letters of Margaret of Anjou, &c.
87. The Camden Miscellany, Vol. V.

To Members of the Society, i. e. Subscribers for the current year, applying whilst the Works of former years remain in stock, they will be supplied on the following terms:—

The books for each year, except the first (which are out of print) and the two last, at Ten Shillings.

The books for 1862-63 and 1863-64 (together), for Thirty Shillings.

The subscription of One Pound is due in advance on the 1st of May in every Year. No Books are delivered until the Subscription for the Year has been paid.

W. J. THOMS, Secretary.

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE of the Works of the Society, accompanied by a classified Arrangement of their Contents, and an Index of Subjects, Authors, and Editors, by JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, F.S.A. is published, bound uniformly with the Series, price Five Shillings.

25 Parliament Street, Westminster,
15 June, 1864.