

CAMDEN



SOCIETY,

FOR THE PUBLICATION OF
EARLY HISTORICAL AND LITERARY REMAINS.

WITHOUT at all disparaging the usefulness, or intending to interfere with the efforts, of existing associations of this nature, it has been determined to institute a Metropolitan Society, which may work together with those already in the field, and which it is thought desirable to make far more comprehensive than any one that has yet been established.

The name of CAMDEN has been assumed as at once a symbol of the importance and value of the subjects to which the attention of the Society will be directed, and a pledge that its designs will be prosecuted with zeal, learning, and judgment.

CAMDEN, the Nourice of Antiquitie,
And lanterne unto late succeeding age,
To see the light of simple veritie
Buried in ruines (through the great outrage
Of her owne people led with warlike rage) ;
CAMDEN! though time all monuments obscure,
Yet thy just labours ever shall endure.

(Spenser's Ruines of Time)

The general object of THE CAMDEN SOCIETY is to perpetuate, and render accessible, whatever is valuable, but at present little known, amongst the materials for the Civil, Ecclesiastical, or Literary History of the United Kingdom ; and it is proposed to accomplish that object by the

publication of Historical Documents, Letters, ancient Poems, and whatever else lies within the compass of the designs of the Society, in the most convenient form, and at the least possible expense that is consistent with the production of useful volumes.

It is unnecessary to enlarge on the benefits which may result from such a Society. They must be sufficiently obvious to all persons who are likely to take an interest in the subject, but they will be unattainable unless a widely-extended Association can be established, and its affairs be administered in an able and judicious manner. To secure the former of those objects, it is proposed that the annual subscription shall be no more than One Pound; to attain the latter, ample powers of direction and control will be given to the members at large.

The following LAWS for the government of the Society will explain the contemplated mode of administering its affairs.

I. That a Society be instituted for the publication of Early Historical and Literary Remains, and that such Society be entitled "THE CAMDEN SOCIETY."

II. That the first object of the Society shall be the publication of inedited manuscripts; but it is not intended to exclude the reprinting of any productions of extreme rarity and importance.

III. That Subscribers of One Pound annually be Members of the Society: such subscription to be paid in advance on or before the 1st of May, 1838, and on or before the same day in each subsequent year.

IV. That the management of the affairs of the Society be vested in a President, and a Council consisting of twelve members, including a Treasurer and Secretary, all of whom shall be elected annually by the Society at large, at a General Meeting, to be held on the 2nd day of May, being the Anniversary of Camden's birth; the First General Meeting to take place on the 2nd of May, 1839.

V. That the names of Members proposed to be elected into the Council be transmitted by the proposers to the Secretary one fortnight before the General Meetings; and that notice of the persons so proposed be forwarded by the Secretary to all the Members residing within the limits of the threepenny post, and to all other Members who shall request to receive the same, one week before the General Meetings.

VI. That at the General Meetings votes for the election of the President and Council may be given, either personally, or by letter, post paid, addressed to the Secretary; and that no Member be entitled to vote at any General Meeting whose subscription is in arrear.

VII. That, in the absence of the President, the Council at their meetings shall elect a Chairman, such Chairman having a casting vote in case of equality of numbers, and retaining also his right to vote upon all questions submitted to the Council.

VIII. That the funds of the Society be disbursed in payment of necessary expenses incident to the production of the works of the Society, and that all other expenses be avoided as far as possible.

IX. That the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Society be audited annually, by three auditors, to be elected in future at the General Meetings, and that such accounts be published.

X. That the Members be invited to contribute or recommend works for publication.

XI. That contributors of works for publication be entitled to twelve copies of the works they contribute.

XII. That every Member, not in arrear of his annual contribution, be entitled to one copy of every work printed by the Society, to be delivered as soon as it shall be completed.

XIII. That the Council shall determine what number of copies of each work shall be printed, and that the copies over and above those required for the Members, be sold to the public at such time and price as may be fixed by the Council, and the proceeds be carried to the account of the Society.

XIV. That the publications of the Society do all form separate and distinct works, without any necessary connexion; so that they may be bound and arranged as most agreeable to individual taste.

XV. That the following gentlemen do constitute the first President, Council, and Auditors of the Society.

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II. "Kyng Johan," an English Play in two Parts, by John Bale, Bishop of Ossory, probably written and acted in the reign of Edward VI., forming a connecting link, hitherto wanted, between Moralities and Historical Plays, from the Author's own MS. in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire. Edited by JOHN PAYNE COLLIER, Esq. F.S.A. (*Nearly ready.*)

III. A contemporary Alliterative Poem on the Deposition of King Richard II. from an unique MS. at Cambridge. With the Latin Poem on the same King by Richard de Maydestone, from a MS. at Oxford. Edited by THOMAS WRIGHT, Esq. M.A., F.S.A. (*Nearly ready.*)

IV. The Plumpton Correspondence, being a series of Letters, commencing in the reign of Edw. IV, and continuing to that of Hen. VIII., from a transcript made in 1612, now in the library of Peregrine Edward Towneley, Esq. Edited by THOMAS STAPLETON, Esq. F.S.A. (*In the Press.*)

WORKS SUGGESTED FOR PUBLICATION.

V. The Miracle Play of the Conversion of Sir Jonathas the Jewe by the blessed Sacrament, acted at Croxton in the fifteenth century. From a MS. in the library of Trinity College, Dublin. To be edited by the Rev. JAMES HENTHORN TODD, B.D., M.R.I.A., Fellow of Trinity College.

VI. A Collection of Contemporary Latin Songs on Political Events, from the twelfth century to the reign of Richard II. from various MSS. at London, Cambridge, &c. To be edited by THOMAS WRIGHT, Esq. M.A., F.S.A.

VII. The Latin Fables and Stories of Odo de Crediton (12th century).

VIII. The Early English Songs of the Harl. MS. No. 2252, of the thirteenth and beginning of the fourteenth centuries.

IX. Prior de Bliithe de gestis Edwardi Regis Angliæ de bello de Dunbar.

X. A Latin Poem of the end of the twelfth century, entitled "De Rebus Hiberniæ Admirandis."

XI. Miracula Sancti Edmundi, scripta ab Hermanno archidiacono tempore Baldewini abbatis circa ann. Christi 1070.

XII. Chronicon Jose. de Brakelond, Monachi de S. Edmundo, 1157—1211.

XIII. An Account of the Origin of the Bishoprick of Somerset, and its History, continued to A.D. 1174, including some Account of Bishop Gyso, written by himself.

XIV. The Poetical Works of Walter Mapes, temp. Rich. I.

XV. A Collection of Short English Sermons of the Earlier Part of the Thirteenth Century, from a MS. at Cambridge.

All Communications are to be addressed, Post Paid, to

MESSRS. NICHOLS, 25, PARLIAMENT STREET, or to one of the LOCAL SECRETARIES; who are also empowered by the Treasurer to receive Subscriptions and the names of new Members. After the number of Subscribers has reached 480, future Members can be admitted only to receive the books issued after their Subscription, as the three first works will then be out of print.

July 10, 1838.

Members of the Camden Society.

"I would rather be negligent in other things, then in setting forthe old ancient writers."
Bishop Parkhurst to John Foxe, 1563.

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