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THE HONORARY SECRETARY feels that some explanation is due to the Society for the lateness of the present Volume, which has been mainly caused by the great value and elaboration of its principal Paper.

A mere glance through most of the pages following, with their recondite subject-matter and unusually copious illustration, will, he believes, show that the delay has been neither unreasonable nor unfruitful; and he feels confident that the value of the Volume, when read, will be admitted to more than compensate for the lateness of its issue.

It is only right, however, to assure the Society that, had the Volume been produced last year,—as would ordinarily have been the case,—the funds at the disposal of the Council would have been insufficient to pay for it, owing to the lamentable arrears of unpaid subscriptions. It is not too much to say that the amount now owing to the Society from its less regular Members would be more than sufficient to produce a new volume next week; while, if no improvement in punctuality takes place, it will barely be possible to do so next year. Members are again implored kindly to rectify this deficiency, which so greatly impedes the regular and useful working of the Society.

The great length of Professor Willis's most valuable contribution having rendered necessary the postponement of other Papers, it has been thought best to omit from this Volume the usual Serials. These will be continued in Vol. VIII.