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The  
**Kent Archaeological Society.**

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ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS.

A MEETING of the Council was held on April 24, 1868, at the house of the Honorary Secretary in the Precincts, Canterbury.

A Local Committee was appointed to arrange the General Meeting at Canterbury.

The sum of £5 was granted towards a scheme for cataloguing, arranging, and reporting on the documents of the Corporation at Hythe, the scheme to be arranged between Mr. Mackeson and the Honorary Secretary.

The Honorary Secretary reported the close of his excavations in the Saxon cemetery at Bifrons, where he had been kindly assisted by the Rev. H. M. Villiers and Mr. J. Brent; about 250 graves in all having been opened either by himself or by men at work for the Marquis Conyngham. Many of the specimens found were exhibited to the Council.

Sixteen new members were elected, and one Honorary Member,—the Rev. Thomas Hugo, F.S.A.

THE NEXT Meeting was at the house of the noble President in Grosvenor Square, on June 11.

It was agreed that the General Meeting at Canterbury should be held on Thursday and Friday, the 30th and 31st of July.

Two new members were elected.

THE GENERAL MEETING for the year 1868 was held at Canterbury on the 30th and 31st of July, there being present,—

The Earl Amherst, President; Lord Fitzwalter; Sir Walter James, Bart.; Sir Walter Stirling, Bart.; S. M. Hilton, Esq., High Sheriff, and Mrs. Hilton; J. G. Talbot, Esq., and the Hon. Mrs. Talbot; C. Wykeham Martin, Esq., M.P.; the Dean of Canterbury and Mrs. Alford; Sir Charles Wingfield, Bart.; G. W. Norman, Esq.; Mrs. and Miss Norman; G. Dering, Esq., and Mrs. Dering; Archdeacon Harrison and Mrs. Harrison; C. Powell, Esq.; Major-General McQueen and Mrs. McQueen; Rev. Canon Stone and Miss Stone; Rev. Canon Robertson, Mrs. and Miss Robertson; Rev. Canon Blakesley and Mrs. Blakesley; Rev. J. Hughes-Hallett, Mrs. and Miss Hughes-Hallett; Rev. H. Godfrey Faussett; Rev. Professor Willis and Mrs. Willis; C. Knight Watson, Esq., Sec. S.A., and Mrs. Watson; Rev. H. M. Villiers; G. T. Tomlin, Esq., and Mrs. Tomlin; R. C. Hussey, Esq.; J. Brent, Esq.; J. Kirkpatrick, Esq.; the Honorary Secretary, and about four hundred others.

The Business Meeting was held in the Cathedral Library lately completed, which was kindly lent for the purpose by the Dean and Chapter. The President having taken the chair, called for the Report, which was read as follows :—

In delivering at Canterbury the eleventh annual Report of our Archæological Society we seem to have completed a cycle of ten years, and to have returned to the place from which we set out.

Our first annual meeting was held here on this very day in 1858, when we numbered about 500 members, and were feeling our way for existence. The success of that first meeting confirmed all our hopes, and started us in a course of prosperity and increase which still continues.

Since that time we have issued six volumes, which we believe may compete in value, interest, and general excellence with any similar publications in England. Our members have increased to nearly 1,100. Our funds have further been usefully employed in opening two very considerable Saxon Cemeteries and parts of others, and in discovering and preserving antiquities of various kinds throughout the county. By the kindness of friends and our own exertions we have collected at Maidstone a very valuable museum, illustrative of every period of Kentish history. And we believe we may say that we have very sensibly contributed to that spirit of interest in and reverence for the past which is everywhere, and not least in Kent,

showing itself in preservation of churches and other monuments, and in increased historial research and accuracy.

We have agreed with the Trustees of the Charles Museum at Maidstone for the hire of separate rooms at Chillington House, at a rent of £20 a year. We are now in possession of these rooms, and our valuable collection, increased as it has been this year, is in course of being disposed in them in a manner available for the inspection and study of our members.

We have to lament the loss during the past year of Sir Norton Knatchbull and some other valued members of our Society. On the other hand we hail the accession to our ranks of about 50 new members, more than the usual proportion of whom are eminent in the world of science. Several more are waiting to be elected to-day.

Our seventh volume has been unusually and unfortunately delayed. The Council, however, feel justified in saying that it will form the richest and most interesting of our series, and in hoping that a delay caused by the very value and elaborateness of the work will not be ultimately regretted by the Society. A foretaste of the treasures contained in one of its principal papers has been most kindly offered to us to-day, and this our eleventh meeting will be remarkable in our annals for the valued assistance of Professor Willis.

The opening of the Saxon burial-ground at Bifrons, kindly permitted to the Society by Lord Conyngham, has been completed. Your Secretary, with the assistance of two other honoured members, has explored 107 graves, Lord Conyngham at the same time opening for himself about as many more, and these, with the few discovered at first, appearing to complete the cemetery. The proceeds have been even more than usually interesting. Many of the specimens found are exhibited here to-day.

In conclusion we would only urge upon you that ours is a co-operative Society, and that its welfare and usefulness depend very mainly for their continuance upon the union of all its members in promoting and fostering it.

It was resolved, due notice having been given, to add the following words to Rule 3,—

“—and to alter the days of meeting, or to omit a quarterly meeting if it shall be found convenient.”

The two Auditors and the six retiring members of Council were re-elected.

Eleven new members were elected.

The Chairman then introduced to the meeting the Rev. Professor Willis, who proceeded to give a lecture of great interest and value on the remains of the Benedictine monastery of Christ Church, Canterbury, afterwards conducting the party over the more interesting spots, and concluding his remarks on each *in situ*. His lecture, in an enlarged form, is in our Seventh Volume.

Dinner was at four o'clock in the Music Hall, the noble President in the chair. After which the company, by kind invitation of the Dean, were entertained at a musical *soirée* in the Deanery Garden.

A smaller party afterwards visited the interior of the Cathedral by moonlight, and while lingering in the nave enjoyed the unexpected effect of music issuing from the Choir, which those who heard it will not soon forget.

ON THE second day the party assembled at St. Augustine's College, where they were kindly received by the Warden and Fellows. The Warden described the remains of the Abbey, and the present details of the College, and also conducted the company to St. Pancras' Church adjoining.

St. Martin's Church was next visited, and the Rev. T. Hirst, the Vicar, recapitulated the well-known points of interest in its structure and history. Thence the party proceeded, under the guidance of J. Brent, Esq., to visit the Walls and the Donjon Mound, the Castle, the Poor Priests' Hospital, and the remains of the Grey Friars, ending at Eastbridge Hospital, where the Rev. W. Temple, the Master, described the points of interest.

The afternoon Cathedral Service being now over, the Dean conducted the company through the Cathedral, taking for his text the visit of Erasmus and Dean Colet, as described by the former in his '*Peregrinatio religionis ergo*,' and illustrating the condition of the Cathedral at that date in the most interesting manner.

The Cathedral Services throughout the two days were from the works of Kentish composers, an arrangement kindly made by the Precentor.

The temporary Museum was in the Cathedral Library, and was unusually rich.

THE THIRD Council Meeting for this year was held at the house of the Honorary Secretary in the Precincts, Canterbury, on the 25th of September, the Rev. Canon Robertson in the chair.

It was resolved that :

The Council of the Kent Archæological Society cannot hold their first meeting since the death of the Rev. Lambert Blackwell Larking without expressing and desiring to record their sincere grief at his loss, their deep sense of the void thus created in the Society, and the respect which they cherish for his memory. As the Founder of the Society, its Secretary during its first and most anxious years, and its foremost counsellor since his resignation of the secretaryship, Mr. Larking was so intimately connected with its closest interests that his removal cannot but be felt as no ordinary blow to its welfare. The Council will always remember with pleasure his constant kindness, and eagerness to assist with all his wonderful antiquarian lore, and are sure that his name and fame will never be forgotten in a Society whose very existence is a monument of his energy and learning, and to scarcely a member of which he had not endeared himself by some act of kindness.

The Council are desirous of expressing their deep sympathy with Mrs. Larking in her bereavement, and request that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to her by the Secretary.

Thanks were voted to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and to the Mayor and Corporation of Canterbury, for their assistance and hospitality at the late General Meeting; to Professor Willis, for his invaluable lecture; to the Dean of Canterbury, the Warden of St. Augustine's College, the Rev. T. Hirst, the Rev. E. Gilder, the Rev. W. Temple, and John Brent, Esq., for their assistance on the same occasion; and to M. Bell, Esq., Godfrey T. Faussett, Esq., the Governors of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, the Rev. E. Sandys-Lumsdaine, Mrs. Chesshyre, C. K. Watson, Esq., J. R. Scott, Esq., the Rev. A. Eden, the Rev. R. P. Coates, and others, for their contributions to the temporary Museum.

Three new members were elected.

THE FIRST Meeting of the Council for the year 1869 was held at Chillington House, Maidstone, on the 16th of April, the noble President in the chair.

It was resolved to hold the General Meeting this year at West Malling, and a Local Committee for the purpose was appointed.

Also to purchase seven Celtic Torques lately discovered near Maidstone.

J. F. Wadmore, Esq., was elected Honorary Local Secretary for the Tunbridge District, and G. T. Tomlin, Esq., for the Canterbury District, in the room of Major Luard-Selby and J. Brent, Esq.

And thanks were voted to these two retiring Secretaries for their services.

The Rev. H. M. Villiers was elected to the Council in the room of John Brent, Esq., resigned.

Hewett, servant at the Charles Museum, Maidstone, was appointed to take care of the Society's rooms there, at a yearly salary of £10.

Sixteen new members, including His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, were elected.

THE SECOND Council for this year was held on June 19, at the house of the President in Grosvenor Square, himself in the chair.

It was resolved that the days for the General Meeting at West Malling be Thursday and Friday, the 5th and 6th of August.

Twelve new members were elected.

THE GENERAL MEETING was held at West Malling on August 5 and 6, under the chairmanship of Sir Walter Stirling, Bart., in the unavoidable absence of the noble President. There were also present,—

The Countess Amherst; the Lady Augusta Mostyn; the Lady Caroline Nevill; the Hon. and Rev. E. Bligh and Lady Isabel Bligh; the Hon. and Rev. H. Bligh; the Hon. Ralph Nevill and Mrs. Nevill; E. Hussey, Esq., and the Hon. Mrs. Hussey; G. W. Norman, Esq., Mrs. and Miss Norman; Colonel Pinney, M.P.; J. Wingfield Larking, Esq.; Bertie P. Cator, Esq.; the Rev. J. J. Marsham; C. Roach Smith, Esq.; the Rev. C. Lane; R. C. Hussey, Esq.; the Rev. J. H. Timins; C. Powell, Esq.; Coles Child, Esq.; J. Fremlyn Streatfeild, Esq.; the Rev. A. Eden; the Rev. R. P.

Coates; the Honorary Secretary, and upwards of three hundred others.

The Business Meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms at 12 o'clock on the 5th, when G. Gilbert Scott, Esq., was elected an Honorary Member, in company with twenty-seven ordinary members.

The Auditors and the retiring members of the Council were re-elected, and the following Report was read :—

The Council has the pleasure of presenting to the Society its twelfth annual Report, now as always one of material advance and prosperity.

We must, however, give the first place in our retrospect to our losses,—heavy and irreparable, for among other valued members we have lost Archbishop Longley, always a firm and liberal friend to the Society, and also second in mention, but even foremost in our minds, the Rev. Lambert Larking.

We must all be desirous of expressing and recording our sincere grief at Mr. Larking's loss, our deep sense of the void thus made in the Society, and the respect which we cherish for his memory. Nor could this be more appropriately done than now, at our first meeting since his death, and here, at his birthplace and in the centre of the neighbourhood in which he spent his life. As the Founder of our Society, its Secretary during its first and most anxious years, and its foremost counsellor to the end of his days, Mr. Larking was so intimately connected with its closest interests that his removal cannot but be felt as no ordinary blow to its welfare. We shall always remember with pleasure and gratitude his constant kindness and eagerness to assist with all his wonderful antiquarian lore, and his name and fame will always be the pride of a Society whose very existence is a monument of his energy and learning, and to scarcely a member of which he had not endeared himself by some act of kindness peculiarly his own.

Forty-one new members have joined us in the year, and upwards of twenty more are awaiting election to-day.

The balance at our Bankers' is £295. 3s. 3d., in spite of the unusually large cost of our seventh volume, just defrayed, the special exertions of a few of our Local Secretaries having succeeded in bringing in a number of arrears. Arrears, however, still constitute a lamentable blot on our prosperity. The very smallness of our annual subscription renders it the more difficult to collect, and we would again urge those members who do not easily remember it to give an order to their bankers to pay it for them on the 1st of every



January. In thus saving trouble to themselves they will also be saving very great trouble and loss to the Society.

Our last meeting at Canterbury was even more than usually successful, and formed an apt prelude to the appearance of our seventh volume, both being very largely indebted for their excellence to the kindness and learning of Professor Willis, whose brief lecture and explanations at the meeting are expanded into a most elaborate and valuable paper in the volume. We believe that this is admitted on all sides to be the best of its series.

Part of our eighth volume is already in type, and we hope that it will not degenerate in interest even from its immediate predecessor.

Our new rooms at Chillington House have been appropriately fitted up, at a cost very considerably under the £150 calculated and allowed for the purpose, mainly by the exertions and good taste of our active Assistant Secretary. We can now, for the first time, exhibit our collections in a manner worthy of their great and growing importance. Several valuable additions to these, by the kindness of members or by purchase, have been made in the past year.

No very large excavations have been undertaken by the Society in the past year. Among those of minor importance may be mentioned one in the parish of Bekesbourne, which resulted in the discovery of five or six Roman Urns, with fragments of many others. These will be described in our next volume.

In conclusion, we would urge all our members to do their best, as opportunity occurs, towards the elucidation and preservation of the antiquities with which our historical county abounds, and to join in continuing our flourishing Society in its career of usefulness and success.

The company then proceeded to Malling Abbey, kindly thrown open to the Society by Mrs. Akers, where the Rev. J. H. Timins acted as cicerone, and the Rev. C. Lane told a few legends of its monastic history.

West Malling Church was next visited, many of the party stopping on the way to inspect the remains of a Norman dwelling-house near the junction of the two main streets of the town.

St. Leonard's Tower was then inspected, and afterwards Leybourne Church and Castle.

Dinner was at four o'clock in a tent in the grounds of Malling House, by kind permission of the Hon. Ralph Nevill.

At the evening meeting at the Assembly Rooms, R. Surtees, Esq., delivered a lecture on the history and remains of the

Castle of Sutton Valence. The temporary Museum was good and interesting.

ON THE second day the party met at Aylesford, and inspected the Church, under the guidance of the Ven. Archdeacon Grant, as well as the interesting remains of the Friars, kindly opened to them by F. Russell, Esq.

Kits Coty House was next visited, and G. Bensted, Esq., guided the company to this and the other interesting stone monuments in the immediate neighbourhood.

The party next arrived at Boxley Abbey, where C. Balston, Esq., received them with great hospitality, and thence proceeded to inspect Boxley Church and the interesting remains of fifteenth-century houses in the village.

With an inspection of Allington Castle the day's excursion ended.

A smaller excursion, under the guidance of C. Roach Smith, Esq., was made, by way of Offham and its quintain, to the rude stone monuments in Addington Park and at Coldrum.

THE NEXT Meeting of the Council was held on October 8, at the house of the Honorary Secretary in the Precincts, Canterbury.

It was resolved that if possible the place of General Meeting for the succeeding year should always be fixed at the Autumn Council:

And that Sittingbourne be now agreed upon for the General Meeting of 1870, with an excursion into Shepey for the second day.

The salary of the Assistant Secretary was increased to £40 yearly, as from Michaelmas.

Thanks were voted to the Hon. R. Nevill, Mrs. Akers, Mrs. Savage, Sir Joseph Hawley, Bart., J. Wingfield Stratford, Esq., the Rev. E. Shepherd, F. Russell, Esq., and C. Balston, Esq. for reception and hospitality to the Society at the late General Meeting; to the Ven. Archdeacon Grant, the Rev. J. H. Timins, C. Roach Smith, Esq., the Rev. J. A. Boodle, E. Furley, Esq., H. D. Wildes, Esq., G. Bensted, Esq., R. Surtees, Esq., and the Rev. J. Y. Stratton for assistance and instruction during the meeting; and to the Earl of Abergavenny, Lady Augusta Mostyn, the Misses Twysden, the Dean of Can-

terbury, the Vicar and Churchwardens of West Malling, and others, for contributions to the temporary museum.

Six new members were elected.

THE FIRST Council for the year 1870 was held on April 11, at Chillington House, Maidstone; the noble President in the chair.

On the proposal of the President it was agreed to recommend to the next General Meeting to enact that for the future, at the instance of the President, some member connected with the district of any General Meeting may be elected to act as Chairman of such Meeting.

It was resolved that for the future Honorary Members be elected only for very especial claim upon the Society.

It was agreed to pay the account of the printers for all royal quarto copies of back volumes of our *Archæologia*, in spite of their agreement with the Rev. L. B. Larking (whose private account this originally was), that the printing of these should be paid for only as they were sold. Also, that for the future these should be paid for with the ordinary copies.

At the same time it was resolved that the number of such copies to be henceforth printed should be reduced from twenty-five to three more only than the number in demand at the date of issue, one such copy to be placed in the Society's Library.

James W. Hott, Esq., was elected Honorary Local Secretary for the Bromley District in the room of G. B. Latter, Esq., deceased.

Thanks were voted to G. E. Sayer, Esq., for permission to excavate the Roman villa found on his property near Maidstone; also to C. Roach Smith, Esq., W. H. Bensted, Esq., and Mr. J. Fauchon for help during the excavations.

Twenty-three new members were elected.

THE SECOND Meeting of the Council for this year was held on the 17th of June, at 43, Grosvenor Square, the house of the President, who occupied the chair.

The days for the General Meeting at Sittingbourne were fixed, viz. Wednesday and Thursday, August 3 and 4.

Three new members were elected.

THE GENERAL Meeting took place accordingly at Sittingbourne on the 3rd and 4th of August, under the Presidency of the Earl Amherst. There were also present,—

Lord Fitzwalter, Sir Walter Stirling, Bart., Sir John Croft, Bart., G. W. Norman, Esq., Mrs. and Miss Norman, C. Powell, Esq., Major-General McQueen, the Rev. J. Hughes-Hallett and Miss Hughes-Hallett, Lieut.-Col. Jenkins and Mrs. Jenkins, the Rev. Canon Robertson, Mrs. and Miss Robertson, the Rev. G. B. Moore, Mrs. and the Misses Moore, the Rev. A. Eden, the Rev. W. A. Scott Robertson, the Rev. F. E. Tuke, the Rev. A. J. Pearman and Mrs. Pearman, Mrs. and Miss Riddell, the Rev. F. Haslewood, the Honorary Secretary, and about two hundred others.

The Business Meeting was held, by kind permission, in the rooms of the Sittingbourne Literary and Scientific Institute, at which the following Report was read:—

The Thirteenth Annual Report of the Council of this Society, though perhaps less full of incident than some of former years, is as satisfactory as to the prosperity of the Society as any previous one.

The balance at our Bankers' is £298. 12s., to which will be added, when necessary, about £100. more, to be drawn from our invested funds (as agreed), for the cost of furnishing our rooms at Maidstone. These expenses have hitherto been paid from our income, and will be repaid in this manner as soon as it becomes desirable.

Fifty-seven new members have joined us during the year, and several more are now awaiting election. The value of our volumes, the popularity of our meetings, and the patriotism of men of Kent, combine in more than filling the gaps caused in our ranks by departures or death.

Of these latter we lament not a few, and would specially mention Sir Thomas Wilson, Mr. Bland of Hartlip, the donor of our collection known as the Bland collection, Mr. Randall of Maidstone, Mr. Latter, our late Local Secretary for Bromley, and, in the last few days, Mr. Foss, the eminent Biographer of the Judges, and, from the beginning, one of our most active members and contributors. We were also honoured by claiming as a member Sir Charles Young, late Garter King at Arms, whose loss to our special science will long be felt elsewhere than in Kent.

The funds of this Society have been well spent in the purchase of some British torques or armlets found near Maidstone, which form a valuable and interesting addition to our Museum.

The Society exerted its influence in the endeavour to save the fine old house with pargetted front in the High Street of Maidstone, known as Astley House. That this effort was in vain is matter of regret to all lovers of a style of building of which few better specimens remain in the country.

With kind permission of Mr. Sayer, of Pett Place, the foundations of a Roman villa, found on his property near Maidstone, have been laid open by the energy of our Assistant Secretary, who will be glad to show them to members. A description of the discoveries will be given in our Archæologia.

The eighth volume of this series is now in a forward state towards publication. It bids fair to be a very valuable one, and will, we believe, be found equal to its predecessors.

An addition to our fifth Rule will be proposed to you to-day on behalf of the Council, empowering them, at the instance of the President, to appoint a Local Chairman at these our Annual Meetings when it shall seem advisable, as is the practice in the Archæological Institute and other similar Societies. It is felt that such a power may, on desirable occasions, prove to be a convenience both to the President and to the Society.

In selecting Sittingbourne as our meeting-place for this year, the Council were aware that the neighbourhood is more interesting in history than in remains strikingly illustrative of history; much, however, of value is to be found and learnt here, and it is believed that the excursion into Shepey will be looked upon as an opportunity for visiting what is unknown land to most of our members.

This Report must not be closed without again urging greater punctuality in payment of subscriptions,—an improvement which would add very much to the efficiency and prosperity of the Society.

G. T. Tomlin, Esq., was re-elected Auditor, and R. C. Hussey, Esq., was elected his colleague, in the room of J. J. Howard, Esq., who retired.

Of the six retiring members of the Council, four were re-elected; the Rev. W. A. Scott Robertson, J. S. Burra, Esq., and J. Board, Esq., being elected in place of the Rev. B. Poste and the Rev. F. Wrench, retiring, and of E. Foss, Esq., deceased.

Eleven new members were elected.

The Meeting then separated for the day's excursion, the whole of which was under the guidance of the Rev. W. A. Scott Robertson, who illustrated to the company each subject in turn. These were:—

The Parish Church of St. Michael, Sittingbourne.

Bayford Castle, consisting of earthworks traditionally said to be a camp of Alfred; here the Rev. A. J. Pearman added some observations.

Bapchild Church with its fine Norman work.

Tong Castle and Church, the former interesting from its traditions of Hengist; and

Murston Church with its ancient tithe-barn.

Dinner was at five o'clock in the Corn Exchange, and the evening Meeting took place at the Literary Institute, where a small but interesting local museum was arranged. The Rev. A. J. Pearman read a paper on the History of Bayford Castle, and the Rev. F. G. Haslewood exhibited and discussed some tracings of fresco painting lately brought to light in Smarden Church.

ON THE second day the party met at the Sittingbourne Station, and went by special train to Queenborough, in the Isle of Shepey, the Castle of which, now mounds and earthworks only, was inspected, and the Rev. R. Bingham read a paper on its history.

Carriages then conveyed the company to Minster, stopping on the way, under the guidance of Mr. Turmine, to inspect some of the large mounds, formerly called "cottesells," so common in the marshland here. It was generally agreed that they must have been constructed as refuges for cattle in floods.

At Minster the Rev. Dr. Willis welcomed the party in the very interesting Church; the gate-house and a few more slight remains of St. Sexburga's Nunnery were also inspected. At Eastchurch, which was next reached, the Rev. W. A. Scott Robertson pointed out the remarkable parts of the architecture and history of the Church.

The excursion reached its farthest point at Shurland Castle, where a paper on its history, written by the Rev. R. C. Jenkins, was, in the absence of its author, read to the Meeting by the Rev. A. J. Pearman.

THE THIRD Meeting of the Council for this year was held on Oct. 21, at the house of the Honorary Secretary, in the Precincts, Canterbury.

It was agreed that Sevenoaks should be the place of General

Meeting for 1871, if Lord Buckhurst's convenience would allow of the Society's admission to Knole.

Also that the Society should subscribe for a copy of the new History of Kent now projected on the basis of the Streatfeild and Larking collections, and that any wood-blocks of the Society which may be useful in illustrating the work, be lent for that purpose by the Council.

Thanks were voted to the Rev. G. B. Moore, G. Payne, Esq., jun., the Rev. W. A. Scott Robertson, Dr. Grayling, the Rev. A. J. Pearman, and Mr. Turmine, for valuable assistance during the late General Meeting; and to the Rev. J. Buckner, the Rev. J. S. Hoare, the Rev. R. Dickson, Mrs. Pratt, the Rev. R. Bingham, Mr. Bennett, and the Rev. Dr. Willis, for reception and hospitality on the same occasion.

Four new members were elected.