

The Report and Accounts for 1892 were taken as read, received and adopted.

A VOTE of thanks was passed to the retiring Committee for their services during the past year, and they were re-elected for the ensuing year.

VOTES of thanks were passed to the Hon. Secretaries; to Col. Bellairs, as Hon. Treasurer; and to T. Holyland, Esq., Auditor. Messrs. T. Holyland and J. W. Wartnaby were elected Auditors.

The Rev. C. Henton Wood was re-elected Librarian; and a vote of thanks was passed to him for his services.

The CHAIRMAN exhibited, on behalf of Miss M. C. Parker, of Broombriggs, Woodhouse, a Penelope Watch, about which he read the following notes:—

THE PENELOPE WATCHES.

THESE watches are a matter of family history to the Woods of Leicester only. The story of the watches most rife amongst the Martins, of Anstey Pastures, is as follows:—

Thomas Blower who married in 1726 left two daughters and four sons. The eldest daughter, Ann, was married in 1751 to Henry Wood, of Leicester; and had issue three sons and four daughters.

Ann Wood's four brothers were William, Thomas, Eathard and Edward Blower. Her four daughters were: Christiana (1 Holmes) (2 Chamberlin), Ann (Richards), Elizabeth (Roby), Martha (Kirton). Of the Blowers, brothers of Ann Wood, the best known is Thomas, the second "Jolly Tom," who is thus mentioned in a hunting song of the period:

"High mounted on Monarch,
Comes Jolly Tom Blower."

Another version of this line runs somehow thus:

"Now sobbing on Monarch comes Jolly Tom Blower,
Spurred from shoulder to flank, going slower and slower."

One or more of their uncles gave to each of the four daughters of Ann Wood a gold watch, all precisely similar, and called Penelope Watches because the story of Penelope is embossed on the outer case.

Of these four watches two are lost, little or nothing having been ascertained about them, *viz.*, those of Christiana Chamberlin and Martha Kirton. The watches were to descend in the female line. Mrs. Chamberlin had no issue, and nothing can be learned amongst the generations of the Chamberlin Stones, who are descended from daughters of Joseph Chamberlin (her second husband).

Mrs. Kirton had no issue, and her watch was left to a niece, Martha W. Wood, who gave it to her only daughter, who exchanged it away, unaware of its value as a family relic.

The watch exhibited to-day is the one originally presented to Ann Richards, and now belonging to Miss Parker, of Broombriggs, her great grand-daughter.

The remaining one is in the possession of Miss Harper, now of Endsleigh Street, Tavistock Square, London, W.C., the lineal descendant of Elizabeth Roby, daughter of Ann Wood. The watches have not been seen side by side, both have white faces and wind at the back; each had two cases, the golden one embossed with the story of Penelope, and an outer case of tortoise-shell.

Miss Parker's watch was exhibited to-day on behalf of Mr. R. F. Martin, her cousin. It has had a new face and new works, patent lever, supplied in 1849 by Mr. Gray, of Leicester. The tortoise-shell case has disappeared. The figures represent Penelope, seated in a chair to the left of the beholder, with a work-basket at her feet, and pointing with her left hand to the famous web or tapestry lying on a table in the midst, on the right is a crowned kingly figure with a bow in his left hand and his right pointing to the table. There are two crested figures in the background, facing the spectator, who seem to represent the suitors.

At the back of the inner case are the letters, script of the period, "W. B."; and when Miss Harper reports that her watch bears the same initials, it seems probable that William Blower, the eldest brother, and not "Jolly Tom," was the donor. It is curious how all the legends, jokes, and good stories seem to crystalize about the best or most popular, or most witty individual of the period.

Some of the Members present thought the workmanship to be French.

MR. J. W. WARTNABY exhibited an old gold ring with engraved inscription inside, "Keep faith till death."

MR. S. KNIGHT exhibited a set of new coins of the Transvaal Republic, President Paul Kruger, dated 1892, *viz.*, Gold: pond and half-pond (or sovereign); Silver: five shillings and one shilling; Copper: penny.

COLONEL BELLAIRS then read a further portion of his Paper on

THE ROMAN ROADS OF LEICESTERSHIRE.

This has since been printed, with an illustrative Map, in the Society's *Transactions*, Vol. VII., pages 357 to 364.