

theatre. Thus, locked in the slumbers of oblivion, the Spirit of the Past may be said to repose beneath our houses and our marts—that Spirit which lived when painting, statuary, and sculpture laid their products before the vulgar eye—when law was recognised in the city while force ruled in the forest—when the municipal organization was witnessed in vigorous operation—long before our Teutonic ancestors had learned to lisp the syllables of civilization; and if the Buried City beneath us be not wide and marvellous as are those which are scattered over the plains of Assyria—nor complete and startling in its apparent freshness as the lava-engulfed cities of Italy—yet do its many vestiges appeal more directly to our everyday sympathy and local associations.

On independent grounds the minutest relics of antique social life have a charm for the intelligent mind; for even the rusty fibula affords almost a concentrated history of the Roman art, and the shattered urn often tells a vivid story of Roman customs; but when at ten, fifteen, or twenty feet below the surface of modern Leicester, the excavator brings to light massive fragments of masonry, held together in the bonds of a tenacity which defies assault, are we not disposed to ask whether there were not “giants in those days?” And, as the fossil geologist finds in the perishing bone a relic of the mastodon of the early world, are we not in like manner reminded by these subterranean walls of the stately fabrics of the primeval Britain? Does not that grim and misshapen ruin, the Jewry Wall, seem to us like a plesiosaurian monster of Archæology left stranded by the receding tides of time on the shores of eternity?

VOTES OF THANKS to the Readers of Papers, and to the President (the latter proposed by the Worshipful the Mayor of Leicester, and responded to by the President, Lord John Manners. M.P.) closed the proceedings.

31st December, 1860.

THE REV. J. H. HILL in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected Members of the Society: Mr. H. Lankester, Leicester; Mr. William Allen Kendall, Humberstone; Mr. Thomas Mercer, Leicester; Mr. John Hunt, Thurnby; Mr. Alfred Russell Donisthorpe, Leicester; Mr. H. D. Dudgeon, Leicester; Dr. Day, Wymondham; The Rev. Augustus Packe, M.A., Walton on the Wolds.

The following Gentlemen were also elected Honorary Members of the Society: Mr. E. L. Stephens, Borough Surveyor; the Rev. C. Boutell.

The REV. J. H. HILL exhibited rubbings of a brass of Sir John de Wantyng, of Wimbish (1347); of a fragment of a brass at Bodiam, Sussex (1360); of a brass in memory of Robert Kervile, Wiggenhall, S. Mary's, Norfolk; and of another in memory of Peter Denot or Devot.

SIR H. L. DRYDEN, Bart., presented to the Society a lithograph of Copplestone Cross, North Devon.

MR. GEORGE COWDELL NEALE read the following paper on

TREASURE TROVE.

I BEG to trespass upon your time this morning whilst I make a few observations on the appropriation of Treasure Trove, a subject which I consider so important as to affect the interests of this and other archæological societies, all local museums, and especially every private collection of antiquities. My few remarks will refer principally to the numismatical department of archæological science.

In the early historic ages of our country, we find that in the absence of peaceful pursuits, the love of conquest and the desire for plunder so occupied the attention of neighbouring nations, that Britain was not likely to, neither did she, escape the scourge of the invader's sword. Conquered and reconquered for many centuries, much of her soil was saturated with the blood of her brave defenders and never-tiring foes. In the presence of, or close proximity to, such enemies, with but a thinly-scattered population, little agricultural development, and less of manufacturing skill, it became a necessity that almost every man should be a warrior, should buckle on the sword and learn the art of war. Although in succeeding ages the invader never landed on our shores in any force to devastate the land and pillage the homes of our ancestors, yet records of wars more cruel, of a civil and intestine character, fill pages of our history with melancholy details of desperate conflicts; as examples, those of the Roses, and of the seventeenth century, stand out most conspicuously. To these frequent sanguinary contests, combined with accidental causes and the absence of public depositories for wealth, the coin collector of the present day is indebted for those interesting relics after which he industriously seeks, and places from time to time in his cabinet, as fresh links in a chain, which he is ever anxious to extend, although he may never be able to complete. The bank of deposit to the soldier and man of wealth, in the troublous times to which we have alluded, was a