

we asserted over and over again, have been preserved as a memorial of the munificence and charity of one of Leicester's greatest benefactors.

What will the trustees get in place of the old Hospital, which, whilst it might have been converted into use, was graced by so many associations, and of its chapel, the sacred resting place of the dead?—A proposed modern gymnasium, at a considerable cost, and ninety-two pounds!!

ANNUAL MEETING.

January 31st, 1876.

THE REV. CANON POWNALL, F.S.A., in the chair.

After the transaction of business in Committee the following

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1875

was read:—

THE Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, which was established on the 10th of January, 1855, attains its majority this year. Your Committee, on presenting a short report of its proceedings during the past twelve months, trusts it may congratulate the members upon this fact, with the hope that its work for that period has not been without beneficial results in promoting the objects for which it was established.

Your Committee is sorry to note in this report the demolition of the ancient Hospital (with the Chapel attached) of William of Wyggeston, in Leicester, since the last annual meeting. The circumstances attending the final destruction of that venerable building were brought before the Society in a paper by Mr. North at our last bi-monthly meeting. Your Committee would have failed in its plain duty if it had not used every proper available means for averting, what it still thinks, an unnecessary and uncalled for destruction of a most interesting building of a past age, which was at the same time a valuable relic of the munificence of a former townsman of Leicester.

The Volume of the Associated Societies, and the first part of Volume IV. of our own Transactions, were placed in your hands last year. The latter had somewhat fewer pages of letter-press than its predecessors; that curtailment will, it is proposed, be compensated for this year by the increased length of the second part, which is already in the hands of the printer.

The Summer Meeting, held at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in conjunction with our friends, the Members of the Northants Society, was (though shorn of its usual attractions) an instructive and agreeable one. The Rev. A. S. Baker read a valuable Paper upon *The discovery of Roman Vessels of Bronze at Irchester, Northants*, which elicited a discussion from the members present. The excursion on the following day was to Smisby, Melbourne, Breedon, Worthington, and Coleorton, where the architectural features of the churches were described by Mr. Thomas Nevinson.

At the bi-monthly meetings of the Society several valuable antiquities were shown, amongst which may be mentioned rare coins of Offa, King of Mercia (A.D. 756-96); several rings, English and foreign; Roman relics found in Leicester, and an extremely interesting copy of S. Augustine's *Expositio Psalterii*, printed at Basle, in 1489, and once forming part of the magnificent Arundel Library. Many of these antiquities were accompanied by short descriptive memoirs; apart from which there

have been, during the year, fewer Papers than usual read before the Society. These bi-monthly meetings, which have been for many years sources of great pleasure and profit to all attending them, threaten to become less so from an apparent falling off on the part of our members—with several praiseworthy exceptions—of a desire not only to attend them, but to uphold their attractiveness. Your Committee strongly urges upon all, and especially upon the younger members of the Society, the desirability of carrying on with energy and zeal this part of the Society's work. Your Committee had the pleasure (in conjunction with the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society) of welcoming the members of the Warwickshire Field Club to Leicester in May last. Under the guidance of several members of your Committee, those gentlemen visited the chief objects of antiquarian interest in the town, and were, it is believed, much pleased with their visit. Considerable works have been carried on at some of the churches in Leicester during the past year.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LEICESTER.

The nave of this church, with the aisles, have been carefully restored by Messrs. Goddard and Paget, architects, of Leicester. The restoration included the entire renovation of the stone work, both externally and internally, and new tracery to the whole of the windows, the old having nearly all disappeared, and brickwork inserted in its place. The style of this part of the church is Early Decorated, and the windows have accordingly been filled with tracery in that style. The clerestory is later (Perpendicular), and the windows in it have been carefully restored from those remaining. The roof of the nave—which, until the restoration, consisted of a flat plaster ceiling—has been converted into a panelled timber roof of the Perpendicular period, with leg pieces coming down the walls, resting on carved stone corbels. This feature is a great gain to the appearance of the church; in fact, the whole appearance of the inside of the church by the above-mentioned alterations, and by the removal of the heavy gallery which ran across the whole of the western end of the nave and aisles, is very satisfactory. During the progress of the works a very good ogee cusped recess, with a piscina adjoining, was discovered at the east end of the south wall of the south aisle. It is difficult to say whether the recess is sepulchral, or was intended to hold seats. A holy-water stoop was also brought to light at the west end of the nave.

S. NICOLAS' CHURCH, LEICESTER.

A new north aisle has been added to this church by the liberality of Mr. W. Perry-Herrick, of Beaumanor Park, Messrs. Ordish and Traylen, of Leicester, being the architects. This aisle takes the place of the original Norman one, taken down about two hundred years ago. The new aisle is Early Decorated in design, and considerably broader than the old one, the remains of the foundations of which were discovered during the building. In the west wall in the inside a rich canopied niche, brought from the chapel of Wyggeston's Hospital, in the town of Leicester, lately demolished, has been erected—the gift of Mr. Thomas Nevinson—which adds much to the beauty of the building, besides preserving an interesting relic.

S. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH, LEICESTER.

This large church is being built by the munificence of the Rev. F. G. Burnaby, from the designs of Sir Gilbert Scott, R.A. The material used is principally red brick with stone dressings. The pillars of the arcade are of the former material, with the exception of the four large ones at the angles of the transepts, which are of polished Shap granite. As the church is only in course of erection, it is perhaps too early at present to make a lengthened report upon it; but it will evidently be a grand and imposing building.

TRINITY HOSPITAL, LEICESTER.

The ancient carved oak seats formerly in the chapel of Wyggeston's Hospital, Leicester, having been presented by the authorities of that institution, are being placed in the chapel of this Hospital, under the care of Mr. Thomas Nevinson.

THAT the names of the Rev. Canon Willes and Mr. Wartnaby be added to the Committee.

THAT the thanks of the Society be given to the Rev. Canon Pownall, F.S.A., for his services as Chairman at the bi-monthly meetings during the past year; to the Mayor of Leicester for the use of the Town Library for the meetings; and to the gentlemen of the press for reporting the proceedings thereat.

THAT the Rev. J. H. Hill, F.S.A., be requested to take the chair at the bi-monthly meetings during the current year.

THE REV. CANON POWNALL, F.S.A., presented to the Society a copy of his Paper read before the Numismatic Society on the Coins of Offa, King of Mercia.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—

By the REV. CANON BURFIELD: A portion of tessellated pavement from Pompeii.

By MAJOR BELLAIRS: Coins of Claudius, Constantine, Commodus, Crispina, Maximinus; medal struck on the acquittal of Horne Tooke for high treason; an American halfpenny of 1811—an imitation of English money.

By MR. THOMPSON for MR. EMBERLIN: An old tortoise-shell snuff box, of oval shape, with oval silver plate on the lid, inscribed with the name of its owner, and 1678. On the bottom, on an oval silver plate, a country house of the period is delineated, a kind of castellated mansion, having two turret angles and old porch, and outbuildings in front. The box is the property of Mr. H. E. Emberlin, of Oadby.

By MR. AGAR: Coins of Antoninus Pius (138, A.D.); Julia Mammæa, mother of Alexander Severus I.; Maximinus (235); Phillipus, junior (244); Maxentius (306).

By MR. SARSON: A small earthenware vessel found in Leicester four feet beneath the surface.

By MR. G. H. NEVINSON: Brass coin of Hadrian, found in Leicester; a fragment of floor-tile from S. Nicolas' Church, with figure of animal, and letters in relief.

MR. JAMES THOMPSON read some observations on the recent discovery of bronze vessels at Irchester, in Northamptonshire, brought under the notice of this Society by the Rev. R. S. Baker, of Hargrave, near Kimbolton, at the meeting held last year at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Mr. Thompson's purpose was to show that the vessels were used formerly for cooking purposes, illustrating his brief argument by a reference to a paper in Mr. Roach Smith's *Collectanea Antiqua*, Vol. II., written by Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., on a discovery at Shefford, Bedfordshire. The state of "the Chester," near Irchester, in former times, was also referred to by Mr. Thompson.

March 27th, 1876.

THE REV. J. H. HILL, F.S.A., in the chair.

THE LATE MR. W. PERRY-HERRICK.

The following communication from Mr. Thomas North, F.S.A. (one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Society) was read:—

VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT,
25TH MARCH, 1876.

MY DEAR SIR,

Since the last meeting of this Society we have lost by death one of its founders, Mr. William Perry-Herrick. Mr. Herrick, not only was one of its constant supporters, but he sympathized heartily in its objects. Descended from a long line of ancestors, who for centuries were closely connected with Leicester, he ever took a lively interest in all that elucidated its history, or that in any way appertained to the welfare of its inhabitants. The beautiful estate of Beaumanor became his as the descendant of the Sir William Heyricke, who, as a London goldsmith, did not lose his love for his native county, but purchased an estate full of picturesque beauty, and left it to his descendants, the last of whom is now laid in his grave.

It is not necessary here to speak of the many traits in the character of the late Mr. Herrick which entitled him to, and obtained for him, the respect and high estimation alike of his neighbours in town and county. Leicester, by the mouth of its chief magistrate, speaking from his place in the Council Chamber lately, bore testimony to the debt of gratitude the town owes to his memory.

It is with regard to Mr. Herrick, as a Member of our Society, that a notice, however brief, should, it is thought, be brought forward to-day.

Mr. Herrick was personally acquainted with Mr. J. B. Nichols, the author of the well-known, valuable, and now scarce, History of Leicestershire. The grandson of that Mr. Nichols—the late Mr. John Gough Nichols, F.S.A.—who inherited his grandfather's antiquarian tastes, was a frequent and welcome visitor at Beaumanor, possessing to the time of his death, the esteem and confidence of Mr. Herrick. He had ready access to, and permission to use for literary purposes, the large collection of family manuscripts and papers preserved at Beaumanor, which his grandfather had previously searched, and used to a considerable extent, in the compilation of his History of the County.

Mr. Herrick's courtesy in this respect was not confined to Mr. Nichols: when the Historian of Leicester—our friend and fellow worker in this Society, Mr. James Thompson—was compiling his history of the town, he, too, had access to the manuscripts at Beaumanor relating to the Heyricke family, many of which throw considerable light upon the domestic life of Leicester men in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; and at a later period Papers read before this Society by Mr. John Gough Nichols, and by Mr. Thompson, show that Mr. Herrick's manuscripts were still accessible to them.

As before intimated, Mr. Herrick was one of a few gentlemen, who, twenty-one years ago, took part in the formation of this Society. He always furthered its success as much as lay in his power, entertaining its members upon more than one occasion with his usual genial hospitality at Beaumanor, and throwing open his beautiful house and its treasures to his numerous archæological visitors. He gave a practical proof of his interest in antiquarian and historical studies by, perhaps unfortunately, advancing to a gentlemen now deceased, a large sum of money to enable him to publish a History of the County, which history was never issued, and so Mr. Herrick's generosity failed in its purpose. It may well be said "unfortunately," because the failure undoubtedly acted as a hindrance to the reissue, in some form, of Nichols's great work, which Mr. Herrick, in common with many other gentlemen, was well inclined to encourage.

Neither did Mr. Herrick's interest in antiquarian pursuits languish with advancing years. A few years ago he placed his family papers in the hands of the late Mr. John Gough Nichols in order to have them arranged, bound and indexed. These papers may be thus classified:—

I. Three volumes of letters of Alderman Robert Heyricke (whose portrait is in the Guild Hall, Leicester) to his brother Sir William Heyricke, in London, to which are added many other family letters; appended is a copious calendar, and an index of names prepared by Mr. Burt, of the Public Record Office. Very many of these letters are printed in the History of Leicestershire.

II. A volume of matters of account between Sir William Heyricke and the Crown and other great personages, showing sums of money due to him; there is a calendar appended.

III. Two volumes of letters and papers not supposed to be of any historical importance.

IV. A volume of letters relating to the sons of Sir William Heyricke, principally when they were at College; most of them published in Nichols's History of the County.

V. A volume of documents of a local nature relating to Beaumanor and Woodhouse.

As the existence of these manuscripts is well-known, and as

they have been extensively used by local historians, the writer thinks he is not taking an undue liberty with the contents of a private library in thus enumerating their contents. Neither, he hopes, will it be out of place to say, as showing the interest Mr. Herrick took in such historical records to the end of his days, that one of the last acts of his long and useful life was to read through some transcripts of a portion of these family papers lately placed in his hands, though made some years ago; and a few days before his death he expressed a desire to have further portions plainly transcribed in order to be able to read them with greater ease and comfort.

Being assured that all the members of this Society will feel deeply the loss sustained by the death of Mr. Herrick, it must be a source of satisfaction to know that to the last of a life extended beyond the average length, he possessed—through the loving mercy of a gracious God—the entire and unimpaired use of his mental powers, and enjoyed with a thankful heart, those material blessings which providence, in so lavish a manner, had poured upon him.

I remain, my dear Sir, yours faithfully,

THOMAS NORTH.

*To the Chairman of the Leicestershire
Architectural and Archæological Society.*

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Honorary Secretary be requested to communicate to Mrs. Perry-Herrick the sorrow felt by the Society on the death of Mr. Perry-Herrick, and its grateful appreciation of his services to the Society in communicating antiquarian discoveries on his estate to the Society, and its remembrances of his liberal hospitality.

The following gentlemen were elected MEMBERS :—

The Right Hon. the Earl Howe, the Rev. J. B. Dickson, LL.D., Mr. Henry Bailey, and Mr. J. M. Fewkes.

The following were exhibited :—

By the CHAIRMAN: Plans and Elevations for the Restoration of the Parish Church of Medbourne, in this county, which were approved; and also one of the parts of "*The Parochial and Family History of the Deanery of Trigg Minor, in the county of Cornwall,*" which he presented to the Society.

By MR. ORDISH: a photograph of a new church at Pendlebury, near Manchester, in the county of Lancaster.

By the REV. T. FAREBROTHER: a large paper copy of "*Hudson's Monumental Brasses of Northamptonshire,*" and also illustrations of "*The Priory Church of S. Mary, at Tynemouth,*" by Mr. Edward Sharpe, M.A.

By MR. NEVINSON: a coin which was supposed to be a Nuremberg token, but not of the usual type, found in the churchyard of All Saints', Leicester.

By MR. BARWELL: an ancient tile found in Cank Street, Leicester, apparently heraldic, but too much abraded to be decyphered; also a half-crown of William and Mary, a half-crown of Charles I., and a small bronze coin of Constantine, in good preservation.

MR. NORTH, F.S.A., contributed the following Paper upon

THE MAYOR'S SEAT IN THE CHURCHES OF LEICESTER.

BEFORE the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act in 1835, it was usual for the Mayor of Leicester, as well as of most other Corporate towns, to attend Divine Service in the church of the parish in which he resided. He went in state, preceded by the mace-bearer, and attended by his brethren the Aldermen, and by the members of the Council all attired in their official robes. This attendance of the Mayor in the Leicester churches, as the Chief Magistrate of the Borough, necessitated—as conducive to order, and to a due recognition of “the powers that be”—the setting apart of a special seat for his use upon those occasions. We accordingly find that in each parish church of Leicester there was not only “The Mayor's Seat,” with an arrangement by which the mace could be set up at his back or over his head, but, in one case at least, a seat for the Mayoress, and others for the Aldermen, and for the “Forty-Eight,” as the Councillors were then called. As most of these seats have in late years been removed, it appeared that a record of their positions accompanied by a few brief notes might not be out of place as a contribution to the Transactions of this Society. S. Martin's, as the central church in the town, first claims attention, but as I may have rather more to say about that than some of the others, I will place it last on my list.

S. MARGARET'S CHURCH.—The situation of the Mayor's seat here was against the second pillar from the east on the south side of the nave. It was of oak, classical in design, and capped by a pediment. It was removed about twenty-five years ago, and was, it is believed, destroyed.

S. MARY'S CHURCH.—The Corporation being the Lay Rectors of this parish, the Mayor's seat here was placed within the chancel. It stood against the north wall a little way from the western end. It appears to have been taken down about the year 1845, when the restoration of the church was commenced, and it was not preserved.