

to take charge of the bookes and remove them, onely stipulating that I would suffer the Herauld's chief officer, Sir William Dugdale, to have such of them as concerned Herauldry, and the Marshall's office, bookes of Armourie and Genealogies, the Duke being Earl Marshall of England. I procured for our Society, besides printed bookes neere 100 MSS., some in Greeke, of great concernment. The printed bookes being of the oldest impressions are not the lesse valuable; I esteem them almost equal to MSS. Amongst them are most of the Fathers, printed at Basil, before the Jesuits abused them with their expurgatory indexes; there is a noble MS. of Vitruvius. Many of these bookes had been presented by popes, cardinals, and greater persons, to the Earls of Arundel and Dukes of Norfolk; and the late magnificent Earl of Arundel bought a noble library in Germanie, which is in this collection. I should not, for the honoure I beare the family, have persuaded the Duke to part with these, had I not seen how negligent he was of them, suffering the priests and everybody to carry away and dispose of what they pleas'd, so that abundance of rare things are irrecoverably gone. Having taken order here, I went to the Royal Society to give them an account of what I had procur'd, that they might call a council and appoint a day to waite on the Duke to thank him for this munificent gift." That this volume belonged to the Arundel library, and is one of those mentioned in the foregoing extract from Evelyn's Diary, is proved by a press mark or stamp on the leaf exhibiting the table of contents, and which reads, "Soc. Reg. Lond. ex dono Henr. Howard, Norfolciensis." Another stamp at the end of the book reads [Roy. Soc. Sold.]

MR. NORTH, F.S.A., contributed the following notes on

THE LAST OF WYGGESTON'S HOSPITAL.

IN preparation for the erection of new schools in connection with Wyggeston's Hospital, Leicester, many changes have taken place not only on the site of the Hospital itself, but upon the ground between that site and the Highcross Street.

Most of our members will remember the quaint outline presented by the frontages of the houses in the Highcross Street from the old Nag's Head to the Peacock Inn. There was the Nag's Head with its porch (the sole survivor, I believe, of house porches in Leicester of its date) erected in the year 1662, the house of the Confrater of Wyggeston's Hospital, portions of which were coeval with the Hospital itself, and several other houses apparently erected in the reigns of the two first Georges.

These all disappeared in the month of May, 1874.

Other and more important changes have taken place since that date, a record of which ought to find a place in our Transactions.

So long ago as the year 1863 the Committee of this Society took steps to show that in any changes which might be made with regard to its use, the demolition of the ancient Hospital of William of Wyggeston, then standing in Leicester, was both unnecessary and undesirable.

In our last Annual Report were detailed the efforts made by a Sub-Committee to avert, if possible, the destruction of the Hospital, with its Chapel, which was then not only threatened, but impending.

It will be remembered that the last effort of that Sub-Committee was the requesting of the Hospital School Governors to postpone the removal of the old Hospital, with a view to afford this Society an opportunity of making an offer to them for its purchase, with or without the Master's house.

The reply to that request, dated the 9th of July, 1874, was that the removal of the Chapel, Hospital, and Master's house would not be proceeded with at present, but that the Governors could not hold out any expectation of their entertaining an application to purchase the buildings.

So the matter rested for a year.

In July, 1875, an announcement was made that on Monday, the 9th of August, the "whole of the valuable building materials in the Wyggeston Hospital Buildings, St. Martin's West, including a splendid old and massive timbered oak roof, oak moulded Gothic doors," &c., &c., would be sold by auction.

The two curious wood porches in S. Martin's West, having carved upon them the rebus of the founder, were not included in the sale.

The proceedings at the sale were fully reported in the local newspapers of the time, and the buildings were speedily demolished according to the conditions of sale, and the materials removed.

The porches and the seats from the chapel were given to a member of this Society; the former to be used at S. Nicolas' Church, Leicester, and the latter in the Chapel of Trinity Hospital in the Newarke.

The memorial slabs had previously been removed to the chapel of the new Hospital, and the bell which bore the inscription:

"William Wigston Founder John Pike Warden 1689"

had, on the 1st of April, 1874, been taken down by order of the Trustees.

We have thus to record the destruction—without as most of us think an adequate reason—of one of the very few ancient buildings standing in Leicester; a building which, erected in his own age, and most probably from designs approved by himself, should, as

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