

WESTMINSTER :
PRINTED BY J. B. NICHOLS AND SONS,
25, PARLIAMENT STREET.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CAMDEN SOCIETY,
ELECTED 2nd MAY, 1862.

THE Council of the Camden Society, elected on the 2nd May, 1862, regret to announce that during their year of office the Society has lost by death the following Members:—

SAMUEL BELTZ, Esq. F.S.A.
THOMAS BROADWOOD, Esq.
The Right Hon. the EARL of ELLESMERE.
The Right Hon. Sir GEO. CORNEWALL LEWIS, Bart. M.P.
The Right Hon. LORD MONSON, F.S.A.
JOHN W. PARKER, Esq.
EDWARD SWAINE, Esq.
CLEMENT TUDWAY SWANSTON, Esq. Q.C. F.S.A.
EDWARD TAYLOR, Esq. Gresham Professor of Music.
Sir ROBERT THROCKMORTON, Bart.
WILLIAM WHATELEY, Esq. Q.C.

The Council still feel it necessary to urge upon the Members the desirableness of bringing under the notice of their friends the claims of the Camden Society to the support of all lovers of historical knowledge. If the list of Members could be filled up, there never was a time when there was a greater opportunity of making valuable additions to Historical Literature than at the present moment.

The following Works have been added to the List of suggested Publications:—

Vindication of the Government of Queen Elizabeth in the matter of the Execution of Mary Queen of Scots. From a MS. in the possession of Sir THOMAS WINNINGTON, Bart. M.P.

Letters of Charles II. From the Originals in the possession of the Marquess of BRISTOL, President of the Camden Society.

The volumes printed for the past year have been—

I. Lists of Foreign Protestants and Aliens resident in England, 1618—1688. From Returns in the State Paper Office. Edited by W. DURRANT COOPER, Esq. F.S.A.

No work issued from the press for many years past has thrown so much light upon the history of families in the Middle Classes of this country. A glance at the many familiar names contained in its very full Index will sufficiently prove its genealogical importance.

The next publication, which is just ready for delivery to the Members, will be—

II. Wills from Doctors' Commons. Edited by JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, Esq. F.S.A., and JOHN BRUCE, Esq. F.S.A.

The Council refer with great satisfaction to this volume, as proving the success of the endeavours which they have been making for many years to render the materials for our social history, which are stored up at Doctors' Commons, available for literary purposes.

So long ago as on the 26th March, 1848, the Director and Secretary of this Society had an interview, under the authority of the Council, with the Registrars of the Prerogative Court, with the view of procuring some facilities for editing a volume then in course of preparation by the Society. The Registrars declined to comply with the wishes of the Council, and a Memorial in the nature of an appeal having been addressed to the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Howley, the Council were informed by his Grace that he had no power to interfere.

Subsequent applications for some slight modifications of the stringent rules which limited the use of the Documents in the Prerogative Court were addressed to the late Archbishop of Canterbury and to the Ecclesiastical Courts Commissioners, but were attended with no better results.

On the institution of the Court of Probate the Council, supported by the Society of Antiquaries, and by many eminent literary persons, renewed their endeavours. Sir Cresswell Cresswell, to whom the application was addressed, admitted the principle that documents which had none but literary uses ought to be accessible to literary inquirers; and, as soon as space could be found, Sir Cresswell made arrangements for permitting literary inquirers to consult all wills previous to the year 1700. He also placed this department of the business of the registry of the Court of Probate under the charge of Mr. Paris, a gentleman to whose courtesy to all applicants, and desire to assist their inquiries, the Council are glad to have an opportunity of bearing willing testimony.

With the view of making generally known the importance of the new source of literary and historical information which has thus been laid open, the Council gladly availed themselves of a proposal to publish a Volume of Wills from Doctors' Commons. In this volume it has been endeavoured to give specimens of the Wills of many classes of persons;—Wills of Members of the Royal Family; Wills of Eminent Prelates and Noblemen; Wills of persons who played important parts during the great

Civil War; Wills of well-known Poets, Painters, and Musicians; Wills of Divines and Philosophers; and, lastly, Wills of some distinguished Ladies.

The volume will be very shortly in the hands of the Members; and the Council trust it will be acceptable not only on account of its own intrinsic merits, but as an evidence and memorial, that, after exertions continued for nearly five-and-twenty years, free access has at length been obtained for literary inquirers to nearly all the Records of the kingdom.

The Society will probably think it right to express by a vote of thanks their sense of the public conduct of Sir Cresswell Cresswell, and to transmit with their vote a copy of the printed volume of Wills. They will also thankfully recognise in like manner the kindness of Lord Chief Justice Erle in giving the Editors the use of a transcript of the Will of John Hampden; and that of Francis Kyffin Lenthall, Esq. for the use of a transcript of the Will of his ancestor, the well-known Speaker.

With the volume of Wills will be delivered to the Members, as a third publication for the present year, a second volume of Trevelyan Papers, edited, from the Muniments of the Trevelyan family, by our late Treasurer John Payne Collier, Esq. This volume brings the selection from these curious papers down to 1643.

In concluding their Report, the Council would refer to the continual proof of the usefulness of the Society which is given in the quotation of its books in all recently published historical works. It is now scarcely possible to take up a new historical publication without observing how much the author's researches have been assisted by this Society. A striking instance of this occurred a year or two ago in Mr. Motley's History of the Netherlands; the same thing is found in Mr. Gardiner's recently published History of England during James I. Several of the publications of the Society have been of material service to him, and are continually referred to with due acknowledgment. Such circumstances constitute a strong encouragement to the Society to perseverance, and will prove to persons who are desirous to study the foundations of our history how necessary it is to consult the publications of the Camden Society.

By order of the Council,

JOHN BRUCE, Director.

WILLIAM J. THOMS, Secretary.

15th April, 1863.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS.

WE, the Auditors appointed to audit the Accounts of the Camden Society, report to the Society, that the Treasurer has exhibited to us an account of the Receipts and Expenditure from the 15th of April, 1862, to the 15th of April, 1863, and that we have examined the said accounts, with the vouchers relating thereto, and find the same to be correct and satisfactory.

And we further report that the following is an Abstract of the Receipts and Expenditure during the period we have mentioned.

RECEIPTS.	£.	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
By Balance of last year's account..	46	1	10	Paid for printing 600 copies of the " Lists of Foreign Protestants and Aliens "	50	13	6
Received on account of Members whose Subscriptions were in arrear at the last Audit.....	35	0	0	Paid for Miscellaneous Printing	7	4	0
The like on account of Subscriptions due on 1st of May last (1862) ..	292	0	0	Paid for Lithographs for the " Promptorium Parvulorum "	8	12	6
The like on account of Subscriptions due on 1st of May next	9	0	0	Paid for Transcripts and Indexes	19	2	7
Received for one Composition paid in lieu of Annual Subscription ..	10	0	0	Paid for delivery and transmission of Books, with Paper for Wrappers, warehousing expenses, &c.	20	3	2
One year's dividend on £1016 3s. 1d. 3 per Cent. Consols, standing in the names of the Trustees of the Society, deducting Income Tax..	29	6	10	Paid for binding 500 copies of " Parliamentary Debates," " Proceedings in Kent," and " Foreign Protestants and Aliens "	56	0	0
By Sale of the Publications of past years to Members of the Society	39	8	0	Paid for binding small numbers of past years' Books ..	6	6	0
				Paid for Insurance	1	11	6
				Paid for Advertisements	4	11	0
				Paid for postage, carriage of parcels, and other petty cash expenses	5	1	6
				By Balance.....	179	5	9
					281	10	11
	<u>£460</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>£460</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>

And we, the Auditors, further state, that the Treasurer has reported to us, that over and above the present balance of £281 10s. 11d. there are outstanding various subscriptions of Foreign Members, and of Members resident at a distance from London, which the Treasurer sees no reason to doubt will shortly be received.

WILLIAM SALT.
HENRY HILL.

15th April, 1863.