

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS WITH
THE PAPERS READ AT THE SIXTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
HELD IN NEWCASTLE-UPON-
TYNE. JULY 23RD-26TH, 1895**

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MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

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EDITED BY

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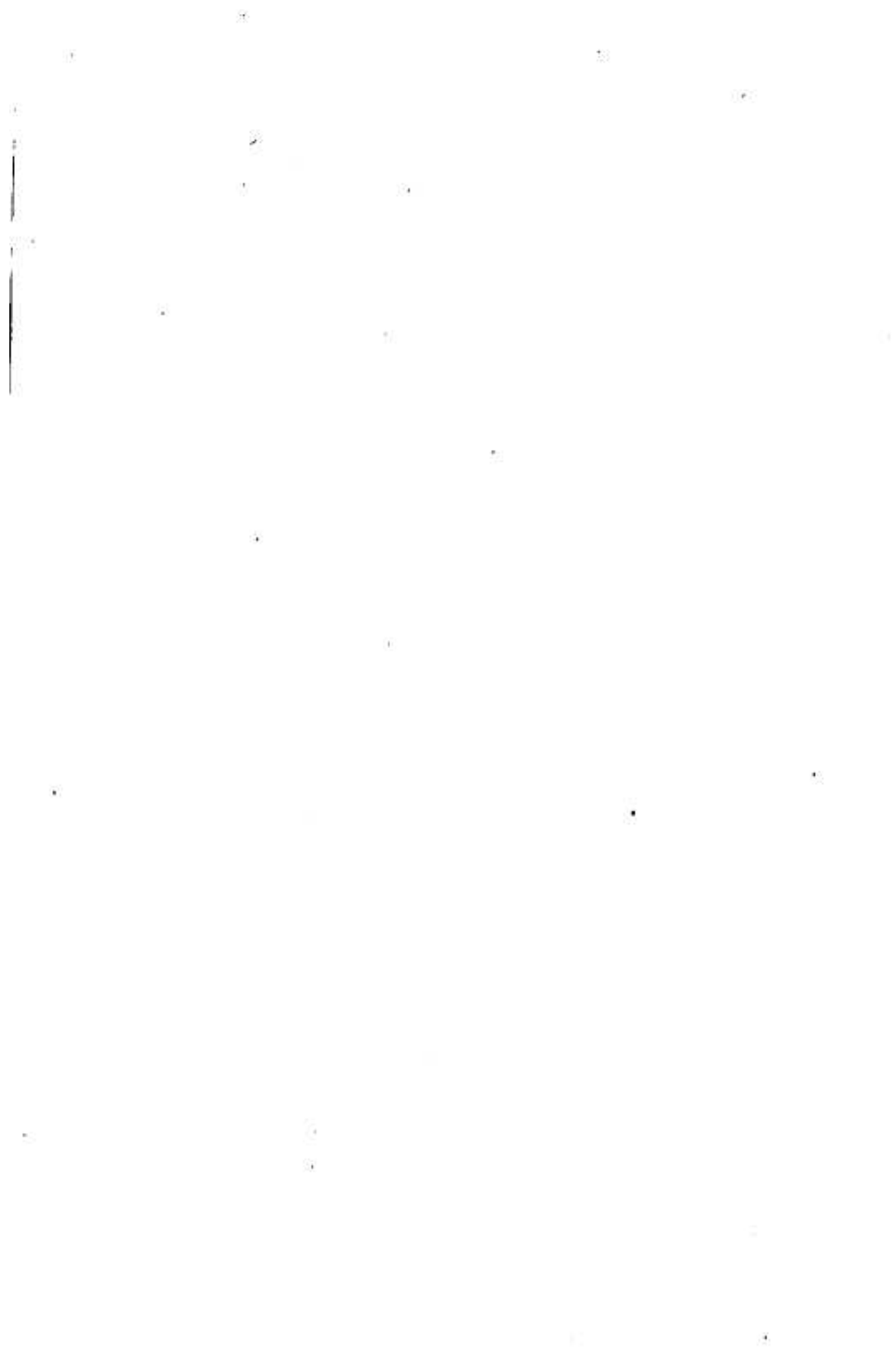
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	v
LIST OF MUSEUMS AND ASSOCIATES	viii
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING	xi
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	xii
OFFICERS AND COUNCIL	xiii
PROGRAMME OF ARRANGEMENTS	xiv
RULES	xvi
ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, THE REV. CANON NORMAN, M.A., D.C.L., F.R.S., ETC.	1
A NEW PRESERVATIVE. BY E. M. HOLMES AND H. O. FORBES, LL.D.	30
THE UTILITY OF PLASTER CASTS IN A COLLECTION OF PRE- HISTORIC ANTIQUITIES. BY F. W. RUDLER, F.G.S.	37
MUSEUM LIBRARIES. BY W. WHITE, F.L.S.	41
THE ARRANGEMENT OF A GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM. BY H. BOLTON, F.R.S.E.	50
THE PRINCIPLES OF MUSEUM ADMINISTRATION. BY G. BROWN GOODE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE U.S. NATIONAL MUSEUM	69
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL MUSEUM. BY A. MEEK, B.Sc., F.Z.S.	149
A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE. BY A. MEEK, B.Sc., F.Z.S.	162
THE USE OF XYLONITE FOR MOUNTING SPIRIT PREPARATIONS. (Abstract.) BY E. HOWARTH, F.R.A.S.	166
APPENDIX TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS	167
GENERAL NOTES	168



INTRODUCTION.

THE Sixth Annual Meeting of the Museums Association was, from every point of view (except, perhaps, that of attendance), a most satisfactory one. None of the local elements of a successful meeting was lacking. Our President was not only indefatigable in his application to business, but was able, in consequence of his wide range of knowledge, to give effective and pertinent criticisms of all papers read at the meeting. In addition to this, his genial and kindly manner inspired that feeling of union and friendliness which is so necessary to meetings of this nature. The arrangements made by the Local Secretary were well planned and successfully carried out, and his efforts were seconded by an influential Committee. The city, too, is rich in collections and in the traditions of famous and active collectors. Visitors also had the advantage of seeing a Museum building which was specially designed for the effective exhibition of specimens and which is probably the best adapted for that purpose of any in the kingdom.

It cannot be too often pointed out that the utility of these meetings depends largely on the number of representatives of different Museums who attend them.

The good derived from our meetings by those who are present is often of an intangible kind. It is not to be measured simply by papers, however good, or by Annual Reports, however bulky. But it is to be measured by the knowledge and encouragement gained by the Curator from contact, often of an informal kind, with his fellow-workers.

The members present at this meeting enjoyed an unusual privilege in their visit to the President's collection of Marine Invertebrata at Burnmoor. The methods employed by Canon Norman in the preservation and storing of his collection were at once so simple and so effectual that many of his visitors must have carried away practical hints of a most useful character. The Canon not only exhibited his collections and displayed his methods of working, but also gave a very interesting demonstration on the specific variations of some of our commoner Gasteropoda, illustrating his remarks by specimens from his collections.

The expedition to Durham was of a most interesting character. Under Canon Tristram's able guidance, the Castle, University Buildings, and the Cathedral were explored, and their chief points of interest were explained. Canon Tristram kindly invited the members of the expedition to his house, where they were hospitably entertained by Mrs. Tristram, and had an opportunity of seeing the Canon's well-known collection of birds.

At the *Conversazione* in the Hancock Museum the members had the privilege of meeting, under most pleasant circumstances, with several of the citizens of Newcastle who were prominently connected with Museum work.

The visit to Marsden Rock, on the last day of the meeting, under the guidance of Mr. R. Cameron, M.P., was somewhat marred by the unfavourable weather, which throughout the whole time of the meeting was almost uninterruptedly wet, the only variation being occasional thunderstorms. Despite all this, the geological lessons of the Marsden Rock were intensely interesting to the many members who braved the storm. Afterwards the members went on to Sunderland where Mr. Cameron acted as guide to the well-arranged, and exceedingly instructive museum, whose unrivalled collection of Permian fossils were particularly, if not enviously, inspected by the visitors, who were afterwards gracefully and pleasantly entertained to tea by Mrs. Cameron. The kindness and hospitality of the Mayor of Sunderland in inviting the Association to dinner, where they had the opportunity of meeting the members of the Town Council and other leading citizens, was most gratifying. A most satisfactory feature was the warm testimony borne by all the speakers at the dinner to the great value attached by municipal authorities to Museums in the influence on the higher and brighter life of the people.