

OBITUARY NOTICE OF
THE REV. FRANCIS HASLEWOOD, A.K.C., F.S.A.

BY THE REV. F. G. HASLEWOOD, LL.D., D.C.L.

A real loss has befallen the members of our Institute, by the decease of this kind and genial archæologist, at his Rectory, on Saturday evening, April 7th, 1900, of pneumonia, shortly before the completion of his sixtieth year. The funeral took place in Ipswich Cemetery, with every mark of respect, being of a public character, on the following Maundy Thursday, when his remains were laid beside those of his first wife. Although Mr. Haslewood resigned the office of Secretary in 1897, after a tenure of ten years, he continued the duties *pro tempore* until after the annual excursion in 1898, and showed such interest and energy during the last year's specially enjoyable outing, that the news of his death must have been a sad surprise to many of his friends. Still his health had declined for at least three years, and he battled with characteristic cheerfulness and patience against increasing weakness, little bettered by intervals of change and rest. Francis Haslewood has already given, in his record of the Rectors of his Church, certain particulars about himself, which may be somewhat enlarged. He was born at Hastings, May 2nd, 1840, his father being curate of the then united parishes of St. Clement and All Saints. His mother, Charlotte Elizabeth, was the eldest daughter of George Dering, of Barham Court, near Canterbury, the third son of Sir Edward Dering, the sixth baronet. He was educated at Marlborough College, when Dr. Cotton, afterwards Bishop of Calcutta, was Head Master, and his

death is recorded in the June number of the "Marlburian" with the remark that, "as Secretary to the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History, he was indefatigable, and his enthusiasm in the study of antiquities was catching, while he was unrivalled as a cicerone."

His career at King's College, London, was highly creditable, and he passed in the first class as a theological associate. He commenced his clerical duties in London, holding three important curacies, and, when he left the last, that of St. Luke's, Marylebone, in 1868, after the death of his infant son, he was presented with an illuminated and largely signed address, in testimony of his services, together with a handsome drawing room clock and vases. He next spent seven happy years in a Kent village, as curate of Benenden, a few miles distant from his father's residence, Smarden Rectory, and became a Life Member of the Kent Archæological Society. He rendered valuable help in the arrangement of local museums during the annual meetings held at Cranbrook and Tenterden, in 1873 and 1880, for which the Council awarded him votes of thanks. Moreover, he contributed the following articles, some of them of a recondite nature, to *Archæologia Cantiana*.

1. Sissinghurst Castle	}	Vol.
2. Notes from the Records of Smarden Church, communicated by the Rev. Francis Haslewood		ix.
3. Philipott's Visitation of Kent in 1619.—The Dering Pedigree, Edited by Dr. J. J. Howard and the Rev. Francis Haslewood		x.
4. Smarden Church	}	xiv
5. Smallhythe Church		
6. The Rectors of Pluckley, Kent, for upwards of Six Hundred Years	}	xxii.
7. Visitation Articles		
8. Pevington and its Rectors		

He was an excellent draughtsman and lithographer. When living in London he illuminated, in old English characters, two morning and evening texts from the Psalms, which were suitably framed and circulated, to

the extent of nearly one thousand copies, among his parishioners. While a student at King's College, he delivered, in 1863, an entertaining lecture on the antiquities of Smarden, in the new school-room of the place, illustrating it with his own diagrams and drawings. This lecture was subsequently expanded into a work, which gives quite a pictorial description of the Church and locality: and after his father's death in 1876, he brought out, partly as a filial memorial, a second volume, entitled "Memorials of Smarden," which completes the undertaking. He likewise issued three other works relating to Kent, "The Parish of *Chislet*, its Monuments, Vicars, and Parish Officers,"—the parish of which his elder brother is still Vicar; "The Parish of *Benenden*, its Monuments, Vicars, and Persons of Note;" and, lastly, in the autumn of 1899, "The Parish of *Pluckley*: Monumental Inscriptions in the Church and Churchyard," of which, as stated in the preface, his friend, Mr. Robert Hovenden, F.S.A., generously undertook to finance the publication. Three of Mr. Haslewood's seven children were born at Benenden, which he quitted, with gratifying tokens of appreciation, in the spring of 1875, on being preferred by Lord Chancellor Selborne, to the Rectory of St. Matthew, Ipswich. No attempt will be made to enumerate his various and successful labours connected with the Church and parochial organization, beyond the fact that a division of the parish has been effected, and the Church of All Saints built, which has a population of more than 5,000 assigned to it. The Rector was permitted to attend the opening of St. Matthew's Church Hall and Club, by the Bishop of Ipswich, February 1st. He bestowed great pains upon the publication of the Inscriptions, both within and without his Church, the churchyard of which is considered to be the largest in Suffolk. Owing to the ravages of time, the value of this work has considerably increased since its issue in 1884. But a still more abiding proof of his affection for the Church in which he faithfully ministered for 25 years,—being this year the incumbent of the longest standing in

the town, is his exhaustive article, previously alluded to, upon the Fabric and Rectors, given in the proceedings of our Institute, and copiously embellished at his own cost, with beautiful engravings. Moreover, the literature of the county is permanently indebted to him for his transcript from the original ms. in the British Museum, of the often quoted work of Sir Richard Gipps, on the Ancient Families of Suffolk. The same remark applies with the greatest force to his crowning exertions, which produced the volume on Church Plate in the County of Suffolk. His own remarks to his only brother on the subject, may be suitably introduced. "I sent proof-slips, and wrote a different letter to every clergyman in the county relative to his plate, so that I endeavoured to ensure accuracy, and I am thankful I was spared to complete my task. I was fortunate in obtaining the co-operation of such competent Commissioners."

Inasmuch as there is at the end of Suffolk Proceedings, Vol. x., part 2, an alphabetical list of the papers written by the Rev. Francis Haslewood, it is merely necessary to add the title of the only one not included, which brings the goodly number up to 37:—"Our Lady of Ipswich," Vol. x., part 1.

Akin to Archæology, particularly Kent and Suffolk, was Mr. Haslewood's love of Heraldry and Genealogy. As to the former study, he contributed four rare Armorial Book-plates with descriptions (Dering and Monypenny),—two of Dering being on a large scale, dated 1630—to the pages of *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vols. I. and III., second series, edited by his friend, Dr. J. J. Howard: all these have been admirably reproduced.

Upon Genealogy, with infinite industry and research, he issued as many as four illustrated works:—

1. The Genealogy of the Family of Dering, of Surrenden-Dering, Kent.
2. The Genealogy of the Family of Haslewood, Wickwarren, Belton and Maidwell Branches; Counties—Worcester, Rutland, Northampton.

3. The Genealogy of the Family of Haslewood, Staffordshire and Warwickshire Branches; also the Genealogy of Haslewood, Barbadoes Branch.
4. The Genealogy of the Family of Haslewood, Shropshire Branch. (The Author's own Family.)

Mr. Haslewood was elected F.S.A. in 1885, and appointed a Surrogate last year. He married for the second time, September 4th, 1894, in St. Matthew's Church, Mrs. Ellen Rope, widow of Mr. Edward Rope, and sixth daughter of Mr. Thomas Cooper, of Ardleigh, Essex. It afforded him sincere pleasure to receive several valuable presents upon the occasion, the chief one a massive silver salver, inscribed with good wishes, which were indeed fulfilled, and completely; but, alas, for less than six years. Peace to the memory of one, who consecrated his best gift, that of persuasive eloquence, to his Divine Master, and whose works, other and far costlier than any here adverted to, do follow him, we devoutly believe, to his heavenly home.

This notice will close appropriately with a quotation from the sermon of the Rural Dean, Canon Garratt, preached the very evening after the Rector's death. "Those who belonged to that parish and congregation were," he said, "that day mourning a great loss which had overtaken them very suddenly. Their late Rector was a man whom the more any one knew of him the more they esteemed him. He had known the Rector many years—the whole of the time, indeed, he had been in Ipswich, more than a quarter of a century—and could truly say, that the longer he had known him the greater was his feeling of affectionate regard for him. Many present that evening had known no other Rector, and the loss of one so dear, must be very much felt by them. It was only ten or eleven days since he (the preacher) saw their Rector at a meeting in Ipswich. He was surprised to see him there, being under the impression that he was very ill; but the meeting had reference to Church Schools—a matter in which St. Matthew's was closely concerned, and

one in which their late Rector took a deep interest, and at that time he fully expected to preach on the following Sunday. But it was ordered otherwise, and he was now preaching to them by his death, for though dead, he 'yet speaketh.'"

N.B.—He performed three full services in his church on Sunday, March 25th, when the Curate was unavoidably absent, and was out the two next days, visiting a sick parishioner, and being engaged in other ways, up to the time of his fatal attack.