

MR. AYRTON AND DR. HOOKER

IT has been determined that this question shall not be brought on in the House of Commons at this late period of the session, as so many members are already absent that it is possible the debate might fail somewhat to represent the actual feelings of the House. At the same time it is known that had the discussion come on some weeks ago, the Government, if they had ventured to support Mr. Ayrton, would have been beaten.

Of the return moved for by Sir John Lubbock, and prepared by Mr. Ayrton, it is difficult to speak or write without expressing strong indignation. We have not what we want, and we have what no one wants. The whole object of the compilation is to leave the reader in a fog, and from this point of view the compiler deserves credit. We regret also to see the respected name of Prof. Owen dragged into the discussion on a point which has nothing whatever to do with the question under discussion, which is simply Mr. Ayrton's monstrous behaviour to a man of science. It is gratifying to see from the Treasury letter which we reprint that "My Lords" have not hesitated to hint with sufficient pointedness for an official document their opinion on the matter. It must not be forgotten that for a time Mr. Ayrton was at the Treasury, and that he is there no longer.

COPY OF TREASURY MINUTE, dated 24th of July, 1872.

My Lords have under their consideration the Memorandum of the First Commissioner on the rearrangement of Kew Gardens by the Office of Works, and of the changes therein.

This Memorandum embraces three subjects:—

1. The manner in which matters connected with the management of Kew Gardens have been conducted, and in doing so, refers to instances in which complaints have been made by the Director of Kew Gardens.
2. The arrangements under which this management ought to be conducted.
3. Suggestions and questions of the First Commissioner as to changes therein, and as to connecting the Kew Gardens with the Kensington Museum, which, however, the First Commissioner does not propose should be taken into consideration at present.

To the last part of the Memorandum, therefore, my Lords do not propose to refer in the present Minute.

In discussing any arrangement for the management of the establishment and gardens at Kew, it must be remembered that there is a considerable space of ground beyond the hot-houses, buildings, and ground appropriated to the cultivation of shrubs and plants for the promotion of botanical science.

Part of this ground has been used as a nursery for young trees, and the remainder has been laid out as ornamental pleasure grounds.

The establishments at Kew have always been under the superintendence of the Office of Works, subject, of course, to the superior control of the Treasury, to which department the annual estimates of expenditure are submitted for their sanction, and this control it is indispensable to maintain.

With regard to the local management at Kew, the First Commissioner's Memorandum divides it, for the purposes of administration, into four branches, Botany, Horticulture, Police, and Works.

It is unnecessary, in the present Minute, to refer to Police.

The Department of Botany the First Commissioner states to be "under the immediate direction and control of the Director of Kew Gardens;" the Department of Horticulture to be "under the immediate cultivation of

the Curator, subject to the orders and control of the Director, as the responsible head."

The works are carried out by an officer of the Office of Works.

My Lords consider this statement to represent with sufficient accuracy the proper arrangement for the establishment, and that if fairly carried into execution, in the friendly and conciliatory spirit which ought to prevail amongst the different members of all public departments, no difficulty will occur.

It is essential to maintain the superior authority in all respects of the First Commissioner, but the nature of the case makes it evident that this authority should of course be exercised with due regard to the feelings and position of the officers under him.

The Botanical Department has been formed by the exertions of Sir W. Hooker, and of his son Dr. Hooker. It stands high in the estimation of men of science both here and abroad, and both these eminent men are entitled to the gratitude of the country for their services in this department of science.

In all matters connected with this department of the establishment, whether as regards the hot-houses, buildings, or the cultivation of shrubs and plants for botanical purposes, the opinion of Dr. Hooker should be followed, subject only to the consideration of expense. It is for him to represent to the First Commissioner what he considers necessary for the advancement of botanical science, and it is then for the First Commissioner and the Treasury to determine whether the expense necessary for the purpose shall be incurred.

No alterations in existing arrangements in the scientific branch of the department should be made without the Director's concurrence.

The actual execution of the works to be undertaken must be under the direction of the proper officer of Works, but the opinion of the Director of the Gardens should be taken as to the efficiency of what it is proposed to do, and any requisition of his for work or repairs necessary for the preservation of the valuable plants in the houses should on all occasions receive prompt attention.

With regard to those parts of the grounds which are not used for the purpose of botanical science, but as nursery grounds or pleasure grounds, it will be the office of the First Commissioner to give such directions as he may think advisable.

My Lords, however, think it desirable that even on these points he should communicate with the Director of the Gardens, through whom, as head of the establishment, all orders to the curator and to other subordinate officers should, in regular course, be conveyed.

My Lords gather from the Memorandum of the First Commissioner that, speaking generally, the business connected with Kew Gardens has been conducted in accordance with the views thus entertained by their Lordships.

My Lords do not consider that it would be conducive either to the public advantage or to the maintenance of that good and friendly feeling which they are anxious to see prevailing in every public department, if in closing this correspondence they were to go in detail into the cases where any disagreement has taken place between the First Commissioner and the Director.

But adverting to the facts contained in the Memorandum of the First Commissioner, they are not surprised that in various cases Dr. Hooker should have thought that he had just cause of complaint, though this may have grown in some instances out of arrangements for which the First Commissioner was not responsible, and in others they learn from the Memorandum of the First Commissioner that the cause of complaint has been removed.

My Lords see no reason why under these conditions there should be any serious difficulty in discharging the respective duties of the First Commissioner and of the

Director of the Gardens in a manner satisfactory to both, whoever may be the occupants of those offices, maintaining the proper authority of the First Commissioner, with due regard to the position and character of the Director of the Gardens.

Let a copy of this Minute be sent to the First Commissioner, with a request that it may be communicated to the Director of Kew Gardens.

THE ROYAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE MEETING AT SOUTHAMPTON

THE annual meeting of the Royal Archæological Institute was opened in the Hartley Institution, Southampton, on Thursday last. The members of the Institute were welcomed by the Mayor and Corporation of the borough, the chair being taken by Lord Talbot de Malahide, the permanent president.

Archdeacon Jacob furnished some interesting information respecting the tomb of William Rufus. He was, he said, accessory to the removal of the tomb of William Rufus, and he had not heard the last of it. He thought, however, he was sufficiently pachydermatous not to mind this. There was William Rufus's tomb, an eyesore and a footsore, for persons dashed their feet against it to their injury, and the place was particularly wanted, by reason of the enlargement of Winchester Cathedral, for the boys to sit. The question raised was—Is that the grave of William Rufus? Is there anything in it? If there is, whose bones are they? If there are bones, are they William Rufus's? Might it not be perfectly empty, and, if so, why should it stand there an obstruction? He, then, having skilled persons about him, ventured to take up the slab, and found that the tomb had been rifled and dishonoured in every way. There were bones there thrown about and trodden. It was suggested by some that the Parliamentarians had done this, whereupon he sent for and consulted the chief science men in Winchester. They had the bones taken out and placed on the pavement, so as to see the height of the man, and, gauged by the height which Thackeray says does the work of the country, he was found to be 5ft. 8in. Having examined them microscopically, they came to the conclusion (it was not stated how) that they were the bones of William Rufus, and were quite certain the tomb had been moved again and again before. When they visited Winchester they would find where he had had it placed, and if they had not been told otherwise they would probably have believed it had always been there. Believing in the *dictum* of Bishop Andrews, who said the church was for the living and not for the dead, and knowing that King Rufus had not been a benefactor to his country, he thought it not unbecoming to move him a little further, but he was still within the sacred walls. Therefore, anticipating their judgment, he trusted they would not pitch him into the river Itchen for the so-called disturbing of the bones of William Rufus.

At three o'clock the members of the society and friends, including the Marquis of Bristol, Lord Talbot, Colonel Pinney, and many others, visited the town under the guidance of Mr. Parker, who described most of its ancient features.

The Mayor, and Mayoress, gave a *soirée* to the members of the Institute at the Hartley Institution in the evening. It proved to be a very successful affair. Over 800 invitations were issued, and a large number of these were accepted, several officers from the United States fleet being present.

The sections met on Friday. The Bishop of Winchester presided for a short time, and introduced Lord Henry Scott, who read an introductory address in the Historical Section.

Lord H. Scott confined his remarks to a history of the County of Hampshire. As to the origin of Southampton, he said there was an ancient British town called Hampton, which was probably situate higher up the Itchen, at Bitterne. The town was even now often called Hampton by the country people. In "Domesday Book" the county was called Hampton-shire and the town Hampton. It suffered severely from the incursions of the Danes. Henry I. made it a borough, and King John gave it its first charter and had a palace there. Thence sailed the expedition for Palestine, and Henry embarked for Cressy and Agincourt. Philip of Spain also landed there to meet his Queen at Winchester. It was also from thence that the great apostle of Germany, afterwards better known as St. Boniface, departed on his mission. After referring to Leyland's "History of Southampton," he came to the general history of the county. One of the most valuable historical monuments that had been left to them was the New Forest; and however much they might condemn the severe laws which were made for the protection of what were called "the King's beastes," yet they felt some gratitude that it had been preserved to their use as it was now. He then gave a sketch of the historical associations connected with the Forest. He disbelieved the old supposition that houses and churches had been destroyed by William Rufus to make the Forest, though some small holdings might have been enclosed. The connection of Tyrrel with the death of Rufus was preserved by a ford which at this day was called Tyrrel's Ford. In the Forest was Beaulieu Abbey, which was described in the charter of King John as the *bellu loca regis*. It was founded by King John in 1234. It was forty years in building, and Henry III. and all his Court attended the dedication. It was the sanctuary of Perkin Warbeck for many years. His lordship observed that this part of our coast had always in our early history been exposed to invasion. Hampshire also suffered much during the civil wars, and after the Restoration Charles II. used to come down from London to enjoy holiday in it. William III. was the first after Charles II. to attempt to repair the damages which the Civil War had created in the Forest; and later, in the era of the Georges, the county had been connected with our naval victories under Nelson. Hampshire also contained the Strathfieldsaye so closely connected with the later days of the Iron Duke; and in Hampshire the poet Keble found a quiet and honourable grave.

The Rev. F. W. Baker then read a memoir of Beaulieu Abbey.—Lord Henry Scott, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Baker, gave the Institute an invitation to Beaulieu for the following day, and said that Mr. Baker would be in attendance to explain every point worthy of their consideration in this most interesting abbey.—The proposition having been heartily accorded, the sitting was then suspended. In the afternoon there was an excursion of the members of the Institute to Romsey and Porchester, which occupied until eight P.M. At Romsey the vicar (the Rev. E. L. Berthon) gave a discourse on the Abbey of Romsey, and showed the result of recent excavations; and at Porchester Mr. G. T. Clark lectured upon the Castle there. Saturday was devoted to the excursion to Beaulieu Abbey, and a visit to Christchurch and Rufus's Stone.

On Tuesday, the members of the institute visited Silchester (Saxon "Sil," great or best, and "castrum"), which has the largest area of any of the Roman fortifications in England. The walls at present are about 13 ft. high and 8 ft. thick. The city had four gates—north, south, east, and west—and beyond the wall was a deep ditch, and beyond the ditch a vallum 15 ft. high. The amphitheatre is situated outside the city, 150 yards from the north-east corner of the wall. The members also visited the remains of the Chapel at Basingstoke, dismantled by the Parliamentarians, and Basing House, formerly the abode of the Marquis of Winchester, by whom it was defended against the Parliamentarians. In