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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1900.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.								
				£	s.	d.						
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Balance in Bank	416	11	3	Printing <i>Transactions</i>	...	...	173	1	0
Annual Subscription, 1897...	0	10	6	Miscellaneous Printing	...	...	6	19	2
" " 1898...	2	2	0	Library	...	...	31	11	1
" " 1899...	26	5	0	Petty Disbursements	...	...	22	9	6
" " 1900...	150	3	0	Cheques outstanding last Balance	...	...	4	4	0
Life Subscriptions	20	0	0	Bank Balance	...	...	426	4	10
Entrance Fees	14	3	6	In Treasurer's Hand	...	...	0	4	11
Donation	2	2	0						
Sale of <i>Transactions</i>	12	16	9						
Consols' Dividend	20	0	6						
				£664 14 6						£664 14 6		

October 24th, 1901.

G. M. CURRIE,
Treasurer.

In Memoriam.

JOHN BELLOWS.

John Bellows, by whose demise at the Knoll, Upton, on May 5th, 1902, Archæology in and beyond this county suffers a very memorable loss, was born at Liskeard, in Cornwall, January 18th, 1831: his parents, William and Hannah Bellows, being members of the Society of Friends, and the former of these, a Schoolmaster. He began his notable career as a printer at fourteen years of age, being apprenticed to Mr. Llewellyn Newton, at Camborne, in that county. In 1851, being twenty years of age, he came to London, and entered the establishment of Messrs. Harrison, Queen's Printers, in St. Martin's Lane, where, however, he remained but a few years. Thence he came to Gloucester, undertaking the management of Mr. Wait's printing-office in Westgate Street, which he directed for seven years, only giving it up in order to start upon his own account. Moving to Eastgate House in 1872, he may be said to have built up the business now so far famed, and which shortly before his death he transferred to the able direction of his sons.

What the Science and Art of Printing owe to him, what Civic and Political Interests in the County owe to him, and, above all, what Philanthropy owes to him, are subjects which have been eloquently dwelt upon in the journals both in this country and in America. It may even be said of him that there was no side of his many-faceted character which would not repay careful scrutiny. But here we must limit ourselves, perforce, to his antiquarian side, both as a former member and ornament of this Society, as an acknowledged authority upon Roman Britain, a scrupulous searcher after light and truth in obscure places and periods, which he has greatly contributed to illustrate. It is recorded that the discovery of a well-preserved portion of the Roman wall of Gloucester, made during the process of erecting

his printing-works in 1872, gave him his first stimulus in the direction of archæological research. His keen perseverance and sense of order down to minute details, his intrepid enthusiasm and fine natural memory all, at once, lent their combined aid to his pursuits, and the result was the formation of an archæologist not of the German academic order at all; not frigid, not dryasdust, nor drily dogmatic, but various and natural, always interesting, if not always convincing, and possessing the undefinable gift of personal charm. John Bellows may, in fact, be termed an "original," and, as Emerson says, "Originals never lose their value." Indeed, it was precisely this originality which made him so attractive to so many; sometimes, even in the inverse ratio to one's power of agreeing with his archæological opinions; for it occasionally seemed not possible to do so; and yet his statements and conclusions were always worthy of very close attention. And if his exposition of this or that theory ever appeared to disadvantage, it was never from defect of information, or of painstaking sincerity of thinking, but from his English over-hardihood in attacking the dark and difficult, and trying to place it beneath his control. And it is not to be wondered at that, acting in this strenuous manner, such a man should often have succeeded in throwing quite a fresh light, not merely upon comparatively unconsidered trifles, but upon important raw material of history, so as to make it take interesting form and live. With a modern academic training his scientific foothold would doubtless have been rendered far more secure; but we cannot help thinking that the individuality of our deceased friend might have been by no means the gainer by it.

In this way, then, John Bellows stood out as a very real and valued archæologist, made thorough by his acumen and perseverance, and yet prevented from becoming heavy or dull by reason of a quick and a kindly wit and a truly childlike geniality. What would have fallen flat, or quite unprofitably from many a lecturer, evoked keen interest from his lips. For him to adopt an old or commonplace theory was a sure sign that some unsuspected and quaint significance would be extracted from it, and one that was certain to be startling to orthodoxy and delightfully shocking to "Academicus."

But what is all this save reiterative evidence that in our late

friend we had with us a manly, independent spirit, who both set forth and strenuously defended from his vast stores of knowledge whatever he believed to be making for light and truth in archæological and antiquarian paths, wherein all of us must be grateful even for mere sparks of real illumination? He was a brave sower of intellectual seed; and thus, in archæology, as in all else, we shall ever regard him affectionately as a true benefactor to his kind.

Mr. Bellows was one of the original members of the Society, and his name appears in the first list of officers as a member of the Council for the Gloucester district. He contributed a paper to the first volume of the *Transactions*, on the "Roman Wall of Gloucester," and other papers, mostly on similar subjects, to later volumes; he was also the printer of the first volume of the *Transactions*.
