



Knook

SALISBURY DIOCESAN CHURCH BUILDING ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of this association was held on Tuesday last, in the Board-room, in the Close, the Right Rev, the Lord Bishop of Salisbury presided, and amongst others present were the Earl Nelson, the Rev. W. E. C. Austin-Gourlay, the Rev. J. H. Samler, the Rev. Prebendary Payne, the Rev. Prebendary Lowther, the Rev. Prebendary Morrice, the Rev. Prebendary Onslow, the Rev. Precentor Lear, the Rev. Succentor Daubeny, the Rev. E. Luard, the Rev. T. Miles, the Rev. R. Phillips, the Rev. Tupper Carey, the Rev. C. Tower, the Rev. C. Lawford, &c. &c.

The proceedings having been opened with prayer by the Right Rev. Chairman.

The Rev. C. Lawford, one of the secretaries, read the following report of the committee of the association for the past year :—

In presenting to you their 30th annual report, your committee have to announce with thankfulness that the work of Church Building and Restoration is being continued in the Diocese with the same degree of energy that has marked its progress during the last 39 years.

The number of applications to your committee for aid has not been so great as in the year 1865, the whole amounting to seven, which is the average number that has been since the formation of the association: and amongst the churches to which your committee has given assistance are some in which the work being carried on is of more than ordinary interest and importance.

The aggregate amount of grants has been £835, contributing towards a total expenditure, according to the estimates, of £12, 858; and thus assisting to provide 2142 improved or additional sittings, the additional number amounting to 1142, of which more than 1100 are free and unappropriated.

....

The Rev. Precentor Lear said he had the honour to move the adoption of the report which they had just heard read, and very few words would be needed from him on that occasion. There were two or three salient points in the report upon which he should wish to make a few remarks. He felt that this was an important era with regard to the society. They looked back for 30 years since the foundation of the society, when their then excellent secretary, the Rev. Prebendary Lowther, issued his first report in the year 1837, and in looking at that report he observed that the rev. gentleman put his finger upon what he considered 12 great blots in the diocese. He had just been thinking them over, and he thought that certainly 11, if not all the 12, blots had been removed, so that if Mr. Lowther had to re-write his report now, he would be able to congratulate the president of the society, its members, and the society in general on the removal of all those blots. (The Rev. Prebendary Lowther: Every

one.) One of the things which the subscribers to the Church Building Society had always to congratulate themselves upon was the fact—and it appeared to be the case at the present time—that although they made very small grants, there had been a feeling that they all heartily wished they had more money to give. They felt, too, that their small grant called forth a considerable expenditure, and that appeared to have been especially the case from the report of the past year. (The Bishop: “Hear, hear.”) He believed that their hundreds had pretty well called forth thousands. (The Rev. Prebendary Lowther: Yes, or more, £1000 has produced £12,000) There was another thing which had just been mentioned in the report, and which all persons who desired to promote the worship of Almighty God, especially among the poor, as members of the Church of England, must rejoice in, namely, the additional accommodation which was given. (Hear, hear.) Let them take, for instance, the case of Heytesbury, where a nobleman living close at hand desired not only to restore his church to its primitive beauty, and to the state in which the founders of that church left it, but he desired to provide better accommodation for the 1200 people who are round about him. The accommodation in Heytesbury Church was therefore to be considerably increased. The rev, gentleman merely took that as a specimen of many other cases. Then there was another thing to which he would just allude in asking them to accept the report, namely, the good which the society had done, not only by the money which it had called forth—not only by the increased accommodation for the worshippers but likewise to a very great extent in improving the plans which were brought before it. He believed, especially with regard to the society in its infancy—and even during all its life, that it had done very much indeed towards improving the plans, and he believed, more than that, towards calling forth throughout the diocese and even beyond the diocese, the love of the noble study of architecture. He would only further remark, that though much had been done—though Mr Lowther’s twelve blots had been removed—though as they looked through the length and breadth of the diocese they saw all their parish churches more or less assuming their ancient glory and beauty that they ought to assume, there were yet at the same time some blots still remaining; and he trusted that as long as God gave them life and health and strength they would all do what they could to help the society in removing those blots—in bringing all our churches into that state which the lovers of the worship of Almighty God desired that they should be brought into. In conclusion, he had only to say that he had much pleasure in moving that the report be adopted, printed, and circulated, and that the acts of the General Committee be confirmed. (Applause.)

The Rev. Prebendary Morrice said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion, and he felt he should be very ungrateful if he did not do so, because he believed that during the last year or two his own part of the diocese had had a great share of the grants of the society. The noble grant which was made to Chapmanslade was one of the most beneficial grants that had ever been made, and he was happy to say that, in looking over his own deanery, they only required one more grant, and that was one which had escaped Mr. Lowther’s notice—the small church at Knook. He was afraid, however, that they would not be able to apply just yet for a grant for that. It was on the estate of time nobleman who had already been spoken of, and it was hoped that in the course of time they would be able to apply for a grant for that, and then there would not be a single church of which they would not be proud. (Hear, hear.)

.....

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – Saturday 2 February, 1867)