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Royal Geographical Society.

1845.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 26TH MAY.

THE Council have great pleasure in reporting a progressive increase in the number of new members. In the year 1843 the accessions were 16 only; in 1844 they increased to 38, and in the present year to 47; thus affording the best proof of the increasing estimation of the Society in public opinion. In addition to the ordinary members THREE honorary members have been elected, two of them not previously connected with the Society, and one who was already a corresponding member. A new corresponding member has also been added to our list.

There have occurred 33 vacancies, of which 15 by death, *viz* 2 corresponding and 13 ordinary members, and 9 by resignation. Nine have been struck off for non-payment, their united arrears amounting to 54*l.* The Society now consists of 684 members, besides 62 foreign honorary and corresponding members.

Trustees — The office of a Trustee having become vacant by the lamented death of Mr. Francis Baily, Mr. W. R. Hamilton, who has ever taken so lively an interest in the welfare of the Society, has been appointed by the Council to the vacant office.

Treasurer. — Mr. John Biddulph, who since the first establishment of the Society had been its Treasurer and *ex officio* one of its Trustees, has found it necessary in consequence, the Council regret to say, of declining health to resign the offices. The Council, in accepting Mr. Biddulph's resignation, tendered to him an unanimous vote of thanks for his long and valuable services, a vote which they feel assured will meet with the hearty concurrence of the Society. The Council have appointed Mr.

Robert Biddulph to succeed his father as Treasurer, which appointment they trust will be approved.

Finances.—The accompanying Balance-sheet, made up to the 31st of December, 1844, will, it is hoped, satisfy members that the Council continue to conduct the financial department with the same regard to economy as heretofore. There has happily been no occasion to encroach upon our funds, nor are there any outstanding debts except for the usual current expenses.

Arrears.—The same attention has been paid in the last as in former years to get in the arrears due to the Society, and with so much success, that 124*l.* have been recovered, notwithstanding which there still remained due on the 31st of December, 403*l.*, of which sum 158*l.* are owing by members abroad.

Money Grants.—No money grants have been made since the last Anniversary, not from any want of readiness on the part of the Council to assist travellers, but from motives of necessity and prudence, such as it is hoped will be duly appreciated by the Society.

Royal Donation.—Of the two gold medals forming the donation of Her Most Gracious Majesty, that called the Patron's Medal has been awarded to Professor Carl Ritter for his important geographical labours, and that called the Founder's Medal to Dr. Charles T. Beke for his explorations in Abyssinia.

Private Donation.—The Council have to report, with sentiments of gratitude for his liberality, a third donation of 50*l.* from Mr. James Alexander.

Journal.—The members of the Society will have perceived that the determination of the Council respecting the editing of the Journal, as announced in the Report of last year, has been crowned with complete success. The two Parts of the volume for the year were punctually ready for delivery at the times appointed; the 1st Part in June, the 2nd at the end of December. The 2nd Part of Volume XIII., which various causes had delayed, has been issued, so that the arrears in this respect have

been got up as was promised, and the Journal will henceforth appear with the desirable regularity.

Library.—The accessions to the Library since the last Anniversary Meeting consist of 206 books and pamphlets, and 188 maps and charts, 113 of which latter were presented to the Society by the liberality of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, who have so largely contributed to enrich the Society's collection.

In conclusion, the Council beg to state that, prosperous and flourishing as the Society is, its necessary expenses compared with its receipts are still such as to preclude the possibility of funding the compositions of new members, nor can the Council expect to have the means of so doing, so long as the Society remains burdened with the expense of apartments. The Council are still willing to encourage a hope that Her Majesty's Government may see the expediency of placing the Royal Geographical Society in a condition of greater utility by the grant of apartments.

In the meantime the Council invite all members who have the real advancement of the Society at heart, to continue their exertions to increase the number of subscribers as the substantial means by which the income of the Society may be made to equal its expenditure.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR 1844.

Dr.

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Balance in the Banker's hands on the 1st of January, 1844	51	5	11	House Rent and Fixtures	.	.	.
of Petty Cash in Secretary's hands	1	19	0½	Salaries of Secretary, Editor, and Librarian	.	.	263 13 0
Entrance of 36 Members, at 3 <i>l</i> .	108	0	0	Collector's Salary	.	.	400 0 0
Composition of 21 Members, at 17 <i>l</i> .	357	0	0	Messenger's Wages	.	.	21 0 0
Subscription of 255 Members, at 2 <i>l</i> ., minus 19 <i>s</i> . underpaid	509	1	0	Firing and Lights	.	.	20 8 0
Arrears paid up	124	0	0	Stationery	.	.	32 12 7
Dividend for twelve months on 2578 <i>l</i> . 4 <i>s</i> . 4 <i>d</i> . 3½ per Cents.				Freight, Duty, Carriage of Parcels, Postages, &c.	.	.	17 18 3½
Reduced (Income Tax deducted)	87	12	2	Evening Meetings	.	.	45 7 9
Royal Premium	52	10	0	Insurance and Advertisements	.	.	14 0 2
Journals sold	87	9	0	Instruments for Mr. Duncan, 13 <i>l</i> . 18 <i>s</i> . 5 <i>d</i> ., and repair of	.	.	6 8 0
Index sold	40	0	0	Barometer, 1 <i>l</i> . 10 <i>s</i> .	.	.	15 8 5
Donation of James Alexander, Esq.	50	0	0	Furniture, Repairs, and Fittings	.	.	49 6 10
				Journal Printing, Part I. Vol. 13, and	.	.	
				Part I. Vol. 14	.	£319 0 3	417 5 9
				" Illustrations for Part II. Vol. 12,	.		
				and Part I. Vol. 13	.	98 5 6	
				Miscellaneous Printing	.	.	11 6 6
				Books, Maps, and Bindings	.	.	16 7 6
				Stitching Index	.	.	7 12 11
				Royal Premium	.	.	46 0 0
				Grant to Mr. Howse, for Cree Grammar	.	.	50 0 0
				Sundries, including Christmas Boxes	.	.	3 13 8
				Balance in the Banker's hands	.	.	20 14 2
				" of Petty Cash	.	.	9 13 7
							£1,468 17 1½

The above Accounts have been compared by us with the corresponding vouchers, and found correct.

W. P. CRAUFURD, } *Auditors*.
 GEORGE RENNIE, }
 JOHN BIDDULPH, } *Treasurer*.

February 6, 1845.

Royal Geographical Society.

ESTIMATE FOR 1845.

Dr.

	£.	s.	d.
Balance in the Banker's hands on the 1st of January, 1845	20	14	2
" of Petty Cash in the Secretary's hands			
Probable Amount of Subscriptions, viz.:-		9	13
Entrance of 30 Members at 3 <i>l</i> .			
Composition of 15 Members at 17 <i>l</i> .	255	0	0
Subscriptions of 300 Members at 2 <i>l</i> .	600	0	0
Arrears likely to be recovered	100	0	0
Dividend on 2578 <i>l</i> . 4 <i>s</i> . 4 <i>d</i> . Stock (3½ per Cents. Reduced)	87	12	2
Royal Premium		52	10
Journals sold		150	0
Index sold		15	0
	<hr/>		
	£1,380	9	11

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.
Rent and Fixtures			263
Salaries and Wages			13
Office Expenses, including Firing and Lights, Meetings, Stationery, Postages, Carriage of Parcels, Freight, &c.			0
Insurance and Advertisements			450
Furniture and Fittings			0
Journal			0
Miscellaneous Printing			450
Books, Bindings, &c.			0
Royal Premium			0
Sundries			0
	<hr/>		
	£1,355	8	0

J. R. JACKSON,

Secretary.