

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Society Pages**

from 1902, Vol. 25

© The Society and the Author(s)

## In Memoriam.

### PROFESSOR EARLE.

The Rev. John Earle, Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Oxford, died in that city on February 1st, 1903, aged seventy-eight. He was born on January 29th, 1824, at Elston, in the parish of Churchstow, near Kingsbridge, South Devon, and was educated at Plymouth New Grammar School, where he stayed until, the ancient Grammar School at Kingsbridge having been reconstituted, he was entered there for the last year before going to Oxford. He matriculated in 1842. In 1845 he was placed in the first class of Litteræ Humaniores, and in 1848 he was elected Fellow of Oriel on a Devonshire foundation. In 1849 he was elected Professor of Anglo-Saxon, an office at that time tenable for only five years. In 1852 he became College tutor, in succession to Mr. Buckle, late Canon of Wells. In 1857 he was presented by Oriel College to the Rectory of Swainswick, near Bath. He was appointed by the Bishop of Bath and Wells (Lord Arthur Harvey), in 1871, to the Prebend of Wanstrow in Wells Cathedral, and in 1873 to be Rural Dean of Bath, an office which he discharged until 1877. In 1876 he was selected Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Oxford, the tenure of this professorship having in the meanwhile been made permanent. The following is the list of his chief publications:—*Gloucester Fragments (St. Swithun, &c.)*, 1861; *Bath, Ancient and Modern*, 1864; *Two of the Saxon Chronicles Parallel*, 1865; *The Philosophy of the English Tongue*, 1871; fourth edition, 1887; *A Book for the Beginner in Anglo-Saxon*, in 1877; third edition, 1884; *English Plant Names from the Tenth to the Fifteenth Century*, 1880; *Anglo-Saxon Literature*, 1884; *A Hand Book of the Land Charters and other Saxon Documents*, 1888; *English Prose: Its Elements, History, and Usage*, 1890; and *The Alfred Jewel*, 1901. He contributed a paper on the local names in the country round Bath to Volume VIII. of our Transactions, and a translation of the Woodchester Charter of 896 to Volume V. He had done admirable work for old English literature in his time, and to the end of his long life he continued to be ever ready to help those who were interested in the subject from the abundant stores of his knowledge. On his death the Professorship of Anglo-Saxon was united to the Merton Professorship of English Language and Literature.