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## In Memoriam.

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### GEORGE BACKHOUSE WITTS.

The Society has sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. George B. Witts at Leckhampton on the 6th September, 1912. Mr. Witts was a lover of archæology long before the Society was started. He was the third son of the Rev. Edward Francis Witts, J.P., Rector of Upper Slaughter, who in his early years directed his son's training towards scientific studies like geology and archæology in the district round Stow-on-the-Wold. Mr. George Witts became a member of the Society in 1878, and it will be remembered by those who were present when the Society held its first meeting at Cheltenham in 1880 that during the discussion at Birdlip he astounded many by describing a number of remains of ancient times that were capable of being visited within a comparatively small radius of Cheltenham. At this meeting Professor Rolleston was present and gave an address on Pre-historic Barrows, with the result of his exploration with the Rev. D. Royce of Long Barrow near Eyford. These observations led to the discovery by Mr. Witts of the tumulus in Buckholt Wood near Birdlip, which subsequently was very successfully opened by Mr. Witts assisted by Professor Rolleston, and yielded most interesting results.

His greatest contribution to local archæology, however, was the publication in 1883 of his *Handbook of Archæology and Map of the County*, in which he described numerous British and Roman remains. Soon after this Mr. Witts was invited to join the Council, and remained a valued member of that body until his death. He was President when the Society held their Summer Meeting in 1897 at Stow-on-the-Wold. He frequently contributed to the *Transactions* of the Society, and so late as last August he sent a circular letter to his friends asking them to assist him to compile (in conjunction with his friend Dr. E. T. Wilson of

Cheltenham) a descriptive List of Flint Implements, Arrow Heads, etc., found in Gloucestershire.

Mr. Witts was a Gloucestershire man, and by profession a Civil Engineer. In that capacity he designed and carried out the construction of the railway from Cheltenham to Bourton-on-the-Water, which traverses the heart of the Cotswolds. He was also a Justice of the Peace and elected member of the County Council. His unflinching geniality and good-natured response to any application for archaeological explanation made him a favourite with all members of the Society who knew him, and one of the most popular of men round Cheltenham.

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### J. W. ARROWSMITH.

Mr. Arrowsmith enjoyed a world-wide reputation as a publisher, and in Bristol he was even better known as a man of manifold activities for the public good. For instance, no man of his generation did more for the furtherance of such healthy outdoor sports as lie within the reach of busy city men. Fifty years have passed away since he first went to Wimbledon, and for more than half that period he joined the camp every year without a break. Thrice he shot in the Queen's Sixty; twice he was a member of the eight who competed for the Elcho Challenge Shield; once he shot in the International Twenty Competition. He was one of the promoters of the company which laid out the County Ground, and he was Chairman of the Company at the time of his death. He was closely connected with the Gloucestershire Cricket Club, and for a long while he was a Vice-President of the Bristol Rugby Football Club. He was the founder of the Arrow Bowling Club, and he was President of the West of England Bowling League; while almost to the very end he could enjoy a day on the golf links. But while he was keenly alive to the need of a healthy body he was no less anxious that the youth of the city should have within their reach the means of attaining to a well-trained and well-stored mind. For the last twenty years he gave most practical help first to the University College, and when the founding of the University came in sight, there were few indeed

who did more to bring the effort to a successful issue. So it is that the Tower of the University buildings bears his name, a dedication which is marked by a bronze tablet placed there by the workpeople of his firm. Our earliest list of members includes Mr. Arrowsmith's name, and in 1894 the charge of printing our *Transactions* was committed to his care. This was to him very much more than a mere matter of business, he was keenly interested in it, and he would give unsparingly of his time and thought to any difficult point; the editor could always feel when the materials for a part passed from his hands that when he saw them again they would be clothed in a form which would be a credit both to the Society and to the publishing house by which they were issued. Mr. Arrowsmith, who was a native of Worcester, died on January 19th, 1913, aged 73 years.

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### JAMES PARKER, M.A.

Though Mr. Parker was not a member of our Society, everyone who took part in our two recent visits to Oxford would wish that our *Transactions* should contain a few words of grateful farewell; for he not only acted as guide to our members, but also by the two tables of the Chronology of Oxford History which he contributed to our *Transactions*, added a gift of lasting value to their pages. Mr. Parker was a many-sided man. First of all he had few equals, if any, in his practical knowledge of ancient buildings, especially in the neighbourhood of Oxford, or in his knowledge of the history of Oxford itself in its varied relations.

His two books on the Revisions of the Prayer Book contain a mass of accurate information which cannot be readily found elsewhere. Finally, he was a skilled and experienced geologist. He was most generous and helpful in imparting his information, and some of us will remember how he spent a very long time in describing the view from the top of the Radcliffe Library to a very scanty band of listeners. Mr. Parker, on whom the University of Oxford conferred the degree of M.A. *honoris causa* in 1877, passed away on October 10th, 1912.