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In Memoriam.

OLIVER HUMPHREY FOWLER, M.R.C.S.

O. H. Fowler was born at Kingsclere, Hants, in 1840, and died at Cirencester on August 9th, 1914, within a day of attaining the age of 74. Although not a Cirencester man by birth, practically the whole of his professional life was spent there, and he leaves behind him the memory of more than forty years of devoted labour which will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. Fowler received his medical and surgical training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Sir James Paget and Dr. Chas. West being amongst his teachers. He came to Cirencester a young man of between twenty-six and twenty-seven as *locum tenens* to the late Mr. Edward Cripps, with whom he soon entered into partnership, and on the death of that gentleman he was associated with Mr. Charles Cripps and subsequently with Mr. Howard Marshall. On Mr. Fowler's retirement in 1906 he was presented by his numerous friends and admirers with a silver cup and address.

On retiring from practice Mr. Fowler was able to find congenial relaxation in attending the meetings and excursions of the Archæological Society, which he joined in 1905, and the Cotteswold Field Club. A friend of his has often said that his breezy, jaunty disposition and penchant for joking had the effect of making summer excursions and even winter meetings more lively than such gatherings usually are. More than this, his untiring efforts for the comfort and pleasure of his fellow-members will not soon be forgotten. He was elected a member of the Council of the Society in 1909, and was a

regular attendant at its meetings, where, although he never professed to be a specialist in archaeology, his strong common sense and business acumen were oftentimes of great use to his colleagues.

WILLIAM CHARLES HOWELL, M.A.

There has passed quietly to rest one of the oldest priests in the Church of England, the Rev. William Charles Howell, M.A., the eldest son of the late Thomas Jones Howell, of Prinknash Park, Gloucester, Judge Advocate-General of the Forces. Mr. Howell was born in 1818, and thus lived under six sovereigns. He was educated privately and at Brasenose College, Oxford, where he graduated with honours (First Class in Mathematics and Physics) in 1840. Mr. Howell was ordained in 1842 to the curacy of Uxbridge. For six years he and our President of Council, Canon Bazeley, who was then Curate of Hornsey, were neighbours. Mr. Howell was always devoted to Gloucestershire, and especially to the home of his childhood. He and his wife and daughter were frequent attendants at the Society's annual meetings.

In Memoriam.

JOHN SAWYER.

Mr. John Sawyer, Alderman and J.P. for the county, who died on March 1st last, aged 66 years, was a man with many interests, who had lived an active, strenuous and deservedly successful life. Born at Cirencester, he began life as a compositor, and was for some years in the works of John Bellows, and became owner or editor of several local Liberal newspapers. Latterly he was Managing Director of the St. George's Hall Printing Works, Cheltenham. He was a well-known speaker on Liberal platforms, but he counted among his friends many of the local and county leaders in the Unionist camp.

He was a member of the Cotteswold Field Club and of this Society, and deserves to be specially remembered for two excellent books—*The Story of Gloucestershire* and *Cheltenham Parish Church: its Architecture and History*.

The former is an admirably-written chapter of what may be called the historiography of England, its story based on its physical features and on the works of man. This applies more especially to the first twelve chapters on the physiography, geology and early history of the county and to Chapter liii. on the churches. The rest of the book is excellently well done, but has more the character of an ordinary but unusually brightly-written history. There is still need of a book which, starting on the same lines, should trace down the history of the formation of the present surface, its river valleys and hills; how the surface soil has affected the vegetation, as for instance the way in which the upturned edge of the Plastic Clay is marked by a belt of

beautiful trees right across England ; the origin and distribution of the races of man, and consequently of place-names ; the influence of building materials on the houses and habits of the people, and on industries and manufactures.

I once collected materials for a work of the sort, but it would have to be the work of a lifetime, not only of a year or two at the end. Much of it has since been well done in such books as Mr. Baddeley's *Place-Names of Gloucestershire* and in Dr. Cox's *Parish Church*.

The history of Cheltenham Parish Church is equally good, and the secret of the excellence of both books is contained in a sentence in the preface : " Every church has a humanistic as well as architectural interest. Its story is interwoven with the story of the English people, its walls are an object-lesson in the history of Church and State."

CANON E. R. DOWDESWELL.

Edmund Richard Dowdeswell, Canon of Worcester, of Pull Court, Bushley, near Tewkesbury, who died June 5th, 1915, was the second son of Mr. William Dowdeswell, and the last of an old family which had held the lordship of the Manor of Bushley for just upon three hundred years. He was educated at Westminster and Christ Church, Oxford, became Curate of Bushley in 1870, and after eleven years Vicar. In 1893, on the death of his elder brother without issue, he succeeded to the family estates, but continued to be honorary curate, and so gave forty-five years of unbroken service to the church of the parish which was wholly included in his own estates. In spite of lameness and other infirmities, he never failed to take service in the parish church on Sunday. He was devoted to the children of the parish, and to the orphan children in St. Alban's Home at Worcester.

Some of the older inhabitants of the parish tell touching incidents of his younger days : how, for instance, he would sit up all night by the bedside of a sick choir-boy ; and no one

who was in any trouble or affliction ever failed to meet with sympathy and tenderness at his hands. His character was singularly sympathetic, and much as he loved the home of his fathers, and varied as were his interests public and private, antiquarian, historical, and so forth, his deepest interests and care were for the souls of the people who lived at his gates, and who were directly or indirectly dependent on him. He was singularly free from all self-indulgence and self-pleasing. He was never known to indulge in any luxury save the luxury of giving to others, of hospitality, not to the rich, but to the poor, of consideration and thought for his dependents. Nor was he the least ascetic in the ordinary sense, but a man of extreme simplicity of character and aim—and “of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

TOM EDGAR NORTON.

On April 20th there fell nobly in action, on Hill 60, Second-Lieutenant Tom Edgar Norton, 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment. He was the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Norton, of Kensington Palace Gardens, London, and Talycafn, Denbighshire. He was educated at Uppingham and Magdalen College, Oxford, of which University he was M.A. A very devout lover of everything that is beautiful in Nature and Art, he laid aside his pen and his brush, and taking up the sword in defence of his country, consummated his life on earth by making the greatest sacrifice he had it in his power to offer.

He always rejoiced to revisit the Cotswolds, where he found many subjects for his delightful sketches. His last visit to Evesham was in July, 1914, when he went to Compton Wyniates. An account of it which he wrote for a local paper ended as follows, and they were his last published words:—

“It is impossible in words to express the serene calm and sense of absolute peace and retirement that dominates this wonderful example of the old English manor house, growing

out of its velvet lawns, surrounded by its immemorial trees, glistening like a ripe peach in colour in the rays of a setting sun. Our last glimpse of Compton Wyniates House will in all probability be one through interlacing branches of elm as we ascend the hill on our homeward way and sing with the poet—

“ ‘Happy is England! I could be content
To see no other verdure than its own;
To feel no other breezes than are blown
Through its tall woods with high romances blent.’ ”

From his beloved England he went to shell-swept Ypres at Christmas-time, and only just before he fell he wrote to Evesham: “ I hope I shall come back. There is so much to see and do yet, and to know how all this is going to end.” Alas! it was all ordained to be otherwise for him, and so soon. “ Requiescat in pace.”

FRANCIS FREDERICK FOX, F.S.A.

Mr. Fox was born on March 15th, 1833, being the son of Dr. Francis Ker Fox, of Brislington House, and was educated at Shrewsbury. As a young man he became head of the firm of F. F. Fox, oil and colour merchants, in St. Jude's, one of the poorest parts of Bristol. He soon began to take part in city life, and when the Volunteer movement began in 1859 he took up a Lieutenant's commission in the Rifle Corps.

In 1865, without any previous service in the Common Council, he was elected Alderman, and though owing to his own wish he was out of the Council from 1871 to 1875, when he finally retired from that body in 1901 he was not only senior Alderman, but also senior Councillor. In 1875 he was appointed a Trustee of the Bristol Municipal Charities, coming in just after the stern contest by which the Radical Charity Trustees and the Tory Court of the Society of Merchant Venturers, fighting side by side, had defeated the

iniquitous proposal of the Charity Commissioners to transfer the endowments of the great Foundation Schools from the children of the poor to those of the middle classes. A characteristic action of Mr. Fox was his acceptance of the Chairmanship of a Committee appointed to control the wanderings of the River Frome. This stream, which runs through the centre of Bristol, had in the early eighties caused much misery and loss among the poor people living near his works, and he gave up much time and trouble to the promotion of measures which have cured the evil.

Mr. Fox was Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers from 1877 to 1879, and Sheriff of the City in 1880. What he had been at Bristol that was he also at Yate. He loved books, and had done excellent work as Chairman of the Bristol Libraries Committee; but he was no bookworm, and was ever ready to do a neighbour's part to those around him. He took a worthy share in the public life of the district, serving as a member of the Chipping Sodbury Town Trust, the Town's Land and Grammar School Trust, and as a Governor of the Grammar School at Chipping Sodbury.

Mr. Fox was present at the inaugural meeting of the Society on April 22nd, 1876, and he continued to be a member until his death. For nearly twenty years he served as a member of Council, and he was President of Council from 1903 to 1908. In 1900 he was elected President of the Society, his presidential address being a notable one, very beautifully illustrated, on "Roods and Rood-Lofts," and in 1902 he became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. The beautiful library of Mr. Fox at Yate House was well worth a visit, and was at the service of students. He himself contributed to the history of the district, the subject in which he was most interested being "Guilds." He encouraged Mr. John Latimer in compiling his *Annals of Bristol*, and he published an edition of *Adams's Chronicle*, also a very useful little book on Yate and the Sodburys.

Mr. Fox died on May 30th, 1915, and at his funeral in

Arno's Vale Cemetery, Bristol, our Society was represented by Messrs. J. E. Pritchard, F. Were, J. Baker and C. Wells, members of the Council. He will be long remembered as one of those who in the early days of our Society helped to train it up into health and vigour, and also as one who by his ability, geniality and unvarying courtesy exercised a most helpful influence over our work.

C. S. T.

PROFESSOR SIR A. H. CHURCH.

On May 31st, 1915, we lost one of our most distinguished members, Professor Sir A. H. Church, M.A. and D.Sc. Oxon., F.I.C., F.R.S., F.S.A. and K.C.V.O. He was born in 1834, and had therefore at the time of his death reached the mature age of 81 years.

He was educated at King's College, London, the Royal College of Chemistry, and Lincoln College, Oxford. In 1863 he was appointed Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and not long afterwards he began to take a deep interest in the Corinium Museum, founded by Henry George, 4th Earl Bathurst, in 1849. Amongst his coadjutors were Messrs. Christopher Bowly, Wilfred Cripps, James Buckman, E. H. Newmarch and E. C. Sewell. In 1867 he drew up a guide to the museum, which from that date to the present has passed through ten editions. This little book would, if no other proofs were forthcoming, show what a general and accurate knowledge he possessed of classical antiquities.

He became a member of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society when it was founded in 1876, and in 1877 he took a leading part in the Annual Meeting at Cirencester, which was ably organised and carried out by Mr. E. C. Sewell as Hon. Local Secretary, assisted by a strong local committee. On this occasion Professor Church acted as guide to the Roman remains of Cirencester, and lent various

views of Cirencester and portraits of the Bathurst family to the temporary loan museum.¹ He held his professorship at Cirencester from 1863 to 1879, and during that period he made many interesting chemical discoveries, and wrote valuable articles on the growth of food crops. In 1879 he married Jemima, daughter of Mr. J. B. Pope, who survives him. Lady Church has generously presented to the Society her husband's bound copy of its *Transactions*. In 1879 Professor Church became Professor of Chemistry to the Royal Academy of Arts, and from 1880 he was Lecturer on Organic Chemistry at the Royal Indian Engineering College, Coopers Hill. He was created K.C.V.O. in 1909.

Sir Arthur H. Church was a leading authority on the chemistry of painting, and gave valuable help in preserving the wall paintings in the House of Lords and the stonework of St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

He wrote books for the Science and Art Department on English pottery, and made a collection of English and Oriental porcelain, bronze, etc. His *Laboratory Guide for Agricultural Students* has reached its eighth edition.

Although he left Gloucestershire soon after the foundation of this Society, he always took an interest in its welfare, and remained a member until his death.

W. B.

¹ See *Trans. B. & G. Arch. Soc.*, vol. ii., pp. 14, 15.