

**An address on the second anniversary of the Entomological Society ...
1836 / by the Rev. F.W. Hope, President.**

Contributors

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AN ADDRESS

ON

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY

OF

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

MONDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 1836,

BY THE REV. F. W. HOPE, PRESIDENT.

GENTLEMEN,

IT is with no common feelings of satisfaction, that I commence my Report by congratulating the Members on the flourishing state of the Entomological Society. We are advancing to maturity with every mark of a robust and healthy constitution: and when I reflect on the kind patronage of Royalty,—on the state of our Finances,—on the increase of our Members,—on the additions to our Library and Museum,—on the valuable acquisition of Mr. Kirby's Collection,—on the publication of our Transactions,—and on the subjects of practical utility which have fallen under discussion,—I will not hesitate to avow that our progressive increase in every way has far exceeded my expectations; indeed the courtesies I experienced in my late sojourn on the Continent from the Entomologists of France, Switzerland, Germany, and Holland, convinces me that our early labours have already been appreciated, and that expectations are raised which the future I trust will not disappoint,—*expectations*, however, which require increased exertion on our parts to realize. Having



spoken thus generally of the state and prospects of the Society, permit me now to enter more particularly into its details.

Gentlemen, I cannot do otherwise, on an occasion like the present, than again congratulate the Society that Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria have during the last year graciously condescended to become our Patronesses; and I trust the character and results of our labours, whether in extending our knowledge in the rich domains of the Insect world, or in our researches to obviate or investigate the injuries to which society in its various branches is subject, by the objects of our study, will continue to render us more worthy of this august support.

With respect to our Finances I refer you to the satisfactory report of your zealous Treasurer, and therefore pass on to the increase of Members, which during the past year amounts to thirty-four; nineteen of them are English Members, and fifteen Foreign; among them some of the leading Entomologists of Europe, "men of renown," whose celebrity requires no additional encomium from this Chair; a large proportion indeed are the Foreign Members, realizing, in fact, the prediction of your late President, "That this Society would prove a centre round which Entomologists would rally, and be the means of facilitating a cordial intercourse with our brethren in every quarter of the globe." On the other hand, there are two *resignations* and two *deaths*; of the latter, Captain Blomer, who was well known to us as an ardent Entomologist and indefatigable collector; and his exertions contributed to the increase of our British Fauna. The second loss we have to deplore is our amiable friend Major General Hardwicke*, a name not to be lightly passed over, for

* Major General Hardwicke was the author of various Zoological publications, but I am not aware that any other Entomological communications have been printed than the following. *Linnean Transactions*, vol. xiv. part I. "On *Cermatia longicornis*, *Panorpa furcata*, *Gerris laticauda*, and *Pangonia longirostris*:" *Asiatic Researches*, vol. v. "On a Meloe from the East Indies, possessing the qualities of the Blister Fly:" *Magazine of Natural History* 16, 17. "The History of *Imatidium*."

he belonged to that most useful class denominated "*out-door naturalists*." There is scarcely a leading Zoologist of our country, or a leading Zoological journal, but has profited by his museum and his writings. His Oriental collection of Entomology was the finest perhaps that ever reached the shores of Europe; a great portion of them are bequeathed to the British Museum, while a much larger portion is dispersed in various European cabinets. When this Society was established he gave us his willing and able support; and the last time I had the pleasure to see him, he expressed himself warmly in our favour, and promised me his observations on the Silk Worms of India. In losing him we have been deprived of a patron and a friend; and I am afraid we have also to regret the loss of a communication which would undoubtedly have done honour to our Transactions.

With respect to our *Library*, it is rapidly increasing; and I have pleasure in recording the donation of forty-four distinct publications presented during the past year; and I may add, that the major part of the leading entomological works which have issued from the European Press, excepting some of the most expensively illustrated, have been presented to us by the authors themselves; and I indulge in the hope that the scientific bodies of our native land will follow an example so liberally set them by the Continent, in presenting us also with their respective Transactions.

With respect to our *Collection*, besides the various donations of several individuals, I have to record an instance of unexampled liberality by the Honorary President of your Society, the Rev. William Kirby, in the donation of his entire collection. Few but Entomologists can appreciate the value of this remarkable gift. We are now possessed of the very specimens from which the first of Monographs ever published was formed. We have under our eyes the materials from which Messrs. Kirby and Spence derived their well-known "*Introduction to Entomology*," a work which has well stood the test of time; and although science has greatly progressed since its publication, it requires little to be blotted from its pages. When it appeared it put to flight many of

the errors of centuries ; it checked the superstition of the nursery, assisted to remove the ignorance of the drawing-room and the misconceptions of our rural population ; and although some prejudices still prevail respecting insects, such as "blight in the air," and the ominous "death-watch," yet we can only now regard them as the lingering mists of ignorance, about to disappear before the daily increasing light of knowledge.

There is yet another fact I cannot help adverting to. Few naturalists during their lifetime have been known to part with the beloved objects of their early studies ; Mr. Kirby, however, has transferred to younger eyes, if not to more ardent minds, during his life, what has employed his leisure hours more than forty years ; and here it is, Gentlemen, that I call upon you for a Vote of Thanks, not expressed verbally, but a recorded testimony of our gratitude and admiration of a generous act, which I believe to be of very rare occurrence, if not unprecedented.

The next point I have to touch upon is the publication of the Second Part of your Transactions. It was a question at one period with some of our Members if it were prudent to publish our Agenda ; and it may be a satisfaction to those Gentlemen to learn that the number of copies of the *First* Part already sold, leads us to believe that it will shortly cover the expenses attending its publication, exclusive of the donations. The Second Part is rapidly disappearing, and I trust that what was contemplated as a loss will in future prove a gain to our funds.

My late tour on the Continent enables me to assure you that many of your Members who reside at a great distance from us employ part of their leisure in preparing additions to your archives. I have received promises of papers from some of the leading Entomologists of Europe ; and unless I am too sanguine, you will very shortly receive light and information on various subjects, on which at present we are not sufficiently informed. Your Meetings, however, I am sure will still continue amply supplied with interesting as well as amusing papers, the more so, as soon as the grand object of

your inquiries shall be better known, namely, *practical utility*. There are several individuals present (it may not be delicate perhaps to mention names), but there are several from whose important studies I cannot but entertain high expectations, and I sincerely trust that these expectations will ere long be fully realized. It is not my intention here to enumerate the various interesting topics which have engaged our attention during the past year, yet still I cannot refrain from mentioning some of them, which call for increased exertion on our parts.

In Grenada, the Cicada still continues its ravages on the Sugar Canes, and I regret to state that *two thirds* of the crop is already destroyed. A species of Coccus which infests our hot-houses, prevents the Pine Apple arriving at perfection. In various counties, arising probably from the mildness of our late winters, the Wire Worm, the Flea Beetle, the Saw Fly, and Caterpillar have nearly annihilated the Turnip crops. To find antidotes against these evils should be the unceasing object of your inquiries. Respecting the Turnip Beetle, there is now a better prospect of checking this scourge, as we have lately become acquainted with its larva and pupa in a notice by Mr. Lekeux.

A communication from Mr. Mills of Durham, respecting the Cornweevil being effectually destroyed by the application of heat, deserves to be generally known. Such notices as the above will convince the public that we are not mere collectors of insects, but that we cultivate science in the sincere hope of being able to apply our knowledge beneficially.

Having brought to a close such occurrences of the past year as relate to our Society, I have only to apologize for having detained you, I fear, too long by this Address, though it has been my wish to unite comprehensiveness with brevity. We will therefore, with your permission, proceed to the objects of the Meeting on this day, and to the election of the Council and Officers for the ensuing year.

F. W. H.

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