The following noblemen and gentlemen were elected as the Officers and Council for the ensuing year.

President.
The Earl De Grey and Ripon.

Vice-Presidents.
The Duke of Leeds.
The Earl of Effingham.
The Earl of Dartmouth.
Earl Fitzwilliam.
Lord Wharncliffe.
Lord Londesborough.
Viscount Galway.
Viscount Milton.

Edward Akroyd, Esq.
John Waterhouse, Esq., F.R.S.
W. B. Beaumont, Esq., M.P.
E. B. Denison, Esq.
Lord Houghton.
J. Spencer Stanhope, Esq.
G. Wentworth, Esq.
J. G. Marshall, Esq., F.G.S.
Thomas Wilson, Esq., M.A.

Council.

Henry Briggs, Esq.
Dr. Wm. Alexander.
H. C. Sorby, Esq., F.R.S.
Henry Holt, Esq.
Bentley Shaw, Esq.
T. P. Teale, Esq., F.L.S.
R. Carter, Esq., C.E.
T. W. Embleton, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Burnet.
Dr. Scholefield.
Wm. Chadwick, Esq.
Samuel Baines, Esq.

Secretary.
Wm. Sykes Ward, Esq., F.C.S.

Honorary Curators.
J. G. Marshall, Esq.
T. W. Embleton, Esq.

Local Secretaries.
H. C. Sorby, Esq., Sheffield.
Hy, Briggs, Esq., Wakefield.
Dr. Alexander, Halifax.
Dr. Scholefield, Doncaster.
Bentley Shaw, Esq., Huddersfield.
Richard Carter, Esq., Barnsley.
The Rev. Dr. Burnet, Bradford.
Dr. Pales, Ripon.

The following Papers were then read:


[As this paper is about to be published in extenso by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, before whom it was originally read, only an abstract of it is here given.]

The object of this paper being the local not the general history of the order of Templars, I shall not enter into the circumstances of its foundation, but confine myself to its
extension in Yorkshire, with especial reference to the neighbour­hood of the place in which we are assembled.

In this county they had been enriched by grants from several noble houses—De Brus, Mowbray, de Ros, and Lacy. Their lands in the North Riding they had derived chiefly from the two first, those in the West from the two last. Robert de Ros, the second lord, brother-in-law to Walter Espec, the founder of Rievaulx Abbey, gave them Ribston, Hunsingore, Cattal, and Walsford. The De Lacy’s, lords of the Honour of Pontefract, whose possessions extended not only through many parts of England, but to Wales and Ireland, were great benefactors to the order. From them they derived the church of Kellington, Whitkirk, Skelton, and Newhusum, now Temple Newsome. William and Roger de Hastings gave them the lands of Hurst, near Snaith, which still retain the name of Temple Hurst, and some interesting remains of the house and chapel.

England was divided under the Templars into a number of Balliae, Eborascire being one of them; and in places where their possessions were important they had preceptors, i.e., receivers of their rents and revenues, answering to the commendators, or commanders, in the continental countries. Their residences were called preceptories. Ribston, Temple Hurst, and Temple Newsome were preceptories, and the last mentioned was the most considerable of their establishments in Yorkshire. Traces of their dominion are still found in Leeds. The bridge leading to Temple Newsome is called Timble, (that is according to Thoresby) Temple-bridge. Many houses exhibit the cross pattee of the Templars, as a proof of their exemption from the liability to grind at the soke-mill.

In looking through the survey of their Yorkshire posses­sions, one is struck with the variety and minuteness of their sources of revenue. Besides bovates and carucates of land,
we find mention of tolls, multure from wind and water mills, advowsons of rectories, houses and tenements, services from tenants in ploughing and sheep-shearing. Tributes of fowls and eggs, and sucking-pigs are not overlooked. They had also valuable immunities, being exempted from all aids to the crown and all local dues, such as lastage and stallage, and even from tithes. In the thirteenth century, which may be considered as the culmination of their prosperity, they are said to have possessed 9,000 manors and 15,000 lordships in various parts of Europe. They were also a body of considerable political importance; the master of the Temple held his head high among the aristocracy of the kingdom, and was summoned to parliament along with the abbots and priors.

Yet in the midst of this apparent prosperity, causes tending to their ruin were secretly at work. In the course of this century, three Crusades had been undertaken, all without success, and the recovery of the Holy Land had been shown to be hopeless. The wealth of the Templars had filled their hearts with the pride which is the forerunner of destruction. No order in the state had any sympathy with them. Their haughty manners and their contempt for the humbler classes made them obnoxious to the people; the clergy were jealous of their privileges, which sometimes interfered with their own spiritual monopoly. Sovereigns dreaded their power. But their great source of danger was their wealth, which tempted monarchs who wanted money for their own purposes of pleasure or ambition. Rumours too were in circulation, probably not altogether unfounded, that immoral practices and infidel doctrines were prevalent among them.

Their fall was brought about by the co-operation of the Pope Clement V. and Philip IV. of France. In consequence of what is called the Great Schism of the West, the Papal See had been removed to Avignon, and the Pope was the creature of the French king. In the Council of Vienne,
which begun its sittings October 1st, 1310, a variety of charges were brought against the Templars. The jurisprudence of that age was conducted upon principles so contrary to justice and humanity that it is impossible to decide on the amount of their guilt. They were submitted to torture, under which many expired protesting their innocence; many confessed their guilt, some of whom revoked their confession, protesting that it had been wrung from them by extremity of suffering. The order was suppressed, and their possessions awarded to the Knights Hospitallers, who however obtained only a small part of them, and that not without much remonstrance from the Pope to the King of France.

Philip wrote to Edward II. of England, calling on him to arrest the Templars throughout his dominions. Edward replied to the Pope, maintaining that they had not laboured under any imputation either of unsound doctrine or corrupt morals. On the receipt of a letter from the Pope however, informing him of the result of the trials in France, he issued an order for their apprehension and the sequestration of their goods. This order was carried into execution, and Papal commissioners were sent to preside at the trial. The proceedings of the tribunal in London may be seen in Mr. Addison's work on the Knight-Templars. Grenefeld, who was then Archbishop of York, had just returned from Lyons, where he had received consecration from Clement V., and he summoned a provincial council which met at York, on May 19th, 1310. All the Templars who could be laid hold of in the northern counties had been seized and were kept in custody in York Castle. The preceptor of Temple Newsome was among them. Their depositions had been taken by the Archbishop, assisted by the Bishop of London, and were read before the Council, which consisted of the bishops of the province, the heads of the religious houses,
and some learned doctors and lawyers. The Templars denied the charges against them, and the evidence on which they were condemned was hearsay. But they seem to have been aware that their destruction was determined upon, and on being brought up, to the number of 24, with William de Grafton, Preceptor of Ribston, at their head, they all and each confessed that they could not purge themselves from the scandals imputed to them, and implored re-admission into the Catholic Church. They were then conducted to the south door of the Minster, and having taken an oath to observe all the mandates of the Church, they received absolution. Out of their possessions, which were sequestrated, an annual stipend was allotted to them, and they were distributed among the monasteries, there to perform their penance.

From the records of the proceedings of the commissioners who were appointed to survey and take temporary possession of the estates of the Templars—Adam de Hoperton, Alexander de Cave, and Robert de Amcotes—it appears that on December 1st, 1311, they inspected and scheduled the contents of Temple Hurst and Temple Newsome. They were well stocked and furnished, but the inventory shows little of the splendour and luxury in which the Templars are supposed to have lived. The King granted both these properties to the Lord D'Arcie, whose descendant forfeited them by taking part in the Pilgrimage of Grace. Temple Newsome was then granted to Lord Lennox, the father of the unfortunate Darnley. It was subsequently granted to the Duke of Richmond, and in consequence of his extravagance was sold to Sir Arthur Ingram. In the representatives of this family the property still continues, but the mansion exhibits no trace of the preceptory of the Templars.