

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1851.

YOUR Committee, in presenting their Report at the close of the Society's third year of operations, feel much pleasure in adverting to the progress made by the Society during their year of office. Upwards of *ninety* additional members have been elected since January last, whilst the diminution arising from deaths and other causes has not extended beyond the number of six. An inspection of the list will show that the Society has reason to be proud of many of its new associates.

The Transactions of the Society, for the year 1850, have been in the hands of Members since September, and have elicited general satisfaction.

The Library and Museum have received many valuable additions during the course of the year. The thanks of the Members are due to John James, Esq., L.R.C.S.I., for his kindness in depositing within the former two original MS. Day Books of the Corporation of Kilkenny—an example which it is to be hoped will find many imitators. Your Committee have to report the recovery of the original matrix of the seal of the ancient Corporation of Irishtown, Kilkenny, which had been lost for nearly a century. Having been discovered by the Rev. James Graves in the hands of a private individual in Dublin, it has been added by purchase to the Society's Museum. It may fairly be expected that, when the objects of the Society become more generally known, many ancient remains, now uselessly hoarded in private hands, will be made available to the archæological inquirer, by being placed in the Society's Museum. Your Committee beg, on the present occasion, to repeat the statement made in last year's Report, viz., that those who deposit antiquities in the custody of the Society's officers, do not thereby renounce their right of property. All such objects are, by the constitution of the Society, merely held as deposits entrusted to its care.

Gratifying as has been the success of the Society hitherto, your Committee would yet urge its Members not to rest on their oars; let them endeavour to extend its influence, to add to its members, and thereby to enlarge the sphere of its usefulness, and enable it more fully to carry out the objects for which it was founded. To those Members who,

during the past year, have been so strenuous in their exertions on behalf of the Society, and to whose zeal the greater portion of the additional list of Members is due, your Committee beg to accord the thanks of the Society at large. Should others be found willing to follow their good example, the Secretaries are prepared to supply them with circulars calculated to make known the objects and acts of the Society.

The thanks of the Members at large are due to the Corporation of Kilkenny, and to the Local Press, for the valuable aid continued to be rendered by them to the Society.

A remarkable feature of the proceedings during the past year has been the large number of valuable original documents communicated by various individuals. Your Committee feel that it is most desirable to encourage contributions of this nature, which are the only true sources of history. But as the limited fund arising from the annual subscription of 5s. is quite inadequate to their publication, they venture earnestly to recommend that a proposal should be issued, inviting Members, and others who wish to promote the printing, and therefore the preservation, of original documents, to contribute a distinct subscription for that purpose; and that, in the event of 200 persons being found willing to cooperate for this object, the printing of an additional volume should be undertaken, to be issued yearly, and to consist solely of original documents illustrated, wherever necessary, by notes. It would be for after-consideration to determine whether such publications should be sold to the public at an advanced price, or be confined solely to Subscribers. Your Committee need scarcely observe that rich mines of materials exist in this city, and elsewhere, which would amply repay the working.