

MANBY TESTIMONIAL.

THE Members of the INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS had, for some time, entertained the intention of demonstrating, in an appropriate manner, their personal esteem for Mr. Charles Manby, with their sense of the valuable services rendered to them individually and collectively, and at the same time of acknowledging the ability with which he had, during eighteen years, performed the duties of Secretary to the Society. Advantage was taken of the opportunity of his retiring from the post of paid Secretary, to carry this intention into effect; a Committee was formed, composed of Messrs. R. Stephenson, M.P., President; G. P. Bidder, I. K. Brunel, J. Hawkshaw, and J. Locke, M.P., Vice-Presidents; W. G. Armstrong, J. Cubitt, J. E. Errington, J. Fowler, C. H. Gregory, T. Hawksley, J. R. McClean, J. S. Russell, J. Whitworth, and N. Wood, Members of Council; R. W. Kennard and Sir R. M. Stephenson, Associates of Council; J. Walker, J. Field, Sir J. Rennie, Sir W. Cubitt, and J. Simpson, Past-Presidents; with Messrs. T. E. Blackwell, T. R. Crampton, W. T. Doyne, G. W. Hemans, R. Mallet, J. E. M'Connell, G. Peel, J. Samuel, and W. Simpson, Members; and Messrs. J. G. Appold, C. Cammell, J. Freeman, J. Hamilton, jun., W. A. Matthews, W. Piper, J. Allen Ransome, H. G. Robinson, W. Swann, G. F. White, and T. H. Wyatt, Associates.

In a very short period a sum exceeding Two Thousand Pounds was subscribed, with which it was determined to purchase a fitting Testimonial, and to present the balance in cash. The ceremony of presentation took place in the Theatre of the Institution, on Saturday, the 23rd of May, in the presence of a large assemblage of the Members and of Mr. Manby's private friends, who had been permitted to join in the tribute to his merit.

Mr. ROBERT STEPHENSON, M.P., the President of the Institution, took the Chair, and called upon Mr. Bidder, as Treasurer of the Fund, to give the result of the exertions of the Committee.

Mr. BIDDER, V.P., explained that, owing to the eagerness with which their call was responded to, the duties of the Committee had been comparatively light. The amounts subscribed varied from half a-guinea to one hundred pounds; and those who had contributed the latter sums had done so as cheerfully as those whose means only permitted them to offer the smaller amount. Up to the present time there had been received £2,019. 10s., from 417 subscribers, of whom 358 were Members of the Institution, and 59

were the private friends of Mr. Manby¹; but as many more subscriptions had been announced, the accounts would not be finally closed until the publication of the accounts and of the list of the contributors to the Testimonial. It had afforded him great gratification to aid in this demonstration, for as a very early member of the Institution, he well knew the arduous duties of the Secretary, and he now bore willing testimony to the able and kind manner in which those duties had been performed.

Mr. ROBERT STEPHENSON, President, said the object of the Meeting was well known; Mr. Manby having,—after eighteen years' service,—resigned the position of paid Secretary, it had been resolved to offer to him a testimony of the respect and esteem in which he was held, and in doing this he would make a few brief observations, on the circumstances under which Mr. Manby had become connected with the Institution, the duties he had performed, and the services he had rendered. After the usual struggles and vicissitudes, the young Society, although very ably directed by Mr. Thomas Webster, had scarcely established itself among the scientific bodies of the Metropolis. The Minutes of its Proceedings were but meagrely reported, and its Transactions were scarcely known beyond the Members themselves. From the time, however, when Mr. Manby undertook the duties of Secretary, new vigour was infused into all their proceedings, the number of Members increased, the character of the Papers improved, and the care bestowed on the editing and publication, eventually rendered the record of the proceedings a most useful text-book for the Profession. Mr. Manby's sphere of usefulness was not, however, confined to the performance of his official duties, for he was ever ready to give advice to the younger Members, and to afford aid to the senior Members, from his well-stored mind, in reference to every department of Engineering, as well as in a variety of ways, rendered more pleasing by the alacrity and cheerfulness with which the friendly offices were performed. The value of the information afforded was enhanced by its accuracy, which was to some extent to be attributed to the practical foundation of his professional education, the early portion of his life having been spent in the workshop, as a mechanical engineer, at the period when the profession was beginning to assume its present importance. In some degree, therefore, Mr. Manby lost the official character of Secretary, and became the friend and companion of the majority of the Members of the Engineering profession.

Addressing Mr. Manby, he then said, "I have been extremely

¹ At the close of the Testimonial the sum collected amounted to £2,126. 3s. from 464 Subscribers, of whom 404 were Members of the Institution, and 60 were private friends.

brief in my remarks, as I would divest our present proceedings of all stiffness and formality ; and it is with great pleasure, Mr. Manby, that in confirmation of what I have said, and of the sympathy felt for your welfare by so large a number of Engineers, I have to present to you, on behalf of the Members of the Institution and of a few private friends, this Testimonial, consisting of a Timepiece and a pair of Candelabra, with the sum of Two Thousand Pounds, and long may you live to enjoy the recollection of the honours of this day."

The Timepiece and Candelabra, supplied by Messrs. Howell and James, appeared to afford general satisfaction by their elegance and the good taste with which they had been selected by the Committee. They bore the following inscription :—

PRESENTED
BY THE MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS AND A FEW PERSONAL FRIENDS,
WITH THE SUM OF TWO THOUSAND POUNDS,
TO
CHARLES MANBY,
AS A TOKEN OF ESTEEM, AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS VALUABLE SERVICES,
DURING A PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN YEARS,
AS SECRETARY TO THE INSTITUTION,
MAY, 1857.

To the President's kind address Mr. MANBY, who appeared to be much affected, immediately replied, that it rarely fell to the lot of any one to receive so gratifying a testimony of the esteem of those with whom he was in daily contact, and to have the presentation accompanied by such kindly expressions ; if he was previously at a loss how to express his feelings, the difficulty was now increased, and he must crave indulgence if the few words of thanks he could utter, appeared inadequate to the occasion. They must not believe him insensible to their kindness,—it had been so constantly shown, that he should indeed be ungrateful, if it had not made a deep impression ; and but for the consciousness of having always endeavoured strenuously to perform his duty, he should feel that his poor services had been much overrated.

His connection with the Institution dated from a period long antecedent to his appointment as Secretary. He had been, he was proud to say, apprenticed at an early age as a practical mechanic, and had been taught to earn his bread by daily toil : he was sent up to London by his late excellent Father, to work upon his contracts at the East and West India Docks, where he was noticed by the late Mr. Rennie, by whom, as also by Mr. Telford the first President of the Institution, he was afforded invaluable opportunities of improvement, and became known to

[1856-7. N.S.] 2 I

Messrs. Nimmo, Provis, and Palmer, and to them, as well as to Messrs. Field, Maudslay, Bramah, and Simpson, he was at that early period of his career under great obligation. They had permitted him to attend the meetings of the then infant Society of Engineers, and when his Father intrusted to him the construction of the first pair of Marine Engines with Oscillating Cylinders, and the building of the "Aaron Manby," the first iron steam-ship that ever made a sea voyage, it was to the Institution he resorted for advice in difficulties, and he was happy to record the expression of his gratitude for the aid so kindly and unreservedly afforded to him.

He then rapidly sketched his duties in France, under his Father, erecting the Paris Gasworks, manufacturing marine and other steam-engines and machinery, and building large ironworks, &c.—his subsequent career as a commissioned Officer in the Government service,—his return to England and occupation in the iron works of South Wales,—and his settling in London, when he embraced the earliest opportunity of joining the Institution, at that time presided over by Mr. Walker, and under the able direction of Mr. Thomas Webster, whose exertions, in giving to the still young Society a constitution and good laws, and in attracting to its meetings men of scientific eminence, should ever be gratefully remembered. On an emergency Mr. Manby's aid was sought by Mr. Simpson and Mr. Bramah to perform the Secretarial duties, and eventually, in 1839, he was appointed Secretary. The position was novel for one whose career had hitherto been essentially practical, and he felt the disadvantage of succeeding a Cambridge man, whose pursuits were purely literary and scientific; but again good friends lent a hand, and several literary men and members of the press, who had since attained well-deserved eminence, afforded him invaluable counsel and assistance.

The stirring period of the engineering history of the country was commencing, and it was evident how much good would result from bringing into intimate contact the men of talent and energy, whose professional contests tended somewhat to estrange them from each other. With this object steadily in view and a desire to be useful to all, eventually, after certain necessary changes, which consecutively introduced to the Presidential chair Sir John Rennie, Mr. Field, Sir William Cubitt, the late Mr. Rendel, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Robert Stephenson, and brought into the Council the well-known names of Bidder, Brunel, Hawkshaw, and Locke, as Vice-Presidents, with Armstrong, Bateman, Errington, Fowler, Gregory, Hawksley, Macneill, May, McClean, Miller, Mylne, Penn, Russell, Sopwith, Taylor, Whitworth, N. Wood, and others, the value of the Institution was recognised, and it became the arena where the men of the day met, and whilst mutually learning to

estimate their several powers, they formed friendships which had tended to most beneficial results, and were imbued with ambition to execute the great works conferring such inestimable benefits on society.

The labour required for obtaining such results was no doubt considerable, but the Council judiciously directed the course, and it had been fortunately successful; the Institution had been extensively useful, and was as well known and respected abroad as at home, for it had been a pleasing duty to Mr. Manby to give a cordial welcome to all Foreign Scientific men, and to obtain for them, through the liberality of the Members of the profession, that favourable reception they might not otherwise have experienced. It only depended on the Members to extend this sphere of utility, and to connect the Institution with the records of the great works distinctive of the nineteenth century.

The remainder of Mr. Manby's days would probably have been passed in the prosecution of these views, but events were otherwise ordered, and since his resignation as paid Secretary had been tendered and accepted, he had again to be grateful to a kind friend, a Member of the Profession, for obtaining for him that which he valued most highly,—his present connection with Mr. Robert Stephenson, the excellent President.

The value of the Testimonial with which the Members and his Friends were pleased to recognize his willing services, was greatly enhanced by the kind feeling which prompted it, and the alacrity with which the proposition had been met; he should look upon it with pardonable pride, not only as a mark of the approbation and the friendship of the Members, but as reminding him of the Institution, with which it had been his ambition to be permanently identified; and he now asked as a favour to be permitted to devote a portion of the amount of the Testimonial to establishing an Annual Premium which should bear his name.

There was another point on which he would say a few words;—the Engineering Profession reckoned among its numbers many rich and prosperous men, but there were also many less fortunate Members, to whom aid in time of sickness, or need, or succour to a struggling and bereaved family, would be inestimable. Yet the Engineers were the only professional body not possessing some kind of a mutual aid society. Would it not be possible to originate some plan for thus doing good? His time and means might be freely commanded, and he should feel happy in devoting to such an object a further portion of that which had been so generously placed at his disposal.

It only remained for him to renew his heartfelt thanks, not only for the munificent present, but for the kindness and friendship with which he had been favoured during so many years. To the past

Presidents—the actual President—the Council, and the Senior Members, he was deeply indebted for countenance, support, and advice, and to the Junior Members, whose interests had ever had his best care, he owed much, for their cheerful co-operation and the confidence they had ever reposed in him. He had only inadequately expressed his thanks, but they would give him credit for the sincerity of his feelings, and as long as his services could be made available to the Institution, or to the Members, within those walls, or elsewhere, they might be freely commanded.

Mr. JOSEPH LOCKE, M.P., Vice-President, proposed a vote of thanks to the President for having taken the chair on the occasion, and having so kindly expressed the unanimous feelings of the Members towards their valued officer and friend, to whom they all wished every prosperity in the career in which he was now embarked.

The Members and their friends then adjourned to the “Ship,” Hotel, at Greenwich, where they had invited Mr. Manby to dine.

Mr. Robert Stephenson, M.P., President, occupied the chair, and after an excellent repast in Mr. Quartermaine’s best style, he proposed the usual loyal toasts, observing that there was not any profession more loyal in its attachment to the throne than the Engineers. They would recollect that during the reign of Her Majesty some of the greatest works had been achieved, and the advent of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort was contemporaneous with the greatest advance in engineering science; so, also when the services of Civil and Mechanical Engineers had been required, during the late war, they were freely given, in a novel field, and had been eminently successful.

In proposing the principal toast of the occasion, the Chairman said he had already imperfectly expressed his own feelings and those of every Member of the Institution, with regard to the eminent services rendered by their friend, Mr. Manby, during so many years. He was sure that there was not an individual in the room, or belonging to the Society, who had not experienced in some manner his kindness and urbanity.

As a Senior Member he had very often derived advantage from the services so willingly rendered; but it was the Junior Members especially, who were most deeply indebted to their consistent friend, the Secretary, as he never lost sight of their interests, was ever at their service, and appeared to consider their advancement a paramount duty. In fact, all classes owed him much, especially for his exertions in bringing them more frequently together within the walls of the Institution, where in assembling for the promotion of

the general good of the profession, they obliterated the feelings which were sometimes engendered by the violent professional contests in which they had all been engaged. Mr. Manby had originally undertaken a difficult task; it was essential to win the confidence of all around him, and then to use the power with discretion; this he had done most successfully, devoting himself to reconciling these differences that must occur, and rendering the Institution almost indispensable to the profession. He had no hesitation in saying, that the present position of the Society was almost entirely to be attributed to the exertions and skill of his friend Mr. Manby, whose health and prosperity he begged to propose.

Mr. MANBY, in responding to the toast, said, if he had at a former period of the day experienced difficulty in expressing his feelings, that difficulty was now augmented by the kind terms in which the Chairman had mentioned him. He feared that more than just praise had been bestowed on him, for having endeavoured honestly and faithfully to perform his duty; he had been fortunate in having the direction and advice of a Council comprising the most eminent Members of the Profession, who had always given him their frank co-operation. It was a laudable object of ambition on the part of the Junior Members to be admitted to the Council, and he was proud to see around him many who, if they continued in the course they had so well begun, would worthily succeed the seniors, when they retired with their honours full upon them.

He would avoid repeating what he had said at an earlier period of the day, when they had presented him with a Testimonial which he should always look upon with pride and satisfaction; but he could not help entreating them never to lose sight of the Institution, which had been and would still be the means of conferring the greatest benefit upon the Profession, to which all were proud to belong.

He begged again to thank all his friends for their unvarying kindness, and without, he hoped, making any invidious distinction, would especially thank his excellent friends Mr. Bidder, Mr. McClean, and Mr. Doyne, for their active exertions in the matter of the Testimonial, and his friend and former pupil Mr. Forrest, who he had much pleasure in seeing appointed as Assistant Secretary and eventual successor. He was convinced that if they extended to Mr. Forrest the same kindness and confidence they had shown to him, everything would be done to promote the interests of the Institution, and to enlarge its sphere of usefulness.

Although he had now retired from the position of paid Secretary, and the more active official duties had devolved upon Mr. Forrest, it had been considered desirable that he should still retain the title of Secretary, and perform the duties. He felt great pride in receiving this additional mark of the confidence of his kind friends,

and he begged them to believe that his best efforts should at all times be freely at their command.

The CHAIRMAN, again requesting attention, said the few toasts he would propose should be confined to subjects strictly within the province of the Institution. During the period of his Presidency several excellent subjects had been brought before the meetings, but there was one which had excited more than ordinary interest—he alluded to the remarkable lectures by his esteemed friend Mr. Bidder, on “Mental Arithmetic.” They were all aware of the extraordinary powers of their friend, but it was not believed that he could have explained, so clearly, the mental processes by which he arrived at the results with such rapidity; it had, however, been done with admirable perspicuity; and in a somewhat extended voyage, the Chairman had recently made, he had been gratified by finding, that these extraordinary lectures had penetrated even to Alexandria and Algeria, and had everywhere excited the most lively interest. He would ask them to drink the health of their friend Mr. Bidder, V.P., with thanks for his long-continued and valuable services to the Institution.

Mr. BIDDER thanked his friends sincerely for their reception of his name, and he felt especially gratified by the complimentary manner in which the Chairman had mentioned the attempt which he had made to explain his process of Mental Arithmetic; he had long intended to bring that subject before the Members, but had reserved it for the presidency of his old friend Mr. Stephenson, and he felt highly gratified that his exertions had been considered useful to a Society in whose welfare he had always felt great interest.

With respect to the special object of their meeting, the alacrity with which the proposition of the Testimonial was universally received, was such that his task as Treasurer became comparatively easy; he was in the position of a coachman with a willing, or rather an over-free team, needing the curb and the drag, rather than the whip; the result was peculiarly gratifying to him, and he added his best wishes to those which had been so deservedly expressed to their worthy friend the Secretary.

It was about thirty years since Mr. Bidder joined the Institution, and if he had a reproach to make, it was that the Members did not, so frequently as they ought, have social gatherings which must conduce to their mutual good. When the number of Members was very small, they frequently dined together, and this day's proceedings showed that a larger number could meet with equal satisfaction, and he was certain it would conduce to the good of the Institution.

Mr. JOSEPH LOCKE, M.P., V.P., said he was permitted to propose a toast which, he was assured, would be received with enthusiasm;

it was the health of that excellent man and distinguished Engineer, Mr. Robert Stephenson, who now so worthily presided over the Institution, whose Members had this day done themselves honour in recognising the valuable services of their old friend Mr. Manby, on behalf of the Society. That the Institution well merited the most strenuous efforts they would all admit, and that the efforts had been attended with complete success, the proceedings of the day amply proved, and the Testimonial offered to Mr. Manby showed how fully they appreciated his services.

He had heartily concurred with the Chairman, in his remarks as to the advance of Engineering science during the reign of her present Majesty; and he rejoiced that in this country they were permitted to exercise their professional duties unfettered by Government interference. This might be approaching a dangerous topic, but he had often before given his opinion, and it had been cordially received. Looking around the room, and observing the intelligence, skill, and talent embraced by the Institution, he felt great pride in belonging to a Society, the labours of whose Members were universally known and appreciated, and who were individually the missionaries of civilization throughout the world. This position could scarcely have been reached, but for the Institution, which attracted towards it all that mental power and practical skill, which, when combined, conduced so materially to the nation's wealth and the people's prosperity.

Reverting to the toast he had the honour to propose; no man occupied a more prominent position than their excellent President, and no man was more worthy of that position. His history was that of most of the great men of this country: he had sprung from the ranks of the people, and by his own efforts alone, he attained his present high reputation, and established a fame which was indissolubly connected with the greatest works of the present period. He would give them the health of Mr. Robert Stephenson, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Mr. ROBERT STEPHENSON, in returning thanks, cordially subscribed to all that had fallen from Mr. Locke, with respect to the advantages afforded by the Institution, in bringing together men of intelligence and skill, and conferring great benefits upon the Profession generally; but more especially in allaying that effervescence of feeling engendered by professional contests, which were now conducted in a spirit to induce mutual respect and esteem. He regretted the absence of his friend, Mr. Brunel, with whom he had maintained arduous struggles, which he could now look back upon with such pleasure as almost to desire to fight again "The Battle of the Gauges."

Mr. FIELD, Past-President, said, as one of the founders of the Institution, and now, he believed, the oldest Member, he well

recollected the time when their meetings were at such long intervals and their number of members was so small, that their ultimate success appeared to be very problematical. Their great difficulty was to find a Secretary combining all the qualifications they required, because such a man must possess engineering knowledge and other talent which would enable him to embark in a more profitable career. They tried many good men, and he had despaired of ever finding the proper man, until at length his old friend Mr. Manby was prevailed upon to take the position, and for the last eighteen years they had all witnessed the success of his efforts.

The results, from so small and unpromising a beginning, had astonished, as much as they had gratified him. They were now entering on a new phase of the existence of the Society. Mr. Manby had partially withdrawn from the post of Secretary, with honours which he hoped would long be enjoyed, and they had in prospect, as his successor, a gentleman who was well known to them from his long association with Mr. Manby, as his pupil, and who appeared to be also just the person they wanted. He begged to propose, "Success to the Institution of Civil Engineers," coupling with it the name of Mr. James Forrest, the Assistant Secretary.

Mr. FORREST said, that through the kindness of his friend Mr. Manby, he had been incidentally connected with the Institution for nearly fourteen years, and by the Council he had been selected to succeed to the office which had been so long and so ably filled, as to merit the demonstration of the day. He only hoped that when he assumed the position with all its responsibilities, he might, by following the footsteps of his predecessor, equally merit their confidence; he should try to do so, and with their kind assistance he trusted to perform the duties of the post so as to promote the best interests of the Society.

Mr. GLYNN begged permission to propose "Success to the Great Eastern Steam Ship," coupling with the toast the name of Mr. Scott Russell.

Mr. J. SCOTT RUSSELL said he was undoubtedly proud of being the builder of the great ship, and should feel still prouder if she achieved the success he ventured to anticipate. The most remarkable feature connected with it was that a body of men should be found who would subscribe £700,000 for an undertaking, the success of which was declared to be very problematical; that feeling would, however, be diminished when it was known that three-fourths of the shares in the undertaking were held by Members and Associates of the Institution of Civil Engineers. That fact alone spoke volumes for the safety of the structure. Mr. Brunel, who must be called the Father of the project, had desired to have the smallest ship capable of taking its own fuel to Australia and back, and of conveying such a cargo of goods

and passengers as should be remunerative. Calculation showed the actual dimensions to be necessary, and the system of cellular construction, adopted from the example of the Britannia Bridge, afforded the strength for these vastly increased proportions, which had at first surprised even English Engineers, with their habits of regarding everything as possible. The size did not now, however, astonish even the merchants, who contemplated finding cargoes for her without trouble. It would be a proud day both for Mr. Brunel, (whose absence he regretted,) and for him, when the "Great Eastern" was committed to her proper element. The ship was a specimen of what the combined qualities of men could produce, and it impressed upon all the advantages of such union as the Institution afforded the means of encouraging. United they could do almost anything, and their efforts must benefit their country, and be conducive to their own good.

The President then quitted the chair, and every one retired early, well satisfied with the appropriate conclusion of the proceedings of the day.

BALANCE SHEET.

To Subscriptions. . .	£2,126 3 0	By Cash to C. Manby. . .	£2,020 16 7
To Deposit Interest . .	23 12 0	„ Balance of Dinner Account	14 19 0
		„ Clock and Candelabra . .	84 0 0
		„ Printing and Lithography	15 9 6
		„ Postage, Receipt Stamps, and Stationery . . . }	14 9 11
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	£2,149 15 0		£2,149 15 0

We have examined the Receipt Books of the Manby Testimonial Fund, and also the Vouchers for the several payments, and find the above Statement of Accounts to be correct.

(Signed)

WILLIAM POLE,
T. MACDOUGALL SMITH.

12th April, 1858.
