

Obituary Notice

Herbert Francis Westlake: Herbert Francis Westlake, who was elected a Fellow in 1917, was born at Gloucester, of a family long settled in that city, on 3rd August 1879, and was educated at Christ's Hospital in London. In 1898 he obtained a scholarship at Pembroke College, Oxford.

On leaving Oxford in July 1902—after taking a second class in Moderations and a third in the Mathematical School—he read for Holy Orders, and was ordained by the Bishop of Southwark the same year, being shortly afterwards appointed Chaplain of Hazlewood School, Limpsfield. In 1903 he was appointed Senior Mathematical Master at Lancing College, and here he spent six happy years. It is pleasant to be able to record that his son has already been entered at the school for which he had such an affection.

In 1909 a minor canonry at Westminster Abbey became vacant, and Westlake was chosen to fill it. In the following March he removed into no. 2 The Cloisters, that house so well-known to the many Fellows of the Society whom he welcomed there. From the first his ability was recognized, and when Canon Nixon gave up the post of Custodian, Westlake was chosen to succeed him, his appointment being dated 25th March 1910.

Space will not here permit a recapitulation of his fruitful labours upon the history and antiquities of Westminster Abbey: they will be dealt with in a forthcoming Memoir;¹ but it may be permissible to remark that his work was actuated as much by his strong sense of duty to the great church in which he held office as by the love of archaeology which possessed him.

He was greatly pleased at receiving the Victorian Order in 1921. This was bestowed upon him as a personal recognition by his Sovereign of intricate duty faultlessly carried out.

His personality was one of great charm. His constant thoughts were for others, and he never spared himself, however busy he might be, in labouring for others. Indeed, it would not be an exaggeration to say that he did as much research work for others as he did for his own purposes. He was charitable in word and in deed. His house was always open to Fellows of our Society and the results of his labours were ever at their disposal. Being bred in the school of the great Oxford historians, scrupulous accuracy in historical research was with him the foundation of archaeology. A stern critic, he was unsparing in his praise of 'sound' work.

He was happy in his marriage and happy in his children; and, since he died without long suffering and within the precincts of that great church so dear to him, he was happy in the occasion of his death. But his death leaves a gap, both in the world of archaeology and in the ranks of this Society, which will not be easily filled.

P. B. M. A.

¹ To be prefixed to the first volume of the Westminster Abbey Documents, upon which he was at work at the time of his death.