

present this wonderful bit of natural beauty to the Nation from his death-bed gave him the utmost pleasure and contentment, although he was only assured of it 3 weeks before he died.

Suggestions have been made to rename the Forest after him. *There is nothing he would have detested more* and as to a granite or any such memorial, either there or on Epping Forest, as has also been suggested, he would have considered it as an eyesore.

GERALD BUXTON.

THE ESSEX FIELD CLUB—REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

ORDINARY MEETING (571st MEETING).

SATURDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 1923.

The first Winter Meeting was held at 3 o'clock on the above date in the Physical Lecture Theatre of the Municipal Technical College, Romford Road, Stratford, with the President in the Chair.

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Minnis, of 77, Monkams Avenue, Woodford Green, were elected Members of the Club.

Mr. J. Avery exhibited a series of 38 portraits of Essex worthies from his own collection, and contributed some particulars of the individuals portrayed.

Miss Harbott exhibited, and presented to the Museum, a curious double nest of the Thrush and a nest of the Long-tailed Tit.

Mr. Jane exhibited a living Carp, which was attacked by the fungus *Saprolegnia ferox*, and gave a short account of the fungus concerned.

The Hon. Secretary exhibited on behalf of Miss Greaves a series of some 50 photographs of Essex Windmills which had recently been acquired for the Club's Pictorial Survey of the County.

He also exhibited two autograph letters from Charles Darwin, addressed to Mr. William Cole in 1880, which he had come across in turning over some old Club correspondence and which he had had framed; these letters are reproduced in facsimile in Plate 4. In commenting upon the kindly interest taken by the great scientist in the Club in its infancy, Mr. Thompson recalled the fact that, ten days after Darwin's death, at a meeting of the Club held on 29th April, 1882, our then President, the late Professor Meldola, in moving that a letter of condolence should be sent to the family of our deceased honorary member, made the following prophetic remark:

"When in future years we look back to the period of the foundation of this Society, we shall point with pride to the name of Charles Darwin as having been among those of our earliest supporters."

We may assuredly claim that these words are true to-day!

Jan 6. 1880

DOWN,
BECKENHAM, KENT.
RAILWAY STATION
ORPINGTON. S.E.R.

Dear Sir,

I belong to so many Societies that I am not willing to join any others. But I beg permission to enclose a donation of £1-1 in aid of your preliminary expenses, & remain

Dear Sir

Yours faithfully

Ch. Darwin

W. Cole Esq

Feb 17/80

DOWN,
BECKENHAM, KENT
RAILWAY STATION
ORPINGTON. S.E.R.

Dear Sir,

I am much obliged for your
courteous letter in which you in-
form me that the members of
the Epping Field Club have elected
me an honorary member. I
request that you will be so good
as to express to the club my
sincere thanks for this honour;
& with every wish for its success
& long life, I remain,

Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully

Charles Darwin