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INTRODUCTORY.

In issuing this, the First Number, of the Journal of the North Munster Archæological Society, it seems fitting to say a few words with regard to the formation of the Society.

In the year 1892 the Limerick Naturalists' Field Club was formed, with Mr. Archibald Murray as first President; Dr. W. A. Fogerty as Vice-President; and Mr. Francis Neale as Hon. Sec. The Club was started primarily for the study of Natural Science, but as time went on other branches were added. At the third annual meeting a Photographic Section was formed, with Dr. G. Fogerty, R.N., as Hon. Sec. In 1897 an Archæological Section was also formed, Mr. J. Grene Barry being Hon. Sec. This latter section was the means of attracting many new members to the Club, and it was then decided to publish an annual Journal.

The first number of the Journal was issued in 1897, and the new publication was very favourably received. The Journal has been issued regularly ever since, and has contained many interesting and valuable papers on Natural History and Archæological subjects.

However, in the course of time, and for various reasons—some of which are referred to by the Chairman in the report of our proceedings—it was found, that for the support of the Journal the Club had to rely mainly on the members of the Archæological Section, and their number was not increasing. Under these circumstances, with a view to appealing to a wider circle than the ordinary Field Club members, so as to secure the necessary support for the journal, the Limerick Field Club, at a general meeting, resolved, that the members of the Archæological Section establish an independent Society, and that the Journal of the Field Club be continued as the Journal of that Society. The district embraced by the Society to be the same as that in which the Field Club continues to work, i.e., the Counties of Clare, Limerick, and Tipperary (North Riding); and it was decided that it be known as the
North Munster Archæological Society. In this way our Journal takes its place amongst the publications of kindred Societies in Ireland, not as something new, but as an old friend under a new title, and with very little change in its outward appearance. The Journal will chiefly deal with matters of local interest—including historical, topographical, and genealogical notes; many of which may not be of such national importance as to merit a place in the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, though of abiding interest to those living in the district.

The Earl of Dunraven has kindly consented to become our first President. Antiquaries owe much to his lamented father and himself for the publication of that great work, "Notes on Irish Architecture;" and in the fine collection of Irish antiquities which his Lordship is forming at Adare Manor, we have evidence of a continued zeal in the same direction.

In the list of members there is promise of much valuable support and we hope for more. Under these favourable auspices we are pleased to present our first number.