

Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
during the year 1893.

THE forty-fifth annual meeting of this society was held at Frome at noon on the 15th August, in the Auction Mart, when there was a large attendance of members present. In the absence of the president (Mr. W. A. Sanford), Mr. J. F. HORNER took the chair, and introduced Lord Hylton as the president for the year.

MR. F. T. ELWORTHY (Hon. Sec.) read the annual report of the Council, as follows :—

“In their forty-fifth annual report, the Council are happily able to repeat their congratulations upon the condition of our society, which now for many years past have led off the proceedings at its annual meetings.

“Numbers remain practically the same ; for although losses have occurred, they have been rather more than made up by the election of new members up to the present moment, and it is reasonable to expect that the meeting being held at so important a centre as Frome there will be a numerous accession. There are to-day 558 members.

“At the end of 1892 there was a balance in hand of £89 17s. 6d. on the General Fund, against £103 4s. 4d. in 1891. On the Castle Purchase Fund the debt had been reduced in

1891 to £164 19s. 4d.; and, as reported last year, a valuable legacy of £100 had subsequently come in from the executors of the late Mrs. Robberds. It is now the pleasing duty of your Council to announce that at the end of 1892 the debt outstanding was but £5 5s. 4d., and that the property is now not merely the society's own, free from liability, but in the future may be looked upon as a source of income. At the present time, however, one portion of the premises is unlet, while substantial repairs are necessary in another.

“The question of the proper restoration of the historical buildings of Taunton Castle may very properly be brought before the county at large, as one altogether beyond the power of the Society. In doing this the Council venture to point to the large and costly works of a similar character carried out at the public expense in Hampshire.

“Although the past year has brought no great increase to the museum and library, yet the fact that no less than 5,328 persons have visited them during the year, proves that their attractions continue to be appreciated by the public, and confirms the abundant evidence on other hands, that the general interest in the society's work is steadily increasing, and that its influence is yearly becoming more widely extended.

“Since the last meeting the society has had to deplore the loss of its oldest surviving secretary. Mr. C. J. Turner, who for so many years was a most punctual attendant at committee meetings, and by his quiet and regular supervision was one of its most valuable members. His interest in, and exertions concerning the purchase of the castle were only equalled by those of his colleague, the late Mr. O. W. Malet, and his constant anxiety was to see the society's property cleared from debt. It is an additional satisfaction to know that he lived to see the accomplishment of what he so earnestly desired, and to learn that the few last days of his life were cheered by the announcement made to him that the castle was finally paid for.

“The death of Bishop Clifford, only announced this morning, is a loss to the society such as can hardly be expressed in the words of a report. He may justly be regarded as one of its most learned, most genial, and most valuable members. Those who have been accustomed to attend the annual meetings will long cherish the remembrance of that when he presided, as well as his frequent and always welcome presence.

“The county history remains *in statu quo* for want of the coming editor. In the meantime new and valuable materials are accumulating by the publications of the Record Society, and the valuable papers in the society’s volumes of proceedings, as well as those of individuals. Among these latter are the important series of papers by Canon Church, printed in *Archæologia*, but which are now promised to be published in a separate form by subscription. By far the most important work preparatory to a county history still however, remains undone. Until Mr. Green’s Bibliography, of which a prospectus was issued with the society’s volume for 1891, is printed, no real beginning can be attempted towards the History of Somerset.

“The photographic survey, discussed at the last two annual meetings, has made no further progress. The Council have offered all the assistance in their power, in the way of taking charge of and preserving results ; but it is manifestly beyond both their means and the scope of their duty to attempt the conduct or responsibility of such a work.

“It has been urged upon the Council that a good index to Collinson’s History is a great desideratum, and enquiries, with estimates of the cost, have been made. The society will be asked to consent to its being carried out.

“The very important discoveries at Glastonbury, described last year at the meeting at Wellington by Mr. Morland, have been still further developed by the unwearying labours of Mr. Arthur Bulleid, and present to archæologists a study of surpassing interest. The Council have to announce that Mr.

Bath, the owner of the land at Godney Moor, has generously conveyed the five acres containing the ancient British village to the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society, but with the proviso that if, at any future time, that society should cease to exist, then the property is to belong absolutely to your county society, so that we occupy the position of remaindermen expectant. The thanks of the society are justly due to Mr. Bath."

The Rev. J. WORTHINGTON proposed the adoption of the report, and said that though they were nearly out of debt it will be absolutely necessary to spend a considerable sum of money upon the repairs of Taunton Castle. The question of more extensive restoration was only introduced into the report for careful consideration: he trusted that it would not be lost sight of, but in due course would be taken in hand by the supporters of this society in the county at large. Attention should be drawn to the large number of visitors to the museum and the library. Alluding to the death of Mr. C. J. Turner, he said it was probably known only to those who have been resident in the immediate neighbourhood of Taunton what real work our dear old friend did. He was not a man to make speeches at annual meetings; his age and his infirmity prevented him, but he was a man known, respected, and loved. Though a comparatively young member of the society, he was always deeply impressed by Bishop Clifford's ability as an antiquary and his geniality as a man.

The Rev. T. S. HOLMES, in seconding, said they had been told that the county history remained *in statu quo*, and he hoped it would remain so for a year or two longer, as they were not yet ready for it. He hoped the meeting would sanction a proposal for a new index to "Collinson." He also alluded in feeling terms to the death of Bishop Clifford, whom he had known intimately.

The motion was carried.

Lieut.-Colonel J. R. BRAMBLE (Hon. Sec.) read the Treasurer's balance sheets as follows:—

Treasurer's Account.

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1892.

Dr.		£ s. d.		Cr.		£ s. d.	
1891, Dec. 31st.				1892.			
By Balance of former Account	...	103	4 4	To Expenses attending Annual Meeting	...	35	10 0
„ Members' Entrance Fees	...	16	16 0	„ Stationery, Printing, &c.	...	20	12 2
„ Members' Subscriptions in Arrear	...	6	16 6	„ Purchase of Books, Specimens, &c.	...	7	5 11
„ Members' Subscriptions for the Year 1892...	...	259	16 6	„ Cases, Fittings, Repairs, &c.	...	15	6 9
„ Member's Subscriptions in Advance	...	4	3 6	„ Coal and Gas	...	24	0 7
„ Excursion Tickets	...	8	5 0	„ Printing and Binding vol. xxxvii	...	59	15 0
„ Museum Admission Fees	...	27	10 4	„ Illustrations	...	34	15 9
„ Sale of Publications	...	7	13 3	„ Postage and Carriage of Volumes	...	19	14 8
				„ Curator's Salary, one year to Christmas, 1892...	...	85	0 0
				„ Errand Boy, ditto	...	9	0 6
				„ Subscriptions to Publications of Societies	...	7	12 0
				„ Insurance	...	4	10 6
				„ Rates and Taxes	...	11	3 9
				„ Postages, Carriage, &c.	...	7	18 8
				„ Sundries	...	1	12 8
				Balance	...	89	17 6
		<u>£434</u>	<u>5 5</u>			<u>£434</u>	<u>5 5</u>
1892, Dec. 31st.				H. J. BADCOCK,			
Balance	...	89	17 6	Treasurer.			

August 4th, 1893. Examined and compared with the Vouchers
and Bank Book, and found correct. } W. M. KELLY,
J. E. W. WAKEFIELD.

Taunton Castle Purchase Fund.

Treasurer's Account from 1st January to 31st December, 1892.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
1892.	£.	s. d.	1891, Dec. 31st.	£	s. d.
By Donation from Mr. Thos. Good-			To Balance	164	19 4
land	0	10 6	„ Repairs to Buildings, &c. ...	22	15 4
„ Legacy from the late Mrs. Rob-			„ Advertising	2	3 6
berds, of Cheltenham	100	0 0	„ Enrolment of Deed of Convey-		
„ Rents of Premises	48	1 0	ance of Garden given by Col.		
„ Rents of Castle Hall	57	18 0	Pinney	4	10 0
„ Proceeds of Fancy Ball, held at			„ Rates and Taxes	8	6 8
Taunton, Dec., 1892	5	17 9	„ Castle Hall Expenses	3	0 2
„ Balance	5	5 4	„ Gas	4	4 2
			„ Insurance	3	16 6
			„ Interest on Loan	3	16 11
	<u>£217</u>	<u>12 7</u>		<u>£217</u>	<u>12 7</u>
			1892, Dec. 31st.		
			Balance	5	5 4

H. J. BADCOCK,

Treasurer.

August 4th, 1893. Examined and compared with the Vouchers
and Bank Book, and found correct. } W. M. KELLY,
J. E. W. WAKEFIELD.

The Rev. GILBERT SMITH moved the adoption of the balance sheets, and in doing so said they were two of the most intelligible he had ever seen, and both were eminently satisfactory. The last issue of their *Proceedings* was the thickest as well as one of the most interesting volumes that had been issued ; they also had them at a reasonable time after the last annual meeting. If the increased size of the volume accounted for the decreased balance in hand, this latter defect was excusable. They were possessed of real good property in Taunton Castle, and as long as it was properly maintained he believed the society would flourish too. The Glastonbury matter was a piece of very great liberality on the part of Mr. Bath, for the land that he had given up was valuable, and would easily let at £3 per acre even in these bad times. He was sure the thanks of the society were due to Mr. Bath for his kindness.

Mr. HUGH NORRIS was delighted to hear that part respecting the Castle at Taunton. When they considered the historical interest connected with the castle for more than a thousand years, they were to be congratulated on becoming free owners of the property. He trusted the public would help them in carrying out the improvements and restorations which are necessary. He said he hoped when these were carried out that the hall—which was the scene of the “Bloody Assize”—would be left as much as possible in its present condition.

The financial statements were adopted.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER proposed : “That it is desirable that the society should undertake the preparation and printing of a proper and sufficient index to Collinson’s *History of Somerset*, and that the Council be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for that purpose at an expenditure of not exceeding £75.” He said most of them were aware of the necessity for a new index. There were no less than four indices which had to be waded through before one could find the place wanted, and even the four indices were not satis-

factory or sufficiently full. They were not asking in the resolution for a new county history ; he agreed that the time had not come yet for a new history of the county, but he felt this would be a step forward. The Somerset Record Society was putting forth year by year valuable volumes which would go a long way towards the history when they were ready to undertake the work. What was wanted at present was a good index of what they had already. The society was not asked to spend much, because the work would be nearly certain to repay the cost. All the society is asked to do is to find a sum of money—about £75, perhaps not so much—to bring out the work, and then they could sell it to members and others, so as to recoup themselves for the outlay.

Lieut.-Colonel BRAMBLE said the present indices to Collinson were abominable. He looked upon a good index-maker as a benefactor to his country. Though Collinson had a number of mistakes in it, it was the basis of almost all the histories of Somerset they had at present. The society proposed that there should be a proper and sufficient index to the work, and to that end they proposed to employ a proper professional index-maker to do the work thoroughly. Then the new index would be a step towards the new history, which he sincerely trusted would not be a new edition of Collinson. There were something like a thousand copies of Collinson, and if one in eight of the owners of copies will take the new index they would find that the society would be repaid the outlay, and yet have a considerable number of copies on hand, which might be sold.

The motion was adopted.

The British Record Society.

Mr. E. A. FRY, of the British Record Society, spoke of the advisability of the Somerset Archæological Society helping his society to calendar the wills at Wells, and perhaps at Taunton Probate Court. He began by giving a brief account

of the British Record Society and its work, which was started five or six years ago to print indices of calendars and records. They had already published eight volumes of different sorts of calendars. He stated that there were nearly seventy thousand wills in the Probate Court at Wells, and asked that this society should render assistance by giving a grant of £20 per annum for five or six years, or until the work was completed. He did not propose the work should be begun this year or next, perhaps. In connection with the intended county history these wills would be most useful. If the work was undertaken, six or eight sheets per annum would be ready for delivery to the society. They could either wait till the whole was completed or the sections could be sent out as printed.

Mr. ELWORTHY said members would like to know what they were to expect for the £20 a year. A catalogue of the wills would be most useful for the future, but they must know exactly how much they were to get for their money. Did he understand that each member would receive a copy of the catalogue? and would they be so printed as to be bound with the Society's *Proceedings*?

Mr. WEAVER thought it would be a very valuable thing to undertake. The Oxford Historical Society did what Mr. Fry had suggested, and their issues were in the form of the Oxford Society's publications. He hoped the Somerset Society would accede to the request.

The Rev. GILBERT SMITH said no money was wanted for two or three years, and he moved that the application be referred to the Council for consideration.

Mr. FRY said the publications could come out in the form of sheets, and it would be very easy to arrange them exactly the size of the Somerset Society's *Proceedings*.

Lord HYLTON said the matter was on the minutes as a statement by Mr. Fry, and not an application. Under the circumstances he did not think it necessary to go to a vote.

Colonel BRAMBLE thought they should do something more than hear the statement. He moved that Mr. Fry's application be referred to the Council, and this course of action was decided on.

On the proposition of Mr. BROOKING ROWE, seconded by Mr. ALFRED RUDD, the officers of the society were re-elected, with the addition of the name of the honorary local secretary, Mr. G. A. Daniel (Nunney).

Mr. HUGH NORRIS proposed, Mr. J. F. HORNER seconded, and it was agreed, that the election of president and the place of meeting for the year 1894 be left to the Council.

A list of twenty-eight candidates was submitted, all of whom were elected members of the society.

Publications by the Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. T. S. HOLMES made a statement regarding the work of the Somerset Record Society. The Register of Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1329-1363, through the kindness of the Bishop of Bath and Wells and the registrar, Mr. Harris, was to be entrusted to that society for publication in 1895. It covered a period full of historic interest, including the visitation of the Black Death and the wars of Edward III, but its size, four-hundred and eighty-two closely-written folios, placed the cost of transcription beyond the powers of the society's annual income. The Council, therefore, was compelled to appeal to the county of Somerset, and others outside the county, for further help to enable it to defray the increased expenditure of transcription, and unless some considerable response is made to their appeal they would be obliged to give up this great opportunity. He hoped to obtain a promise of £30 at once in order to complete the £50 necessary.

Lord HYLTON promised £5 towards the register spoken of by Mr. Holmes, and he hoped others would do likewise.

The President's Address.

Lord HYLTON then delivered the following address :—

The great honour has been conferred on me to address you on this the third occasion of your visit to Frome. I will not, however, venture to dilate on the early history of this locality, or to describe the doings or misdoings of the ancient Britons, their invaders the Romans, the subsequent power of the Saxons, or the inroads of the Danes. All this has been related to you, and is no doubt familiar history to the Somerset archæologist. It is enough to remind you that within short distances of this spot are to be found several most interesting British, Roman, Saxon and Danish remains, most of which have been sought out and pronounced upon by some of your learned members. Some ancient works may, however, have escaped their notice, and it is possible that during our proposed excursions we may be enabled to discover some unnoticed antiquity or perhaps some forgotten ruin. I trust, however, that we shall not attribute to by-gone ages the spoil bank of some deserted coal-pit, or the refuse of an old stone quarry.

Your society, however, does not confine its labours to the search for the handiwork of our ancestors : it embraces besides Geology and Natural History. No county in Great Britain has a more varied and more interesting series of visible formations. Within a walk from Frome can be seen the trap-rock, which has apparently forced its way to the surface through the old red sandstone, the Mendip limestone, and the coal measures. These are exposed over miles of this district—strangely contorted near Mendip. Then we have wide areas covered by the new red sandstone, lias, and oolite. All these soils are fertile, and though each variety may require some special treatment, I do not hesitate to affirm that they are admirably adapted for agriculture. The coal pits on the north side of the Mendips are now worked at great depths by means of our mighty friend the steam-engine, but coal works

were in activity long before the invention of steam power, and the modes by which coal was won in former days are, I think, worthy of the attention of archæologists. But, besides the coal, our county provides some of the best building stone in Great Britain. Bath stone is famous, but Doultong is better; certain beds of the forest marble are excellent. Mells-park consists half of pure marble, and half of the beautiful conglomerate which, when polished, is of the highest possible value for decoration. So much for the practical utility of our geological formations: their deposition, and their subsequent disturbance have been for years, and may be for ages, the wonder and admiration of human beings.

And now a word for the study of natural history in Somerset. No county provides a better field for this. The botany is most varied, and the birds and beasts are curiously interesting. Here I must make a confession. Having spent many happy hours in watching the habits of our permanent residents amongst birds, and in noting the arrivals and departures of our summer and winter visitors, the conclusion I have come to is—we know nothing. What I do know is that the gamekeeper is the worst enemy of our beautiful wild animals.

Having touched upon the subject of the study of geology and of natural history, studies which deal with matters beyond the reach of human beings, because all the knowledge we can hope to gain must be by guessing and surmising, let us take some notice of the strictly human work of architecture. And here we meet with a strange difficulty. How is it that the buildings of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are infinitely better, stronger, and more shapely than those of any succeeding ages? So also the handwriting and the decoration of the beautiful manuscripts of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are better in every respect than those of later date.

It is true that in the fifteenth century the manufacture of coloured glass (as far as colour went) was very fine, but

where were the artists who designed the windows and traceries of Henry III.'s time? The grandeur and simplicity of the Early English architects seem to have been forgotten in the days of the three Edwards, and the succeeding generations of builders merely went from bad to worse. Perhaps it is better that we should exist without any school of architecture, and that public and private money should be spent in defiance of all the rules and fashions by which we can now distinguish the age of our ancient buildings. Here in Somerset we may, however, still enjoy the beauties of the best of Gothic architecture. I hope the weather will prove favourable for your excursions.

The PRESIDENT also announced that he had received a letter from the Hon. and Rev. A. F. Hanbury-Tracy, regretting his inability to be present to conduct the society through the parish church of Frome, but that he had asked the Rev. F. Vining and Mr. Singer to take his place.

A vote of thanks to Lord Hylton for his address was carried with acclamation, on the motion of Canon CHURCH, seconded by the Rev. H. H. WINWOOD.

His Lordship said thanks were not due to him, but to the local committee.

Green's "Bibliotheca Somersetensis."

Mr. ELWORTHY very urgently appealed for subscribers to the above exhaustive work. It was of vast importance as the true foundation of a real county history, and they would be delighted to see it in print. It was a complete catalogue of the books and literature relating to, or connected with the county of Somerset, which had been prepared, regardless of labour or cost, by Mr. Emanuel Green, F.S.A. If the manuscript by any means were destroyed, it could never be replaced. Two hundred subscribers were needed to enable the work to be produced.

At the conclusion of the meeting, an adjournment for luncheon was made to the George Hotel.

Soon after half-past two the company visited the

Parish Church

dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

MR. EDMUND BUCKLE observed that changes had been made in the church in almost every century from its foundation by St. Aldhelm to the present time. He said that though he did not wish to find any fault with what was done in connection with the restoration during the present century, the result was that the archæological interest of the building was to a large extent swept away, and that the great bulk of the church was modern, though it reproduced in form and general lines, and even in matters of detail, what had been in existence before. The Saxon building, constructed by St. Aldhelm at the end of the seventh century, was still standing in the twelfth, when William of Malmesbury wrote. From the wording of his references to this building and to the Saxon church at Bradford-on-Avon (still existing), they might assume that the Frome church was much the larger, for this church is called *ecclesia*, while the Bradford church is in the same paragraph described as *ecclesiola*. In Mr. Bennett's book about the Frome church it was stated that the structure was almost wholly rebuilt in the time of Stephen. Mr. Buckle expressed his doubts as to the accuracy of this statement. He pointed out that the Norman work still remaining consisted of a portion of the Lady chapel (including the doorway leading into what is now known as the chapel of St. Nicholas, and the window at the side of the door) and a part of the north aisle adjoining the Lady chapel, together with the north and south doorways of the church, which were also Norman in design; but the fact that these now stood where they did was no proof that they had always been in those positions. Mr. Buckle made a suggestion that a considerable

portion of the Saxon church of Aldhelm lasted right through the Norman period. If the church had been rebuilt at this period it was almost certain that it would have had a central tower, but before the end of the twelfth century the fashion had changed, and the south side of the nave had got to be the usual position for the tower. This was the position of the Frome tower, the lower part of which was in the Early English style, and it was a fair presumption that the Saxon church had remained until the time when this tower was founded. This much was certain: though the church had grown in almost every direction since the thirteenth century, its plan had not since then been fundamentally altered; the lower part of the tower, the chancel arch, the eastern half of the nave arcade, and probably the corresponding portions of the aisles, were all of that date.

The western part of the nave and aisles dated from the 14th century, but whether this was a re-building or an extension of the former church was a matter of considerable doubt. According to local tradition, the bench tables round these western piers enclosed the Saxon or Norman foundations of the previous piers; but this appeared to be an arbitrary assumption. Of the same date were the arches opening into the lady chapel from the north aisle, and probably the extension northwards of this chapel. These arches were of interest, on account of their arrangement; there was a large arch for the entrance of the people, and to the east of that a small one, clearly intended as a sort of priest's doorway. A similar piece of planning might be observed in the contemporary work at Mells. It was probable that the chapel on the south side of the chancel was also built in this century, as it contained a distinctly Decorated piscina.

Among the later work must be included the upper part of the tower, and the spire, the nave, clerestory, and roof, the window of the chapel on the north side of the chancel, the roof of the lady chapel, and the whole of the chapel which now contained the font.

The heraldry in these chapels was of great interest, on account of its marshalling being entirely different from modern use. On the corbels supporting the Lady chapel roof (of the 16th century), besides the coats of *Stourton* and (?) *Hungerford* or *Grey*, were these two:—

(1). [*Gu.*,] *a leopard's face jessant a fleur-de-lys* [*or*]—ascribed to *Branch*. [The tinctures are supplied from the glass to be subsequently described.]

(2). *Branch* as above impaling *Liversedge*:—[*Sa.*,] *a chevron between three dolphins embowed* [*arg.*]

On the floor there were several *Liversedge* monuments of later date, showing that the family then used the *Branch* coat only. And according to the pedigree in the 1623 *Visitation* (*Colby*) the *Branch* heiress in the 14th century married a *Winslade*, and their granddaughter and heiress married *Edmond Liversedge* of *Vallis*, so that an impaled coat of *Branch* and *Liversedge* would according to modern ideas be quite meaningless. But a clue to its meaning might be found in the glass (also of the 16th century) now remaining in the baptistery window.

Here we had—

(1). *Liversedge*, a chief of *Branch*.

(2). *Cabell*:—*Sa.*, a horse upright *arg.* bridled or impaling *Liversedge*, a chief of *Branch*.

(3). *Cabell* impaling (? apparently a badge, possibly intended for *Branch*).

(4). *Cabell* impaling a *Cabell* rebus; viz. *Arg.*, a text *K* and a bell united by a cable or.

Here the coat No. (1) was clearly compounded of those of *Branch* and *Liversedge*, and was equivalent to the impaled coat in the Lady chapel; while the coat No. (4) showed that coats were impaled with other significations besides that of matrimony.

Another interesting question related to the dedications of the various chapels. There seemed no reason to doubt that

the Lady chapel was correctly assigned, and the Leversedge monuments and escutcheons were naturally enough found in this position, since the advowson of the chantry lay with them. The chantry of St. John Baptist at the altar of St. Andrew, endowed in 1377 (*Collinson*) and afterwards in Leversedge patronage (*Somerset Incumbents*), was perhaps situate on the south side of the chancel where there was a Decorated piscina. The corresponding chapel on the north side of the chancel might have contained the chantry of St. Nicholas, founded in 1419, by Twynho (*Somerset Incumbents*). Certainly this service could not have been held in the building now used as a baptistery, for this was not erected until a hundred years later. It was true that a Cabell chantry was founded in 1517, at the altar of St. Nicholas, and that there was now Cabell glass in the baptistery, but the glass might have been moved, or have been put there for some other reason.

The most interesting monuments in the church were the *Memento mori* in the Lady chapel ; the Champneys brass of date 1506 on the tower wall ; a copper plate in the north aisle to a Mr. Avery, who was recorded in the churchwardens' books to have received a shilling for writing a certificate to send to the Parliament to certify them that the painted glass in the church windows had been taken down ; and the tomb (against the outside of the east wall of the chancel) of Bishop Ken, who died at Longleat in 1711, and desired to be buried as close as possible to the altar of that church, in his old diocese, which happened to be nearest to the place where he died.

The modern adornments of the church might be supposed to have no bearing upon archæology, but in this case they had been carried out in such a medieval spirit that they certainly did in some degree help us to appreciate what was the richness of the interior of our ancient churches. In particular, the Rood screen was, in its general lines and ideas, a reproduction of what formerly stood in that position, not only in that church, but in every parish church throughout the kingdom. Some

persons objected to this rood screen, on the ground that it hid the chancel from view, and cut across the chancel arch in an awkward manner. Whether or not this was sound criticism, the interesting feature, from the archæological standpoint, was the undoubted historical fact that in this case (as in many others) the rood screen was always intended to cut across the chancel arch, and hide the chancel in just this manner. This was proved by the existence of an Early English doorway and piscina—a most unusual feature—on the south side of the chancel arch, which determined with certainty the level of the Rood screen floor. The position of the door, however, shewed that the gallery over the screen originally extended further west than in the modern example. Besides the Rood screen another modern example of medieval feeling might be found in the *Via dolorosa* in the churchyard, a feature perhaps more continental than English.

Mr. WEAVER made a few remarks, in the course of which he expressed similar ideas regarding the Norman work, and the names of the chapels, to those advanced by Mr. Buckle. A reason he adduced in support of the contention regarding the names of the chapels, was, that as the high altar was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, it would be unlikely that an adjoining chapel would be dedicated to him also.

Mr. ELWORTHY said, Frome church was one of the oldest of the well-known Saxon foundations. It was mentioned in Domesday, an almost unique thing for a parish church, and in connection with the land belonging to it, contained one of the only two entries relating to Somerset, according to Eyton, in which carrucate was used to express its area.