

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1910.

THE Sixty-Second Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Yeovil, from Tuesday, July 19th till Thursday, July 21st.

Following a meeting of the Committee on Tuesday morning the Annual General Meeting was held in the Town Hall. Sir Edward Fry took the chair, being supported by the Mayor of Yeovil, the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin (President-Elect), Mr. A. F. Somerville, Mr. F. J. Fry, the Rev. F. W. Weaver (Hon. Secretary), Mr. R. C. Boyle (Joint Treasurer), and Mr. H. St. George Gray (Assistant-Secretary and Curator).

The Rt. Hon. Sir EDWARD FRY, G.C.B., P.C., in opening the proceedings, said that owing to his being the senior Vice-President of the Society, he was called upon to preside.

The MAYOR OF YEOVIL (Councillor Edmund Damon) said that it afforded him considerable pleasure to welcome the Society to the town. He sincerely trusted that whilst they were there they would have a pleasant time, and that the weather would be propitious. He expressed the wish of the town he represented in three words, "Welcome to Yeovil."

Sir EDWARD FRY begged on behalf of the Society to tender thanks for the Mayor's welcome that day and for his courtesy in placing the Town Hall at the service of the Society during the time of the meeting. He believed it was twenty-four years since the Society last met at Yeovil. It was now his duty to propose the election of the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin as President of the Society for the ensuing year. He was too well-known in Yeovil to require any introduction, and without further prelude he begged to move his election.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE said he thought it was hardly necessary to second that proposal, as Mr. Bates Harbin was so well fitted for the position and would be well able to give a good account of his stewardship.

The resolution was then carried unanimously and with applause.

The PRESIDENT, on taking the chair, said he begged to thank them for the unanimity with which they had confirmed the choice of the Committee in asking him to be their President. If he was to be president at any time and place, it was appropriate that he should be president at Yeovil. It was the twenty-fifth year of his membership, and the twenty-first meeting he had attended; and it was in that room that he was elected a member of the Society. Before calling upon Mr. Weaver to present the annual report, he would read a letter from the Bishop of Bath and Wells, their president at Wells last year, who had intended to be there that day to hand over the office to his successor. It was as follows:—

The Palace, Wells, Somerset,
July 11th, 1910.

Dear Mr. Bates Harbin,

Will you kindly tell the members of the Somerset Archaeological Society how greatly I regret that the doctors' peremptory orders preclude my coming to lay down my office as President and introducing, as I suppose might have been my privilege, the much more capable President who is now to succeed me. I shall always think it a great honour to have been chosen by the Society to occupy the chair in a year that was marked by such great events. The

celebration of the Millenary at Wells, at which T. R. H. the Prince and Princess of Wales, now our most gracious King and Queen, did us the great honour to be present, will of course never fade from our memory, and those of our members who were present at the Glastonbury Service, as well as I trust many others, will rejoice that the Abbey is now again a possession of the Church. I heartily wish for yourself and those who will gather round you every possible happiness during your Meeting. You will have much to interest you in the part of the County you are to visit, and it is a deep regret to me that I cannot share in any of your expeditions, but I venture to hope that filled as your mind will be with the historical and charming surroundings of Yeovil, some little thought may be extended to a poor little Church for which last year I bespoke the attention of the Society—I mean the ancient Chapel at Swell, near Langport.

With kind regards, believe me to be

Yours very truly,

G. W. BATH : & WELLS :

The Annual Report.

The Annual Report was then read by the Rev. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A., as follows :—

“Your Committee present their sixty-second annual report. Since their last report 85 new names have been added to the list of members. Losses by death and resignation have been 36. Altogether the net gain has been 49. The total membership of your Society at date is 846, against 797 at the time of the Annual Meeting last year.

“The balance of your Society’s account at the end of 1908 was £216 9s. 8d. against the Society. At the close of 1909 there was a balance of £143 18s. 7d. in favour of the Society, all of which, however, belonged to the Museum and Library Extension Fund. In neither case was the liability for the cost of the Volume for the year then expired taken into account. The total expense attending the issue of Vol. LV (for 1909), including printing, illustrations, and delivery, has been £152 11s. 5d. The Illustration Fund was kindly contributed to by the Rev. Canon Church, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, Mr. J. R. H. Weaver, Mr. A. G. Chater, and Mr. A. F. Major. Thanks are also due to the Editors of *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* for the loan of the block of St.

Cuthbert's Pulpit, Wells. Various photographs and drawings for the Volume were provided by the Rev. Canon Church and Messrs. F. Bligh Bond, H. St. George Gray, A. G. Chater, J. R. H. Weaver and Henry Laver.

"As recorded in the two previous Annual Reports, your Committee proposed a scheme for the extension of the Museum and Library at Taunton Castle in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of your Society in 1908. Owing to the rapid growth of your varied and valuable collections during the last ten years, the acquisition of additional space became necessary. The first steps taken were to annex the apartments in the Castle, then occupied by the Curator, to acquire possession of Castle House (owned by your Society but previously let), and to improve and repair it as a residence for the Curator, at a cost of £210. This was carried out during the winter of 1907-8, the house being ready for occupation in April 1908.

"A plan was then devised by your Committee whereby the vacant rooms in the Castle could be rendered available for Museum and Library purposes at a minimum cost of £670 (not including the £210 for Castle House), and after the matter had been brought before your Society at the Annual Meeting at Taunton, an appeal for funds was issued early in 1909, the sum of £350 being raised in the course of a year (see List in *Proc.*, LV, i, pp. 113-14). The appeal was fairly well responded to and your Committee felt justified in January last in proceeding with the more pressing work. Owing to the fact that the Castle was insufficiently and only partly lighted by gas, with many obsolete fittings,—some of which caused leakages,—your Committee felt it necessary either to put in new gas fittings or to instal electric light throughout the Castle. The latter alternative was chosen, and all the wires have been encased in steel tubing for the purposes of safety. It was also found necessary to re-slate the gable of Castle House and to put other parts of the roof into good

repair. The total cost of the alterations will therefore slightly exceed £1,000.

“It should be recorded that the work included in the £670 above-mentioned covered the cost of the following :—Strong Room (in the position of the old kitchen), Heating by low pressure system of the newly-acquired rooms—the new Library, ante-room, and Coin Room,—alteration of part of the high-pressure heating apparatus, abolition of the internal heating-chamber and the building of a new stoke-hole outside, overhauling of drainage, iron girders and columns in the Coin Room for supporting the Library above, two new stone windows on the south side of the Coin Room and re-glazing and altering the northern windows, dry air chamber for keeping the north wall of the same room dry, setting back the western wall of the Coin Room, fixing patent ventilator in new Library and renewing windows, and building a new stone staircase, with several structural alterations in connection therewith.

“Your Committee arranged for a special General Meeting of your Society (which was held at Taunton Castle on March 18th last) to authorize your Trustees to obtain either a temporary loan from the bank or a mortgage on the security of your property ; but just before the meeting took place, the Rt. Hon. Henry Hobhouse made a generous offer of £100 towards the fund, provided the whole amount was raised by voluntary subscriptions within the year. The response to this offer has been of a gratifying nature and your Committee has the pleasure to announce that £750 in all has been subscribed or promised towards the amount required ; and they trust that the balance of £300 will shortly be raised, largely by the efforts of those members who have not yet contributed, so as to claim the generous offers made by Mr. Hobhouse and other members of your Society.

“The sub-Committee for the Museum and Library Extension, who are taking considerable interest in this work,

consist of Messrs. H. J. Badcock, A. E. Eastwood and C. Tite, and the Revs. C. H. Heale and E. H. Bates Harbin, together with the Assistant-Secretary.

"Although no large collections have been presented or bequeathed during the past year, many interesting additions have been made to your Museum. Both Mr. Hensleigh Walter and Mr. A. V. Cornish have added a number of specimens to the large series of Roman and Late-Celtic antiquities found on Ham Hill. Through the instrumentality of the Postmaster-General your Museum has acquired a Tudor doorway of carved oak removed from the entrance to a court in North Street, Taunton. The Taunton Market Trustees have deposited on loan their fine set of standard weights and measures inscribed 'Liberty of Gillingham, County of Dorset, 1826.' A few new varieties of the brass emblems of the Somerset village clubs have been added to the collection, including gifts from Dr. and Mrs. Hopkins. Among the donations from Mr. C. Tite is a large water-colour painting of Castle Green, Taunton, and the amusements which took place there during the Assizes about 1840. Your Society is indebted to Mr. H. Symonds for a silver penny of Henry III struck at Ilchester and some Somerset trade tokens. A large silver medal commemorating the unsuccessful invasion of Monmouth and Argyll in 1685 has been purchased. Your Society now possesses two Monmouth medals out of the six types known to exist. From excavations conducted by Mr. St. George Gray, remains from Charterhouse-on-Mendip have been presented by Lord Annaly, and others from the Roman Amphitheatre at Dorchester by the Duchy of Cornwall. Mr. Bates Harbin has deposited in your Museum one of the six drinking-vessels of the early Bronze Age recorded from Somerset, namely that found at Stoford, in the parish of Barwick, in 1826. The other five, also in your Museum, are from Wick Barrow, Culbone and Wincanton. A well-preserved cinerary urn of the Bronze Age, found in 1827 in

one of the barrows in Small Down Camp, near Evercreech, has been presented through the instrumentality of the Rev. E. H. Goddard. A mediæval pot recently found at Barwick has been given by Mr. G. W. Pavitt. Other donors in the Museum department are :—Mrs. C. Tite, Mrs. Ewing and Mrs. E. M. May, and Messrs. F. G. Sage, W. de C. Prideaux, C. E. Turle, F. S. Dodson, H. P. Olivey and T. Charbonnier.

“ Among the most valuable additions to your Library during the year are :—Vols. 3 to 8 of ‘Archæologia,’ obtained by purchase and now rendering your set complete ; a handsome series of British Museum catalogues and guide books presented by the Trustees of that Institution ; ‘Survey of the Lands of William, Earl of Pembroke,’ 2 vols., relating to the parishes of Stoke Trister, Donyatt, Chedzoy and South Brent, presented by Lord Pembroke ; the ‘National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-4,’ 4 vols., presented by the Royal Society ; and 21 Somerset deeds of the XVII and XVIII Centuries presented by Mr. H. Symonds. Other donors to the Library during the year include :—the Revs. D. P. Alford, E. H. Bates Harbin, F. W. Weaver and C. H. Heale, the Rev. Dr. Price, Mr. W. B. Broadmead, Lady Theodora Guest and Mrs. Patton. Books for the Entomological Section have been presented by Messrs. A. E. Hudd, W. Macmillan and C. Tite.

“ It was reported at the last annual meeting that Mr. C. Tite had made arrangements with Mr. A. J. Monday to compile a catalogue of the manuscripts contained in the Serel collection at Taunton Castle. This has been nearly completed and your Society is further indebted to Mr. Tite for presenting a large book-case to contain some of the Somerset books belonging to his own collection. Mr. E. A. Fry has been kind enough to continue an index of the unpublished wills brought together by the Rev. Fredk. Brown, a work now about half completed.

“ The provision of a fire-and-burglar-proof strong-room and safe enables your Society to repeat with greater confidence

the appeal made at the last annual meeting at Yeovil in 1886 to owners and custodians of valuable antiquities and records to deposit them in the Museum at Taunton Castle. Two parishes, one in Somersetshire the other in Devonshire, have already sent in their ancient Communion plate ; and there are probably many local authorities who would be glad to place early churchwardens' accounts, register books, court rolls, and similar documents in a building that is at once safe and accessible.

" Since the last annual meeting a second and enlarged edition of the Rev. D. P. Alford's ' Short History of Taunton Castle ' has been produced as a hand-book for visitors to the Castle.

" The most important object added to your Museum during the year is the famous Torc of gold, accidentally discovered at Hendford, Yeovil, last year,—the acquisition of which by your Society has only recently been settled. The purchase-money for this relic of the Bronze Age was generously contributed by about fifty members of your Society. It is now preserved at Taunton Castle. It is very certain that whenever such discoveries are made, under similar circumstances, reference will be made to the important enquiry which was held by Mr. E. Q. Louch, coroner of the district, at Yeovil, on August 18th, 1909. The Coroners' Society have regarded the case as of such importance that they have reproduced the Report of the Coroner's Inquest and copy of the Inquisition, in their Annual Report, Vol. iv, 1909-10 ; and, with permission, have reprinted Mr. St. George Gray's paper on the Torc *in extenso*.

" Two series of important archæological excavations have recently been in progress in Somerset, both under the auspices of the Parent Society.

" During 1909 Glastonbury Abbey was the scene of much activity. Mr. Bligh Bond continued his excavations at the east end of the newly-discovered Edgar Chapel, and also

laid bare an immense mass of foundations belonging to the buildings formerly standing south of the Cloisters. Valuable papers in the last two volumes of the *Proceedings* record the results of the first part of this work. At Mr. Bond's request a small sub-Committee visited the Abbey on March 23rd, and examined the remains. Their report was entirely favourable to Mr. Bond's explanation of the different portions of masonry laid bare, and to the care taken to record the discoveries in a permanent form on the ground. The same sub-Committee joined by invitation a Committee of the Society of Antiquaries to inspect the work already carried out in the Choir, Lady Chapel and Galilee. Their joint report is about to be presented to the sub-Committee charged by the Trustees of the Abbey with the preservation of the ruins.

"The first season's excavations at the Meare Lake Village were in progress from May 23 till June 18, for four weeks (including a week for filling-in); and the directors of the work, Mr. Arthur Bulleid and Mr. H. St. George Gray, are to be congratulated on the number and variety of their discoveries. The chief 'finds' are at present exhibited in the Great Hall of the Castle. Of the large area to be examined only a quarter-of-an-acre was completely excavated this year. Owing to the munificence of Lord Winterstoke it has been possible to begin the work without making a general appeal for contributions, but before the work is begun next year it will be necessary to solicit donations. Messrs. Bulleid and Gray are Joint Secretaries of the Excavation Fund, and Mr. John Morland, of Glastonbury, Treasurer. The excavations were visited by local societies and by one from the Severn Valley.

"It is a source of gratification to your Committee that, as recently advertised, a very full description of the Glastonbury Lake Village, by the two above-mentioned antiquaries, will be published within the next year or two. The monograph, which will be in two handsome volumes, will be copiously

illustrated, and it is fully expected that Vol. I will be in the hands of subscribers before your Society's next annual meeting. The cost of production will be great, and it is hoped that the work will receive the support it deserves.

"The Bath Branch of your Society has also been actively engaged in explorations at Lansdown, near Bath, during the past year. A barrow, completely excavated, produced a large number of cremations; another mound revealed an interesting coin of Athelstan, and more recently, some trenches, producing Roman remains, were cut near the Rectory at Langridge.

"As recorded in the *Proceedings*, LV, i, pp. 83-4, the inaugural meeting of the Entomological Section of the Society was held at Taunton Castle on Oct. 20, 1909. The members of the Section have already had one field-day, and Mr. Doidge, of Taunton, has done some useful work in connection with your Society's collections of Lepidoptera. Mr. W. Macmillan, of Castle Cary, was elected President of the Section, and Mr. H. H. Slater, Hon. Sec.

"On July 4th last a preliminary meeting of the proposed Ornithological Section of the Society was held at Taunton Castle, Mr. James Turner, of Porlock, being appointed Hon. Sec. *pro. temp.*, since which the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt has presented an interleaved copy of his *Birds of Somerset* from the Victoria County History, with recent and additional notes.

"In due course Botanical and Geological Sections will also be formed; and it is now highly probable that the Natural History of Somerset will receive the attention it deserves.

"Next year the Mycological Society hopes to hold its annual gathering at Taunton.

"Your Society was represented at the Congress of Archaeological Societies on July 6th by the Editorial Secretary and the Assistant-Secretary.

"Your Committee has appointed a sub-Committee to consider the revision of the rules of the Society.

"The Bridgwater Field Club has become affiliated to your

Society, bringing the number of Branch and Affiliated Societies up to nine.

“Your Museum was visited by 8,058 persons during 1909, including 1,264 visits from members, an increase of 70 per cent. during the last nine years.

“Your Society records with regret the loss by death of the following members (in each case the date in brackets is the date of the member's election) :—

“George Fownes Luttrell, of Dunster Castle (1868), one of the Trustees of your Society, and a Vice-President from 1890 till the time of his death on May 24th last; he was President at your Minehead meetings in 1889 and 1906.

“Wyndham Slade, of Montys Court, Taunton (1849), one of the two original members of your Society; Mr. Slade attended the Diamond Jubilee Meeting at Taunton in 1908, in company with the surviving original member, Mr. Alfred Clarke of Wells.

“Miss J. L. Woodward (1899), of Clevedon, who died on June 21st last, a good friend of the Society; Miss Woodward bought Barrington Court and transferred it to the National Trust to ensure its preservation.

“W. J. Tucker (1882), for a great number of years Town Clerk of Chard.

“The Rev. C. P. Quicke (1891), Rector of Ashbrittle for 51 years, died on July 6th.

“T. F. Inman of Bath (1892); T. A. Hodgkinson of Wells and Wookey (1909); and C. V. H. Helyar of Poundisford Lodge, who died after a few months' membership.”

The Rev. Preb. J. HAMLET, in proposing the adoption of the report, said, a more excellent report had never been set before them. It showed that the Society was in a very sound state of health. They were the largest provincial Archæological Society in the land, and those who knew the difficulty of extending the margin of cultivation, would recognize that it was to the credit of Mr. St. George Gray and others

who had so successfully recruited for the Society, to raise the membership from 797 to 846 during the past year. Then again, with regard to the last volume of the Society's *Proceedings*. Having had nothing whatever to do with the volume, and yet being a close bystander to the preparation, he ventured to say that it was an excellent volume. It was well illustrated and well produced, and contained an amount of matter which contrasted very sharply with those volumes published by the Society about 1875 and thereabouts. He should like to draw attention to the fact that the Society possessed what was called an extra-illustrated copy of Collinson, which was bequeathed by the late Mr. W. J. Braikenridge. It contained many scores of water-colour drawings of Somerset churches and interesting houses, executed in the middle of the XIX Century, which were invaluable to local historians and the incumbents of churches. He was thankful to see the development of the Society along the lines of natural history. Even in the presence of the President he would say that mediæval written documents were not the best monuments that archæology had dealt with. They had heard how that at Glastonbury Abbey, Mr. Bligh Bond, and at the Meare Lakevillage, Mr. Bulleid and Mr. St. George Gray, were doing important work. The pen had become the slave to the spade, and the more often they were able to put the spade to work in the capable hands of such men as those before mentioned, the more would they be doing the work of the present moment and trying to read that most interesting and yet most recondite page of Somerset history which lay under ground. All this work could only be done by a great deal of personal service, and there were persons who were giving them their gifts and their service. There was one point about which the Committee was slightly anxious, and that was with regard to the £350 required to complete the payment for the alterations which had been taking place at Taunton Castle. The Committee felt sure that if they could only get members to come to

Taunton and see what had been done to the library and to the library collection they would have but a short period of anxiety with regard to the money required.

Mr. A. E. HUDD, F.S.A., seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.

Finances.

Mr. REGINALD C. BOYLE, Joint Treasurer, in presenting the Annual Statement of Accounts, expressed his appreciation of being elected treasurer of the Society with Mr. Badcock. Many years must roll by before he could approach Mr. Badcock's experience, but till that came he would give the best services that were at his disposal.

Treasurer's Account

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1909.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
By Members' Subscriptions, 1909 (783)	411	1 6	To Balance of former Account	216	9 8
„ Members' Entrance Fees, 1909 (67)	35	3 6	„ Secretarial expenses, Annual Meeting, Wells	7	3 10
„ Members' Subscriptions in Arrear (4)	2	2 0	„ Repairs, Castle and Museum	18	19 10
„ Members' Subscriptions in advance (10)	5	5 0	„ Stationery and Printing ...	6	13 7
„ Annual Donations	3	0 0	„ Fuel and Lighting	28	14 11
„ Donations to the Museum and Library Extension Fund (Diamond Jubilee, 1908) ...	301	5 0	„ Purchase of Museum Specimens	5	16 11
„ Balance of Assist.-Secretary's Account (Annual Meeting, Wells)	2	19 1	„ Purchase of Books	10	16 11
„ Rents	32	1 6	„ Bookbinding	6	17 9
„ Inhabited House Duty (re-fund)	3	1 6	„ Taunton Castle Guide Book (2nd edition)	10	12 9
„ Museum Admission Fees ...	54	2 2	„ Handbook, "Courts Leet" ...	5	2 0
„ Sale of Publications	36	19 11	„ Printing, Binding, Illustrations and Postage, Vol. 54...	130	17 8
„ Somerset Church Towers (Brereton Fund)	0	10 0	„ Proceedings, Vol. 55	1	13 0
„ Library Fees	0	8 6	„ Museum and Library Extension Fund	7	16 11
„ Museum Collection Box ...	0	4 11	„ Iron Safe	10	10 0
	£888	4 7	„ Curator's Salary	150	0 0
			„ Attendant's Wages	18	9 0
			„ Boy's Wages	7	16 3
			„ Temporary Assistance and Night Watchman	4	13 9
			„ Petty Cash	8	5 3
			„ Postal Expenses	12	18 0
			„ Subscriptions to Societies ...	11	4 6
			„ Insurance, including Fire ...	13	4 9
			„ Rates and Taxes	49	7 9
			„ Watermain Wayleave	0	1 0
			„ Balance	143	18 7
				£888	4 7
„ Balance brought down ...	£143	18 7			

H. J. BADCOCK, } Hon.
REGINALD BOYLE, } Treasurers.

Jan. 24th, 1910. Examined and compared with the Vouchers and Pass Book, and found correct.

HOWARD MAYNARD, } Hon. Auditors.
H. BYARD SHEPPARD, }

The Rev. C. H. HEALE moved that the balance sheet be received and adopted. He said it was a satisfactory one and showed that the Society carried on a great deal of work at small expense. Prebendary Hamlet had referred to the deficiency of £350. The Committee acting on the generous support initiated by Mr. Hobhouse, and on the enthusiasm of their Curator, had almost completed the work of alteration to the Castle to make the Museum and Library more useful for their requirements. They had a valuable collection of coins and medals which they hoped to show in one of the new rooms. Members were sometimes placed in a difficulty when they came to the Castle in search of parochial history, and it would be of great advantage to them to have the new Library where provision would be made for quiet study and reading without being disturbed in the Committee Room, which was primarily the Curator's office. They hoped that members who had not yet given to the Museum and Library Extension Fund would speedily wipe out the balance and enable the rooms to be opened to the great advantage of the members.

Mr. E. A. FRY seconded the adoption of the accounts.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Election of Members and Officers.

The Assistant-Secretary, Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY, read the list of eighty-five new members provisionally elected by the Committee since the last meeting, the largest list ever brought before the annual meeting, except at the Diamond Jubilee, when the number was one hundred and eight.

Dr. W. A. HUNT, in proposing the confirmation of the election of the new members, said that he was pleased that Yeovil had contributed one-fifth of the number.

Mr. J. B. PAYNTER seconded, and the resolution was cordially agreed to.

Mr. F. J. FRY proposed the re-election of the officers, with the additions of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte, and Mr. Hugh Norris, as Vice-Presidents; Mr. H. Byard Sheppard as a member of the Committee; and the following as local secretaries: Mr. W. Macmillan, for Castle Cary; Mr. Francis Were, for Gloucestershire; and Mr. J. R. H. Weaver, for Oxford. He was sorry that they could not present each of the officers with a gold torc, such as the one that had been discovered at Yeovil, as no more had been found! If they could not find more torcs he hoped they would pick up sovereigns to add to the improvements at Taunton Museum!

The Rev. Preb. G. E. SMITH said he was glad that the seconding of that resolution had fallen to his hands as he was one of the oldest members of the Society, having been elected in 1868. Not only the size and interest of the last volume of *Proceedings*, and the increased membership, but the general management of the Society and the work the officers did at the extremely busy monthly Committee meetings, showed that they had very efficient officers. He was much interested to hear of the recent developments which had taken place in respect to natural history.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Somerset Record Society.

The PRESIDENT said that the work of the Society had unfortunately fallen into arrears, but he hoped to issue the volume for 1909 in August. This would contain the Mynchin Buckland Cartulary, a hitherto unknown record. The volume for 1910 was a Glastonbury Feodary, whose importance was recognised by Professor Vinogradoff. The volume for 1911 was now settled. It would contain a first instalment of Star Chamber Proceedings, under the care of Miss G. Bradford, who had already edited a similar volume for the Selden

Society. He hoped before long to issue the Quarter Sessions Papers of the Commonwealth Period, and a volume of Episcopal Registers of the XV Century. New subscribers were much wanted; and to judge by the changes in the list, it appeared that the "New World was being called in to redress the balance of the Old."

The Presidential Address.

The Rev. E. H. BATES HARBIN, M.A., then delivered his address. He said :—

This is the third time that the Society has visited Yeovil. The first visit was in 1853, the choice of a meeting place being no doubt helped by the fact that a railway was under construction from Durston. In another respect the town was much nearer to the days of the Heptarchy, as it was still governed by a portreeve who did not give place to the Norman mayor till the autumn of that year. The President was Colonel W. Pinney. He survived long enough to see the Society enter on its Jubilee year, and to remember it in his will. With his legacy as a nest-egg the necessary work of restoring and fitting up the greater part of Taunton Castle, including the Great Hall, for the purpose of Museum and Library, was begun, and is now after twelve years' labour being brought to a successful conclusion.

The next meeting was held in 1886 under the Presidency of the late Mr. John Batten, F.S.A.

As I have already mentioned it was my first meeting as a member of the Society and three incidents in it made a lasting impression on my memory. Bishop E. Hobhouse, "*clarum et venerabile nomen*," supported a motion brought forward by Mr. Green pledging the Society to use all lawful means to save the old buildings of Bishop Fox's School, then in the market and in great danger of destruction. Our intervention was successful, and as the Taunton Municipal Buildings the

school-house was started on a second and I trust an equally long period of use and ornament.

I need hardly say that this latter feature does not suffer from facing the modern public buildings in Corporation Street. In the course of a quarter of a century people have learned that an old building in town or village is a valuable asset, inducing even motor-cars with their occupants to stop and pay for admittance. There are still, however, plenty of opportunities for our members to put in a plea for the preservation of old buildings. Their restoration too often means destruction of every ancient feature; and it is difficult to insinuate in the present state of the law and public artistic feeling that the picturesque appearance of a whole village or a view may be absolutely destroyed by the appalling effort of the local builder "with a roof of slated hideousness."

The second incident was the announcement that the Society's Library was to be made more useful by allowing members to take out the books, and by the printing of a catalogue which was very ably prepared by the then Curator, Mr. W. Bidgood.

Since that date the Library has increased by leaps and bounds and in the re-arrangement of the space in the Castle it has been found possible to allot a room suitable not only for storage of books but also for students. Owing, however, to lack of funds the classes of books dealing with archæology and natural history are very deficient.

The third incident was the Presidential address. The main part of this was devoted to an account of a very early deed bearing upon the history of Yeovil, and the general impression left on my mind, and I hope on others as well, was that the parochial history of the county was yet to be written.

Collinson rightly deserves the praise given to all who first attempt the unknown; but the materials were not available in 1791, when the only public record printed was Domesday and that after the English method (or want of it) without an index. In his Presidential address, as in other papers collected

and issued under the too modest title of "Historical Notes on South-west Somerset," Mr. Batten used the national collection of Archives to present what was practically a new history of those parishes fortunate enough to be included.

In the years since 1886 a perfect Library of books, big and little, dealing with local history has issued from the press, but I venture to think that they all may be divided into two classes according as the authors have been content to take, often very literally, their early history from Collinson, or to work it out again from the materials so amply provided and in a scientific spirit—one class is already useless, the other will be referred to again.

I referred to the materials for local history. These of course vary according to the period of time dealt with. There is the earliest, which, as it comes to an end with the written account, is called the pre-historic period.

Before the arrival of Julius Cæsar there is a mass of materials recording the conditions of civilization in this land which has been barely touched. On the surface are camps and other earth-works, roads and ditches—under the soil are lake villages and burial-places—even a lump of clay may turn out to be the jewel-case of an ancient Briton, as when the labourer's spade last summer revealed the gold torc in a garden in this town, which is now one of the glories of our Museum at Taunton.

Somersetshire has indeed been highly favoured not only in the multitude and variety of pre-historic remains, but also in the knowledge and expert skill which have been brought to their examination. The Rev. F. Warre, Professor Boyd Dawkins, Dr. Bulleid, and Mr. St. George Gray have taught us how to disinter and interpret these remains, for it is perhaps hardly recognized that a record of this nature, though it may have come down unscathed from the earliest days of man upon the earth, can have its message rendered absolutely valueless by injudicious handling.

It is as if the examination of a manuscript or picture could only be accomplished by the destruction of the original. It may have to be done, but only experts should be intrusted with the task.

After all what can we learn of the actual condition of the people whose remains we so diligently examine? The cases full of instruments of war and implements of peace, of pottery and ornaments, tell us very little, and how can we rashly dogmatise when we find it so difficult to agree about the economic and social conditions of a nation, living and flourishing (if I may say so) on the opposing shore of the German Ocean.

The millennium from the arrival of the Romans covers the second period. Written and pictorial history becomes the principal record. Perhaps the fact that some of the chronicles contain a discursive history of mankind from the Creation makes us forgetful that even in treating of their own times and nations they omit very much more than they record. For instance, the Conquest of Mercia by the English is a blank. And, try as we may, there is not sufficient evidence left and available to fill the gaps. The general outline of the puzzle is visible, but so many pieces are missing that the remainder will not form the picture, and may be fitted in at the top or bottom or on either side according to individual taste. King Arthur and the rise of Glastonbury, and Alfred with Athelney are the two foci of discussion, but in proportion as facts are weak convictions are apt to be strong.

From the date of the Domesday survey the historian finds himself in a different position, and after the accession of Henry II each reign seems to contribute an additional class of records. In the early part of the last century the condition of the public records had become very serious, until the unwearied exertions of Lord Langdale, Master of the Rolls, had provided a proper home and custodians in Chancery Lane. He had the greatest difficulty in preventing the ministry of

the day from packing the records up under the roofs of the new Houses of Parliament, and the obstacles in the way of research may be illustrated from the fact that owing to a rule requiring the copying of the whole of a document, a fee of £145 has been demanded for an extract of two lines from the original.¹ The Public Records are now safely housed and accessible to students in London, but it is only of late years that a determined effort has been made to produce Calendars of the more important documents. Since Sir Henry C. Maxwell Lyte became Deputy-Keeper in 1887 much has been done by means of printed Calendars and indexes to render their contents generally available; and in inviting him to be a Vice-President of our Society your Committee desired to express their sense of the great obligations which all antiquaries and students owe to his work at the P.R.O.

This work has been supplemented, nay anticipated (after the English manner), by private societies. I may mention the Pipe Roll Society, whose aim is to print all public records previous to 1199; the Selden Society, of whose volumes it is sufficient to say that many were edited by Miss Bateson and Professor Maitland. There are also many local societies, among which (though I may seem therein to magnify my office) the work of the Somerset Record Society has received praise from well qualified critics and students. Its work extending not only to national but also to local records and documents in private hands, provides a link with a very important subject. I refer to the custody, preservation and printing of Local Records now existing within the County.

How important this subject has become will be understood by the study of such works as the books on Local Government now being drawn up by Mr. and Mrs. S. Webb, or Thorold Rogers' "Six Centuries of Work and Wages."

The subject has been exhaustively dealt with by the 'Local Records' Committee, who presented a most valuable report to

1. "Memoirs of Lord Langdale," ii, 147; Quarterly Review, vol. 130, p. 380.

Parliament in 1902.¹ The information gathered together showed that Local Records were voluminous in quantity, of great value, and speaking generally, very badly housed and inaccessible to students. One of the recommendations of the Committee was that each County and Borough should singly or in groups establish a Local Records Office where the documents could be safely housed, repaired, and arranged, and students encouraged to make researches. To this point Somersetshire has advanced as far as any. Thanks to the enlightened generosity of the County Council, the records, dating back to 1600, have been cleaned and arranged in dry and safe basement rooms at the Shire Hall, Taunton. And two volumes of Quarter Sessions Papers dealing with the reigns of the first James and Charles have already been issued. But, unfortunately, there are no proper means of accommodation or supervision, and therefore no students. Further, the Shire Hall is for County Records only.

It is with the view of saving books and papers relating to parish and manor that your Committee in the restoration of Taunton Castle have provided a fire-and-burglar-proof strong-room as well as a safe. They wish it to be widely known that they are now prepared to take charge of such records as Churchwardens' Accounts, Parish Registers, Court Rolls, early Title Deeds, Waywardens' Books, Rate Books, Vestry Minute Books, and similar documents. The particular item of Parish Registers may, ought to receive careful attention. They are by far the most important class of parochial records now in existence; and the strong boxes provided under the act of 1812 are in most parishes now filled to overflowing, while unfortunately there is great difficulty in finding the funds for providing proper safes. I do earnestly trust that no undue difficulties will be placed in the way of any incumbent wishing to deposit the older books in his charge in the strong room at the Castle.

1. Report and Appendices, 1902, Cd. 1333, 1335.

After all, these precious documents are but the raw material, even when they have been printed and edited, for the composition of history. Lord Langdale used to say that when he had arranged the facts of the case in chronological order his brief gave him little further trouble. It is certainly true that the provision of so much material (I use the word in its widest sense) will automatically clear away a good deal of rubbish commonly received as history. At the time of the Alfred millenary a critic remarked of the story that the future king had probably received his training in diplomacy at the Roman Court, that at the date given he was a little boy in the nursery probably only distinguished (if that is the right word) for greediness at meal times. Strict attention to chronology makes havoc with pedigrees and generally received parochial history.

But this will not carry us very far. There is a tradition of the late J. S. Mill that he once defended the severe tone of a critical letter on the ground that "we ought to correct error wherever we find it." It is not surprising that his generation looked coldly on the philosopher, who might have dreaded the fate of Socrates. However error must be got rid of. Let us rather recall a custom of the middle ages, and picture to ourselves a wandering archæological student placing on the outer door of Taunton Castle a paper of propositions which he is prepared to defend against all comers. They would probably begin with some general statements: *e.g.*—There is no evidence to connect a cross-legged effigy with the crusades; and indeed the theory is almost unseemly. That our forefathers were not in the habit of making underground passages from one house to another, but like true Englishmen met their friends and enemies in the open. That to refer to a 'bar sinister' on a shield is not a mark of reproach except to the person asserting it as convicting him of gross ignorance of heraldry.¹ That the existence of a Tudor doorway or window in a building does not necessarily imply that it was ever an

1. This blunder will be found in the Cambridge Modern History, V., 225.

abode of a religious body, whose existence should be tested by search in the records of the diocese.

The student may then like to come to closer grips ; and remembering where he is, assert that the tower of St. Mary Magdalene owes nothing either in suggestion or design to Henry VII or Reginald de Bray, as there is plenty of evidence that it was partly built before the West of England saw the royal progress. That the castle of Somerton in this county was not the scene of the captivity of King John of France after Poitiers, but another castle bearing the same name in the parish of Boothby Graffoe in Lincolnshire.¹

And, not to enumerate a list which might extend to the number of Luther's propositions at Wittenberg, the scholar may conclude by asserting that there is not the smallest evidence that the family of Doone with their crimes and enormities ever had any real existence on Exmoor or elsewhere. Here indeed on the one side the facts being simply non-existent, on the other the convictions are very strong, and, if one may say so, pugnacious.

Leaving the student outside the gate, I consider that the Doone legend does deserve a stricter historical enquiry than it has yet received.² On the face of it the story is perfectly probable. Small companies of marauders have been known in most counties down to comparatively recent dates. One such company existing on Dartmoor down to 1640 is recorded by Fuller in his "*Worthies of England*" under the name of Gubbins, who were made good use of by Canon Kingsley in *Westward Ho !* Collinson in his account of Selwood Forest refers to a desperate clan of banditti who within the memory of man—he wrote in 1791—made it their asylum. But with regard to the legend of the Doones on Exmoor, neither he nor any other writer refers to such a tradition. No piece of historical evidence has ever been produced to show that the band

1. *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, Vol. XLVI (1890).

2. See "*The Doones of Exmoor*," by E. J. Rawle, 2nd edit, 1903.

existed ; though their long continued misdeeds were of a nature to produce a whole library of penny chap-books—such as formed the reading of country people in the XVII and XVIII Centuries. “*Lorna Doone*” is a magnificent story, but the efforts to give it a basis of fact provide painful reading for those who desire the progress of historical studies. I am reminded of the words of the late Bishop Creighton drawn forth on another subject. “The perpetual difficulty . . . is that each individual Englishman is profoundly convinced that he is right . . . having arrived at this conclusion, he picks up any statement which enables him to express himself forcibly, and I believe he calls this an argument.”

At present, and for some years to come, this collecting of materials, the task of weeding out the erroneous and fanciful, the process of selecting and piecing together the many items that make up parochial and personal history, should be considered as preparing the way for the issue of a county history worthy of the name.

Our Society set this object before them from the very commencement. However, from the causes I have indicated above, the principal result so far has been the growth of a spirit of enquiry and the general spread of an archæological interest.

What, however, has become impossible for an individual, either the incumbent of a country parish—as were Collinson and Hutchins—or the enthusiastic Squire of leisure and means, the type of whom was Surtees of Mainsforth, who spent his life in writing the “*History of Durham*,” has now been attempted by the modern plan of co-operation. The scheme of the Victoria County Histories is to be carried out by a combination of workers in each county with a central staff in London. This magnificent scheme, after issuing one or more volumes dealing with thirty-two counties in England, has been in serious danger of collapsing from lack of subscribers and capital. It has been suggested that the government should provide some funds for this purpose, but you will

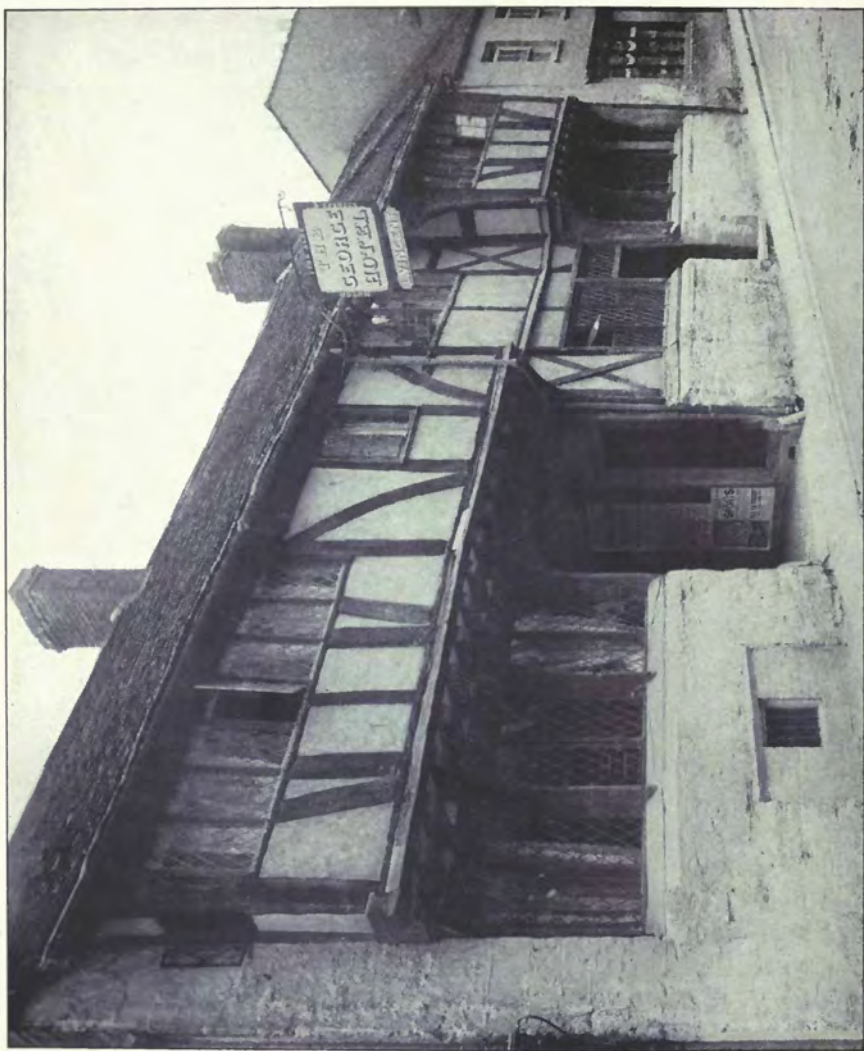
probably remember the result of an application to purchase the Hunterian Museum. William Pitt listened to the deputation and then said "Twenty thousand pounds for anatomical preparations when I have not got enough money for gun powder!" Gentlemen, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's answer is always the same, "that he wants his money for gun powder." However the financial strain has been relieved by the generosity of some private individuals who have guaranteed the cost of ten counties. Although Somersetshire has not been fortunate enough so far to obtain a similar guarantee, Vol. II (Vol. I was issued in 1906) is so far advanced that it may be published in the autumn of this year. The whole of the general articles will then be available; but the issue of the four volumes dealing with the parochial history must depend upon the support received from the county. Collinson's history, issued in 1791 in three volumes at three guineas, had a subscription list of 800 copies, and it now fetches eight guineas in the open market. The Victoria History will consist of six volumes at nine guineas, and in every respect there can be no comparison between the two works.

I appeal to all members of our Society and to the county generally for such support as may enable this work to be carried on without further delay. Its production would provide a solid and truthful basis for everyone who wishes to learn something about his own village or town. Let me conclude with a quotation from one of the greatest of our English historians, J. R. Green: "There is no better corrective [for many false views of the past] than to set a man frankly in the streets of a simple English town or village and to bid him work out the history of the men who have lived and died there. The mill by the stream, the tolls in the market place, the brasses in the Church, the names of the streets, the lingering memories of the guilds, the mace of the mayor, tell us more of the past of England than even the spire of Sarum and the martyrdom of Canterbury."

Sir EDWARD FRY proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his instructive and humorous address. He was a man who deserved well of antiquaries and especially of the members of that Society. He had told them it was twenty-five years since he joined the Society and that he had attended twenty-one annual meetings. He (Sir Edward) was afraid that record would put many of them to the blush. He had been the life and soul of the Somerset Record Society and had rendered valuable service from time to time to the Record Committee of the County Council. He (the speaker) had the honour to be the chairman of that small committee and could testify to the valuable assistance rendered by Mr. Bates Harbin. Sir Edward said that the President had called attention to many of the sources from which English History was derived and he would call their attention to the Historical MSS. Commission, which received from time to time for inspection, manuscripts in private care. If there were members of the Society having manuscripts in their possession which were likely to be of use in elucidating the history of the country, the Commission would examine them. He mentioned this as an addition to the sources of information referred to by the President.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE in seconding the resolution said that their President had selected the subject he thought he would choose, and had brought a great amount of originality to bear upon it. He was afraid that he was somewhat of an iconoclast, and that a good many would sympathise with him in having to look upon "Lorna Doone" as a myth as well as "Jack the Giant Killer" and other friends of their childhood. They must realise that there was a good deal of tradition, and they must also realise that there was something in tradition. The work done with regard to the early history of the county by Mr. Gray, Dr. Bulleid, Mr. Bond and others, was a most important addition to the history of the country.

The PRESIDENT said he was much obliged to Sir Edward



Photograph, Montague Cooper, Taunton.

Fry and Mr. Somerville for the way they had greeted the Presidential address and for the kindness of the members in listening.

Church of St. John Baptist, Yeovil.

After luncheon at the Three Choughs Hotel the members paid a visit to Yeovil Parish Church. Here the Vicar (the Rev. Preb. James Phelips) received the Society and exhibited the XVI Century registers and later account books.

The PRESIDENT gave a description of the Church. He said that before he spoke of the history of the Church, he, on behalf of the Society, congratulated the Vicar and churchwardens upon the successful restoration of the roof, which had been carried out at the expense of several thousands of pounds during the last two or three years. About three years ago owing to decay in the beams there was great risk of the roof coming down on the congregation during service. Now it was finished, and there was no better congratulation than to say that they could not tell that anything had been done at all. Everything had been put back with no discordant features.

He then went on to deal with the history of the Church, drawing attention to the fact that it was a building, as a whole, of one design, and finished at one date; and it was a pleasing thing to come to a church and see how the building was when it left the architect's hands. It gave an excellent idea of a parish church of the XIV Century, and, as Mr. Freeman¹ said, there was a sense of great beauty in the building when looked at as a harmonious whole, and it was the true work of a genius, as Cologne itself. Another point was the result which had been obtained by the use of local stone. When the sun shone out the colouring was quite as effective as if every window were filled with stained glass. The style was that of the latest English architecture—Perpendicular.

1. *Proceedings*, III, ii, 28.

As to the date when it was built there had been more than one theory. At one time it was attributed to the nuns of Sion, who became the patrons of the Church and rectors about 1420. Mr. John Batten said that there was no evidence in their accounts of their having contributed a halfpenny to Yeovil Church, and if there was nothing in their accounts they might well suppose they had nothing to do with it. Another reason was that the style was early and plain. Mr. Batten brought forward the view that it might have been built by the patron and then lord of Hendford manor, Richard, 13th Earl of Arundel, in the time of Edward III, a man of vast wealth, who might have been supposed to be willing to contribute towards it. There was additional proof because the will of Robert de Sambourne in 1382¹ contains a legacy of the residue of his estate "towards the work of the Church until it shall be finished;" so Mr. Batten considered it quite probable that the Earl of Arundel began, and Robert de Sambourne finished the Church. Referring to the original they found two important words left out of the copy supplied to Mr. Batten—"to the work of Yeovil Church begun *by me*." Then the question arose, could Robert de Sambourne have been the builder? It might have seemed a large order for the incumbent of Yeovil to build the Church, but in his day things were different. Robert was rector, not vicar, and held the great tithes which were of great value. He was also a canon of Wells, and was in some mysterious manner lord of Yeovil. There was a certain thing called the "Tenement"—very difficult to explain—by which the rector of the Church had certain manorial powers over the town of Yeovil, and so, being a very rich man as rector, canon of Wells, and lord of the manor of Yeovil, Robert de Sambourne was in a very good position to build the Church. Then for further reasons, they had it in the fact that shortly before Robert de Sambourne came, the Church was the scene of a dreadful

1. *Som. Record Soc.*, XIX, 287.

outrage, when the Bishop was subjected to violent abuse by the inhabitants of Yeovil and other places. They assaulted him and his servants and locked him in the Church to the danger of his life, and much blood was shed. Everyone was excommunicated, and the then owner of Newton was made to do public penance with other ringleaders. Seeing that the Church had been so desecrated Robert de Sambourne might have wished to wipe out the memory of it. They had no idea what the earlier Church was like. The crypt was at one time considered to be part of an older Church, but he had always felt some doubt of this because the stone-work outside was exactly similar to the stone-work of the rest of the Church. He had taken Mr. Bond down, who said that the details, although early and plain, were certainly XIV Century and not XIII Century, and this was the time Robert de Sambourne left money towards the building of the Church. The earlier Church might have been a Norman Church, too small for the population and in great decay, and that was why de Sambourne wished to build. There was another reason. The Perpendicular style had its rise at Gloucester. The Abbey had received the body of Edward II when several other abbeys had refused to have anything to do with it. Edward II became a martyr, and people—particularly in the West of England—began to make pilgrimages to his shrine. The monks of Gloucester became rich and being able to rebuild their Church they developed a new style of architecture.

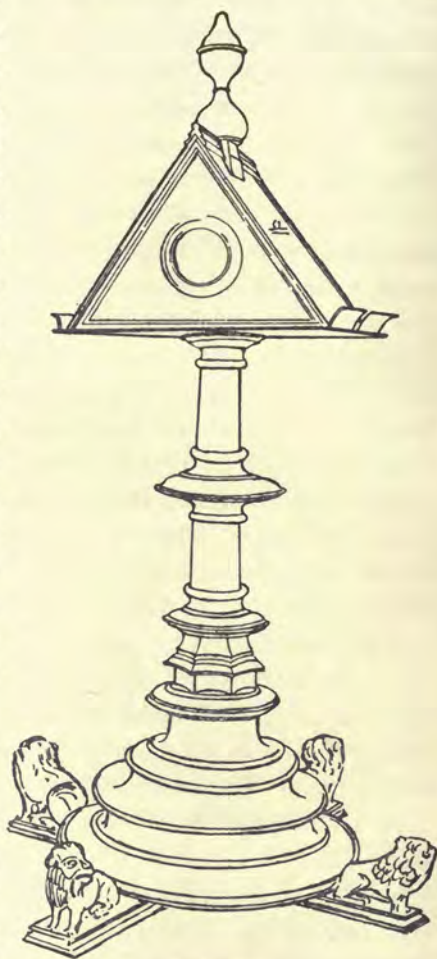
As regards the new designs in window tracery, this was probably due to the growth of the stained glass art in England.¹ Stained glass design had become a series of large beautiful pictures, and the Decorated style of architecture was against the growth of the art. The windows were filled with tracteries going in all directions, in which it was difficult to do anything with picture glass. Windows were wanted to show it to the

1. F. Bond, "*Gothic Architecture in England*," chap. xxxiv; E. S. Prior, "*History of Gothic Art in England*," ch. x.

best effect ; hence the rapid spread of the new style. The spaces where tracery had been were reduced and great spaces left for the coloured glass. The style spread rapidly from Gloucester, and it seems likely that Yeovil Church owed its genesis to the martyrdom of Edward II. There was one point with regard to the windows; they were very plain, but there was a wonderful richness in the windows at the end of the aisles, at the east and west ends of the nave, and in the transepts, they having more tracery in the heads. The uniformity was broken just enough to introduce interest. The mere fact that the architecture of the Church was in one style made it unnecessary to say more about it, and he would rather they looked round it.

As regarded the fittings of the Church there was not much to be said, but what was there, was interesting. First of all there was the magnificent lectern which was of the

XV Century, and bore some lines apparently recording the praises of the brother, canon or monk, who gave it. Many



LECTERN,
CHURCH OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST, YEOVIL.

latinists had tried to read it, but none had been very successful. It was a most magnificent lectern. (*See accompanying illustration*).

Preb. Phelps here handed the President a free translation of the inscription, prepared by Dr. Hunt, as follows :

"As here you see my lectern
May your prayer ever be this
That Brother Martin fforestor
May wake in Heavenly bliss."¹

Continuing, the President said the font was a very good Perpendicular specimen, but had been the subject of considerable restoration. There were practically no tombs left of the many burgesses of the town. There was one brass to Giles Penne and his wife, which bore the date, 1519.² There was a smaller brass at the western end of the south aisle to Thomas Hawker, of Vagg, who died of smallpox in 1696.

There was one other thing ; the two corbel-heads at the entrance to the chancel—a king's head on one side and a queen's on the other, which were supposed to have borne the beam on which rested the Lenten Veil. They were not very often found, but examples might be seen at Yeovilton and Wyke, near Weymouth.

Dr. F. J. ALLEN, who had made such a close study of Somerset Church towers, sent the following note :—"This is a peculiar tower, and I have not found another of a similar type in the neighbourhood. The tower which most resembles this is in North Somerset at Chew Magna. I mean to make a further examination of the Yeovil tower before I say definitely that the resemblance is accidental or intentional." The small iron crucifix on the top of the tower had apparently been there many years, and marked the Church, the President believed, as belonging to the nuns of Sion.

1. Illustrations of this lectern with translation of the inscription in *Som. and Dor. N. and Q.*, IX, art. 46.

2. Illustrations and description in *Som. and Dor. N. and Q.*, IX, art. 69 ; "Historical Notes on S. Somerset," p. 179. For other items see *Western Chron. Hist. Ser.*, No. 4, "Ancient Yeovil Chapelries," by J. Batten.

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND said that he had hitherto been unfamiliar with the history of the Church, and his remarks would deal with the architecture. On seeing the crypt he was at first inclined to the usual view, that it was Early English, but on looking closely at the mouldings of the corbel-caps it was evident that they were of the XIV Century. The plain vaulting-ribs, with their broad chamfer, would also be quite as characteristic of the later period. The doorway at the top of the crypt stairs was unmistakably of the Decorated period, recalling Abbot Knowle's work at Bristol Cathedral (c. 1330). But on coming to the Church itself there was noticeable an extraordinary departure in style. It was an abrupt transition to the Perpendicular style in its most rigorous form. Yet there were no grounds for assuming any substantial difference in date between the two types of work. Probably it was an instance of that change of fashion of which Gloucester provided the classic example. The Perpendicular style, which Professor Willis considered to have been invented at Gloucester, first made its appearance there about the year 1329, when the building of the south aisle was begun in that style. The magnificent choir soon followed, and the work became a model for English builders. The new style was promptly taken up in other districts, and we had several instances in the West of England. Edington, Wilts, and Wellow, Somerset, were dated examples. Bridport Church, rebuilt, according to the records, in the middle of the XIV Century, was also a Perpendicular building. There was therefore nothing unwarrantable in supposing that this beautiful example of Perpendicular work at Yeovil, austere as it was and fully developed with its slender piers and large windows, was a work of the middle of the XIV Century. The mouldings presented no difficulty. They were mostly of the later style, but here and there, as in the inner doorway of the porch, members of a distinctively Decorated character were to be seen.

The corbel-heads on the sanctuary walls were curious, being

heads of secular persons. Usually these were angel figures, and were designed to support a beam for the Lenten Veil. Members would probably recall some examples they had seen in Mendip churches on their former expeditions.

Nash.

Later in the afternoon the party drove to Nash where they were met by Mr. G. Troyte Chafyn-Grove, F.S.A., the owner, and Captain and Mrs. A. E. Welby, the occupiers of the building. Mr. J. Batten had investigated the early history of the building, and his conclusion was that the student "wisely rejecting the many tales and traditions which will be volunteered to him, and preferring to judge for himself; he will, with a little knowledge of architecture, come to the conclusion that the building is the shell of an old mansion of the Tudor period, which has undergone such alterations and embellishments that it is difficult to distinguish the original work from the restorations. At present it is a long parallelogram of three compartments united as one dwelling-house, but so late as 1853, when the Society visited Nash, the centre section was a mere out-building, only one storey high, with a pointed archway in the eastern wall on the ground floor leading into the western compartment; but it has recently been made part of the house, with chambers over."¹ (See illustration, *Proc.*, XVII, 89).

Mr. TROYTE CHAFYN-GROVE gave the following description:—The western end of the building was of early XIV Century date and contained an ancient dormitory with an open-timbered roof, which he was afraid was rather inaccessible, and windows on a level with the floor closed with the original oak shutters, similar to those at Charney Bassett, Berks, and of the same date.² On the floor below were the remains of a refectory. Prominent features were two lofty external but-

1. "Historical Notes on South Somerset," p. 174.

2. Turner's "Domestic Architecture in England" (Parker, Oxford, 1851), p. 153.

tresses supporting the west end, and a rich square-headed window with corbelled heads and ogee tracery. The refectory was spoiled and the south wall destroyed by a former possessor to widen it and make a dining-room; the windows were modernised and replaced in the positions of the old ones. The eastern portion of the building consisted of a fine gate-house with a pointed arch, ten feet wide, with bold mouldings and corbels, now defaced. The ancient oak door remained *in situ* with the head panelled with quatrefoils and four escutcheons, and having four enormous iron hinges extending across the whole width of the door. The panelling had the Beauchamp knot upon it and he had since ascertained that the knot was the crest of the family of that name, who were allied to the Courtenays. That marked the date of the door, and the corbels on the hood-mould were of the same date—Henry IV. Above the arch is a two-light oriel window to which modern crocketed pinnacles had been attached. The lower part was fashioned into a double corbel of fan-shaped tracery terminating in a floriated ornament which died into the moulding of the arch, showing that they were built at the same time. Opposite this entrance in the south wall was another lofty panelled arch which formed the passage through the gate-house, the west wall of which was now destroyed. In the eastern wall was the fine two-light XV Century window of the Chapel. This window was blocked up and he opened it. The corbels supporting the hood-mould were interesting. No one seemed to know who they represented, so he had casts made and they were sent to London and identified by the Society of Antiquaries as Henry IV and Joan of Navarre, as they were similar to the heads on their tomb in Canterbury Cathedral. What Henry IV had to do with the building he did not know. On the apex of the gable was a good octagonal chimney with panels fitted with quatrefoils. They also found a fine stone altar which was removed some few years ago at the request of the Bishop to prevent desecration and was now used in East

Coker Church as a credence table. The corbels to the hood-moulds of the south windows were of the same period as those on the Chapel windows. As the building was at that time the property of Sir Peter Courtenay it was probable that he was the builder of the eastern portion. A fragment of the rood-screen and the remains of a crucifix, with an image of the Virgin and Child on the reverse, were found under the Chapel floor and were now in the Taunton Museum, together with two large oak doors covered with scriptural subjects in high relief.

The members were afterwards taken through the house by Capt. and Mrs. Welby, who were cordially thanked for their kindness.

Barwick Church.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Barwick, was next visited, and in a description the PRESIDENT said that this Church might be called a good specimen of the "puzzle churches," as it contained a large number of architectural features, several of which had not been explained to that day.

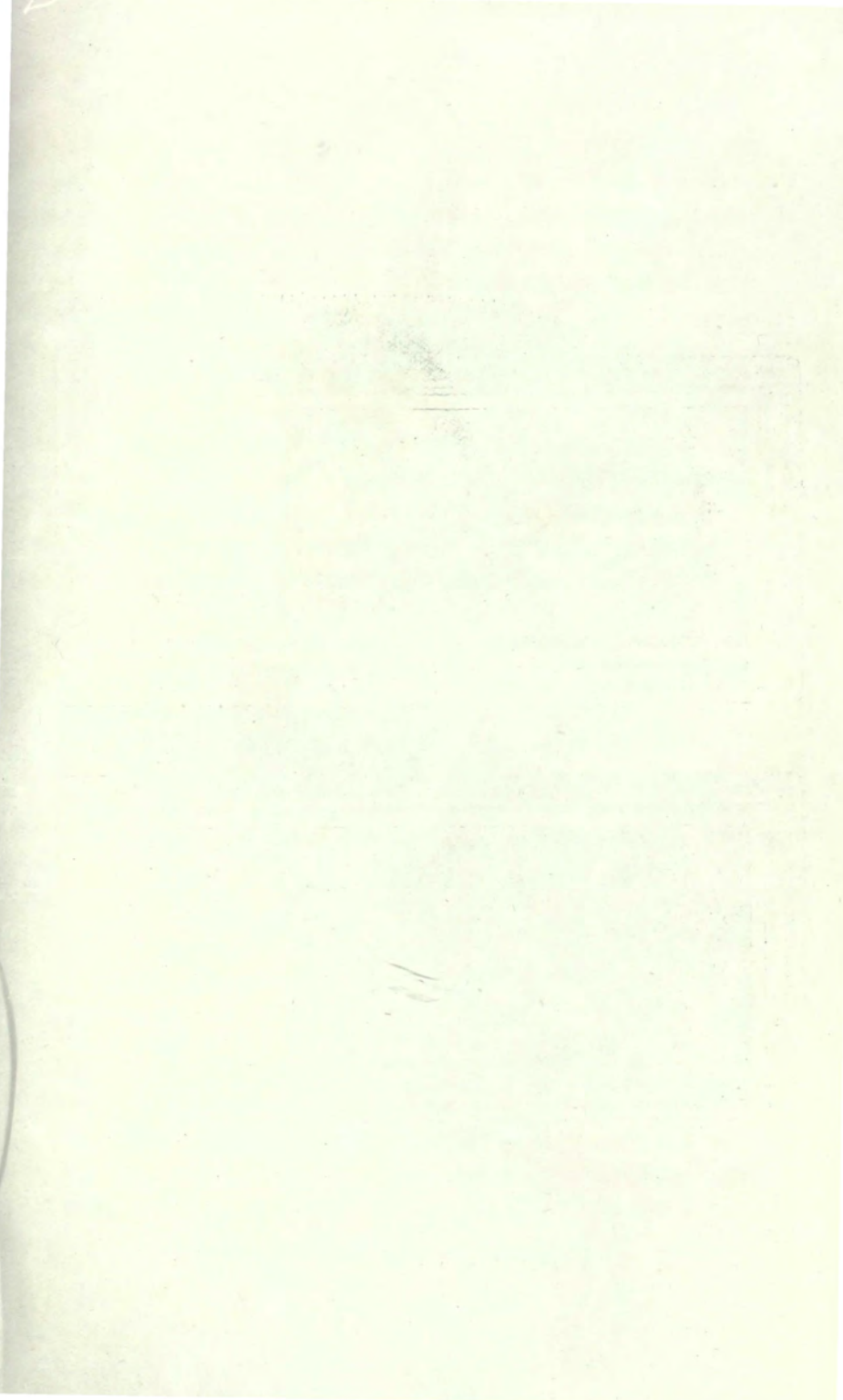
Of the Norman period the font was the only existing memorial, but Mr. Bond and he were inclined to think that the capitals of the south arcade may have been primitive Norman shaped to bring them into line with details of a later date. The tower, as was often the case in South Somerset before the XV Century, was not at the west end, but in the angle between the north aisle and the chancel. When the chancel was rebuilt in that century, the string-course in the tower wall was left and this gave the original height of the chancel. In the drastic restoration of the building in 1885, the chancel was taken down and rebuilt quite unnecessarily at a higher level. One of the jambs of the door leading from the tower (now used as a vestry) into the chancel was cut out from a sepulchral slab bearing an incised cross of the XIII Century. When the north aisle was added to the nave in the XV

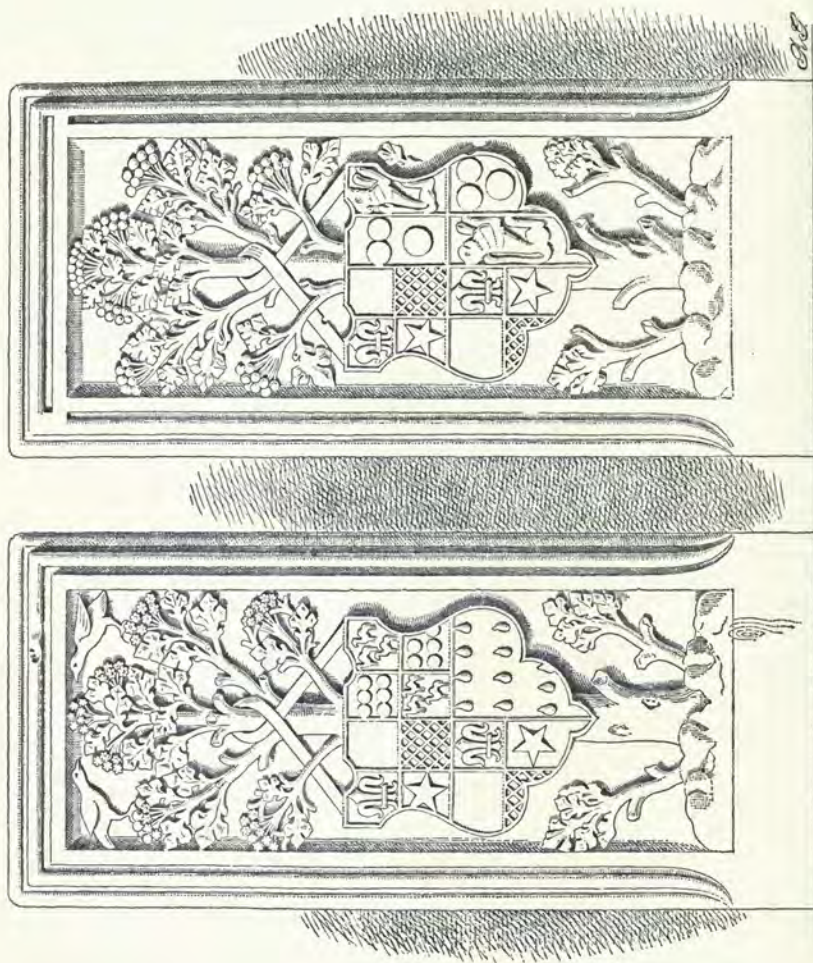
Century, the staircase in the wall giving access to the rood-loft was partially destroyed to allow room for the easternmost arch of the arcade. The great puzzle is to account for the level of the south aisle. This is quite 2ft. below the nave, and as the bases of the piers of the south arcade are visible above the floor, it is evident that the main level of the Church has not been altered. On the south side the churchyard slopes downward very rapidly, terminating abruptly on the edge of a cliff; and after surveying the ground, Mr. Bond thought it quite possible that there might have been a landslip which necessitated the rebuilding of the south aisle on a lower level.

On this question, Mr. F. BLIGH BOND supplemented the President's remarks, saying that the south aisle floor had been raised, and its true level was a foot or more below the present level. A study of this aisle gave the impression of its being hastily and very cheaply built, perhaps to meet some sudden emergency. The piers of the south arcade looked like plain XII Century piers with their caps chopped away to accord with the later type. In this connection it might be worth while to recall the fact that the bailiff's account of the Abbess of Syon, 4 Hen. VII, contains an item of 40s. "*ex elimos*, to be given to the parishioners of Berewyk, in part relief of the cost and expenses of the sd parish in building sd chapel." It had been supposed that this entry referred to the north aisle, but he questioned whether it might not with more probability be connected with the cheaply built south aisle, which might, moreover, be described as a "chapel" seeing that there were traces of an altar at the east end, the piscina still remaining in the south wall. It was clear that the nave floor had been at a higher level than that of the south aisle, and the chapel would probably have been screened off.

In answer to the question whether the south wall contained Norman masonry, Mr. Bond said it appeared to be entirely of late date.

The PRESIDENT then continued his description of the





BENCH-ENDS, BARWICK CHURCH, SOMERSET.

Church, as follows : There are several consecration crosses on the walls and buttresses. The south porch is at present desecrated with the heating apparatus. In the interior the most noticeable feature, besides the roof of the north aisle, is the quantity of good bench-ends and backs in the body of the Church and chancel. On one is carved the date 1533, on another the initials W.H., probably those of William Hoper, patron in 1521. Two other bench-ends, now used as choir-stalls, have shields bearing the arms of Rogers of Bryanston, owner of the Manor of Barwick. One shield records the marriage of Sir John Rogers (ob. 1546) and his first wife Elizabeth Courtenay (ob. 1518); the other, his son, also Sir John (nat. 1508, ob. 1565), and his wife Katherine Weston. They are illustrated in the accompanying plate. (See also *Som. and Dors. N. and Q.*, VIII, p. 338). The bench-ends in the nave are carved with arabesques and strange birds and animals. On one is a man shooting with a bow at birds in a tree; on another a man standing on an hour-glass salt-cellar (*see* Cripps, O.E.P., 5th edit., 284). The pulpit is Jacobean; it bears the date 1619 and E. M. rect., Eustace Moore incumbent, 1605-1629.¹

A pleasant drive from Barwick brought the members to

Newton Surmaville,

the residence of the President, who with Mrs. Bates Harbin, entertained the party to tea; afterwards they were photographed in front of the house. The President said that he hoped to contribute a paper on the history of the house and manor to the *Proceedings*, and would therefore content himself with telling them that the date of the house was 1612, and that the most noticeable feature of the architectural design was the extraordinary symmetry of the north and east (or garden) fronts. Mr. A. J. Gotch, whose books on the domestic build-

1. For illustration and further details of this building see "Historical Notes on South Somerset," p. 13 *seq.*

ings of the Tudor and later styles were well known, had said that he had never come across a similar design. With the exception of an extension of the east wing erected in 1875 the exterior of the house was unaltered ; and inside the only additions had been made with a view of bringing the accommodation up to date, a process in which there is no finality.

The Rt. Hon. H. HOBHOUSE said he had been asked to express their gratitude for the kind hospitality that the President and Mrs. Bates Harbin had shown them. It was a great pleasure to those who remembered him as an active secretary of that Society to meet him there in another capacity and in another home. No one could be a more worthy President, and no one had served a longer apprenticeship ; he was one who had done so much for the history and archæology of their county. It was a great source of satisfaction for them to be able to meet him there in the home of his forefathers, which formed a most proper dwelling-place for an eminent archæologist.

The President having thanked Mr. Hobhouse for his kind words, the interior of the house with its interesting contents was then inspected.

Evening Meeting.

After the Annual Dinner at the Three Choughs Hotel, the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin presiding, a meeting was held at the Town Hall for the reading and discussion of papers.

Meare Lake-village.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. ARTHUR BULLEID, F.S.A., and Mr. H. St. GEORGE GRAY, *Joint Directors and Secretaries of the Meare Lake-village Excavations*. They described the work conducted at the Lake-village during the four weeks beginning on May 23, 1910 (one week being devoted to filling-in), Mr. Bulleid dealing with the structural items of interest, and Mr. Gray with the antiquities discovered.

It will be unnecessary to enter into any great detail in this place, as the work already completed at Meare has been described in :—

- (1.) *The Times*, Aug. 15th, 1908, by Dr. R. Munro.
- (2.) *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LIV, i, 40-42, by Mr. Bulleid.
- (3.) *British Association Report*, 1908, pp. 414-419, by Messrs. Bulleid and Gray.
- (4.) *The Times*, May 21st and Sept. 7th, 1910, by Mr. Gray.
- (5.) *British Association Report*, 1910, by Messrs. Bulleid and Gray.

The results of the tentative explorations in 1908 of the Lake-village were of so important and encouraging a nature that the matter was at once taken up by the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.¹

The north-central part of Somerset lies between two nearly parallel ranges of hills, the Mendips bordering it along the north-east, with the Quantocks to the south-west. The district so enclosed has a coast-line of some eighteen to twenty miles, and extends inland for the same distance. It is chiefly occupied by low-lying tracts of peat land drained by the rivers Parret and Brue. Some time during its geological history this locality was a shallow basin-shaped estuary open to the Severn Sea. At a later date the southern or inland portion was shut off from the sea by the formation of beds of mud and sand, and converted into a lagoon, which in more recent times was gradually replaced by a series of extensive meres and swamp. In A.D. 1500, five meres still existed, the largest body of water, called "Meare Pool," being at that time five miles in circumference.

The Lake-village at Meare lies three miles west of the now fully-explored Glastonbury Lake-village, in the peat moor

1. The Society's sub-Committee consists of the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, Rev. W. T. Reeder, Mr. Charles Tite, Mr. John Morland (*Treasurer*, Glastonbury), and Messrs. Arthur Bulleid and H. St. George Gray (*Joint Secretaries*).

adjoining the north margin of a low ridge of ground, formerly an island, on which the modern village of Meare now stands, and from 400 to 600 feet south of the River Brue. Before the Brue was embanked, and the draining of the swamps had been attempted in monastic times, Meare Pool was of far greater extent, and included the Lake-village within the limits of its south-west border. The Lake-village now stands in fertile pasture, the level of the surrounding fields being from twelve to fourteen feet above the mean tide level, and is situated eleven miles south-east from the present coast-line at Burnham. The ancient site consists of two distinct groups of low circular mounds, A and B, separated by a level piece of ground from 200 to 300 feet in width. So far as a superficial survey permits, the two settlements appear to consist of about a hundred dwellings covering parts of seven fields (not five as formerly stated), and occupying a tract of land that measures roughly from 1,500 to 1,600 feet east and west, by from 200 to 250 feet north and south. The highest mound measures 4·4 feet above the surface of the surrounding field-level. The alluvium covering the adjoining fields varies from twelve to thirty inches in depth. From borings made this year it was ascertained that the depth of peat underlying the dwellings varies from seven to eleven feet in thickness. Below the peat is a layer of soft grey-coloured clay, lying on beds of lias stone. The recent excavations included the examination of three dwellings, *i.e.*, Mounds I, II, VI, the partial exploration of Mound VII, and the west quarter of Mound V, together with the intervening spaces of level ground situated in Field iv; also the digging of several trenches on the north and south sides of the marginal mounds in Field iv, with the object of finding the palisading. Although the ground was examined for some 100ft. or more from the dwellings, no border-protection was discovered comparable with that which surrounded the Glastonbury Lake-village.

The season's work at Meare Lake-village has been produc-

tive of a large number of relics, the quarter of an acre examined throwing a flood of light on the industries and daily pursuits of the inhabitants of this ancient habitation, and revealing more specimens of Late-Celtic art than perhaps the richest quarter of an acre of the neighbouring village at Glastonbury. These remains have afforded evidence that the lake-dwellers at Meare lived under similar physical conditions and civilisation to those of Glastonbury; and although the relics discovered at Meare in 1910 are of the same general type as those found in the other village, several of the objects cannot be matched among the Late-Celtic specimens exhibited in the Museum at Glastonbury.

The Meare Lake-village is not what is sometimes styled an "archæological puzzle," for its date, or period at any rate, was known from the beginning of the investigations. After a few years' work, however, the date may be even more clearly defined than in the case of the Glastonbury village, which in round numbers may be given as from B.C. 200. Some antiquaries are strongly inclined to narrow the period of occupation, as no development or improvement in the manufactured articles is traceable when comparing objects found on the lowest floors of the dwellings and in the substructure below, with others from the upper floors and from just below the alluvial flood-soil, which has accumulated since the evacuation of the village. At Glastonbury a few fragments of Roman pottery were found on the surface of the mounds but below the flood-soil; as yet nothing attributable to the Romans has been found at Meare.

Numerically the objects of bronze are considerably in excess of those of iron, as was the case at Glastonbury also. Lead from the Mendip Hills is found at Meare in the form of sinkers for fishing-nets, but as yet tin has not been identified. Bronze was worked on the spot, judging from the remains of four crucibles found, one being an excellent example of the triangular variety with fused bronze still adhering to the inner surface.

The peaceful disposition of the lake-dwellers at Glastonbury was evidenced by the very small number of weapons found. At Meare, however, the ground uncovered has so far produced a tanged spear-head and a javelin-head with corrugated blade, neither of which are socketed.

An amber bead was found in 1908, but glass is revealing itself more plentifully than at Glastonbury.

None of the objects of Kimmeridge shale are complete. With the exception of a piece of a shale vessel with cordon, all the fragments are parts of armlets of various diameters and thickness.

Little can be said of the earthenware until the large quantity found has been restored. All sizes of vessels are represented, from a tiny pot about 1½ ins. high to others over 12 ins. The ornamental patterns—curvilinear designs, cross-hatching, dots-and-circles and zigzags predominating—are numerous, and include many which cannot be matched from the neighbouring village.

Of stone, the objects found are also numerous, and include a large number of querns, and a polished neolithic celt of igneous stone (probably from Mendip).

Of human remains, portions of three skulls and a molar tooth were found in different places, and the greater part of a thigh-bone (*femur*), bearing evidence not only of having been gnawed and cut, but of having been perforated in two places at one end.

The most numerous classes of objects found were the worked animal remains—bone, antler, teeth—the latter consisting of perforated canine teeth of dog and boars' tusks. Worked shoulder-blades of ox and horse are numerous. Sawn and polished tines of red-deer antler are common, and call for no particular comment; several are perforated.

The largest dwelling-mound excavated was undoubtedly a weaving establishment, and produced no less than twenty-one weaving-combs of antler. Many of them bear evidence of

very hard wear, being used, no doubt, for pushing home the weft or woof, through the warp threads. One is probably unique, dentated at both ends and reversible. No dwelling in the neighbouring village produced more than nine of these combs.

It is hoped that the excavations will be continued from year to year, until an exhaustive examination of the whole area has been completed. The undertaking is already bearing a varied and prolific harvest of archæological material, and revealing remarkable evidence of the life-history and civilisation of the Early Iron Age in Britain.

The PRESIDENT said that the meeting would wish him to express their best thanks to Mr. Bulleid and Mr. Gray for the first fruits of the harvest from these excavations. It was extraordinary how their knowledge was being enlarged by archæological excavations—whether in England, or in Egypt, or in Crete and Babylonia. How very little written history told them of what they were now learning by degrees from excavations. Whether the results of field-archæology were telling the whole truth one could not decide, but their knowledge was being largely widened by what was being done by the spade, trowel and brains.

Elton Ware.

Sir EDMUND H. ELTON, Bart., V.P., followed with an interesting and amusing address on his “Elton Ware,” illustrated by a representative series of his ceramic products. The address is published in the form of a paper in Part II.

Mr. H. St. GEORGE GRAY said that Sir Edmund had not told them in what high repute his pottery was held all over the world, neither had he told them that he had obtained about fifteen gold medals from international exhibitions. He would also like to say that Sir Edmund was generous with his pottery; he had not only given Bristol a series of Elton ware,

but had also presented to the Taunton Museum two very fine cases of his pottery.

The Right Hon. HENRY HOBHOUSE, V.P., said that in thanking Sir Edmund Elton for his interesting address, he must congratulate him on his patience, perseverance and inventive faculty in producing his beautiful and almost unique ware, and congratulate him also on the cleverness with which he had interested them that evening without informing them of any of his trade secrets. Sir Edmund had added to the treasures of the world ware which in some distant generation would be dug up by some Archæological Society at the bottom of a village, and held up as showing how artistic and inventive were the inhabitants of the northern part of Somerset in the early part of the XX Century !

Excavations at Glastonbury Abbey.

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A., then gave an instructive address on the "Excavations at Glastonbury Abbey, 1909-1910," a paper on which subject is printed in this Volume, Part II, with a coloured plan.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE said that, as one of the Diocesan Trustees, and as a member of the small committee to which the charge of the Abbey had been entrusted, he begged to offer to Mr. Bligh Bond their grateful thanks for his interesting address and the work he had done at Glastonbury Abbey during the past two years in elucidating its history.

The proceedings then closed.