

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1911.

THE Sixty-Third Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Frome on Tuesday, July 18th, and two following days, and was favoured with fine summer weather.

A meeting of the Council on Tuesday morning was followed by the Annual General Meeting, which was held in the Mechanics' Hall. In the absence of the retiring President, the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, through family bereavement, the Right Rev. G. W. KENNION, Bishop of Bath and Wells, occupied the chair at the beginning of the proceedings. Among those supporting him on the platform were the Lord Hylton, F.S.A. (President-Elect), the Right Hon. Sir Edward Fry, G.C.B., the Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. A. F. Somerville, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, F.S.A. (Hon. Secretary), Mr. R. C. Boyle (Joint Treasurer), and Mr. H. St. George Gray (Assistant-Secretary and Curator).

The BISHOP said it was his duty to propose the election of Lord Hylton as President for the ensuing year. He need not say with what great pleasure he did so. They were all looking forward to his Presidential Address.

Mr. W. S. CLARK, who seconded the proposition, referred to Lord Hylton's able monograph on the Parish of Kilmersdon, which had been recently published.

The motion having been carried with acclamation, Lord HYLTON took the chair. He then expressed his sincere thanks to the members of the Society for the honour they had done him and his regret at the unavoidable absence of the outgoing President, whose year of office had been so very successful.

The PRESIDENT announced that letters regretting inability to be present at the meeting had been received from the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, Canon Church, Sir John Horner, K.C.V.O., the Marquis of Bath, etc.

The Annual Report.

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

“In presenting the sixty-third annual report your Council wish to state that since their last report 52 new names have been added to the list of members. Losses by death and resignation have been 37. Altogether the net gain has been 15. The total membership at date is 861, against 846 at the time of the Annual Meeting last year; and at the present time your Society has a greater number of members than any other provincial society, having similar objects, in the British Islands.

“Your Society records with much regret the following losses by death during the past year (in each case the date in brackets is the date of the member's election):—

“Lord Winterstoke of Blagdon (1885), became a vice-president in 1908, and liberally supported special funds raised on behalf of the Society, and particularly that connected with the exploration of the Meare Lake Village.

“The Hon. E. W. B. Portman, of Hestercombe (1898),

died in April last, soon after his acceptance of nomination as a Trustee of the Society.

“The Venerable W. H. Askwith, Archdeacon of Taunton and Vicar of St. Mary’s, Taunton (1894), was a member of the Council from 1897 till the time of his death on April 9th last; although he seldom attended the annual gatherings of the Society, his loss will be greatly felt by his colleagues on the Council, at whose meetings he often took the chair.

“Mr. Hugh Norris, L.R.C.P. (1863), a member of a learned family, died on October 31st last, at the ripe age of eighty-nine, after forty-seven years’ membership of your Society; he was interested in all branches of archæology and natural history, but will chiefly be remembered by his writings in the *Proceedings*, by his book, ‘South Petherton in the Olden Time,’ and by his handsome gifts of coins, tokens, and local archæological and other remains, to your Museum; in 1881 he became a local secretary, and in 1904 he was elected an honorary member of the Society, being made a vice-president as recently as last year.

“The Rev. Preb. C. Grant, R.D. (1892), died on March 5th last; he became local secretary for Glastonbury on the occasion of your Society’s last visit there in 1902, and will long be remembered for the prominent part he took in the affairs of the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society, and in connection with the exploration of the Glastonbury Lake Village.

“The Rev. F. S. P. Seale (1885), vicar successively of Pitminster and East Brent, died on May 21st last; from 1888 till his death he was a member of your Council.

“Mr. E. T. D. Foxcroft, of Hinton Charterhouse (1876), who died on March 12th, always evinced a keen interest in the affairs of your Society.

“Mr. William Macmillan (1890), a regular attendant at the annual meetings, died on the 1st July; he was much interested in natural history and especially lepidoptera, and on the occasion of the inauguration of the Entomological Section in

the autumn of 1909 he became first President and a local secretary of your Society for Castle Cary.

“The Rev. J. A. Welsh Collins (1894), died on May 9th last; his genial presence at the annual meetings will be fresh in the memory of many members of the Society.

“Mr. A. B. Cottam, of Bridgwater (1897); Mr. W. A. Wrenn (1902), an Ex-Mayor of Taunton; Mr. C. W. P. Dyke (1893); the Rev. H. F. Hall (1887); the Rev. A. M. Foster (1909); Mr. H. Harrison (1902); Mr. J. S. Channer (1907); and Mr. F. T. J. Haynes (1902).

“The balance of your Society’s account at the end of 1909 was £143 18s. 7d. in favour of the Society, all of which, however, belonged to the Museum and Library Extension Fund. At the close of 1910 there was a balance of £85 16s. 3d. in its favour, this also belonging entirely to the 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. LVI (for 1910), including printing, illustrations and delivery, has been £136 8s. 1d. The illustration fund was kindly contributed to by Mr. R. Hensleigh Walter, M.B., Mr. A. F. Luttrell, Sir Edmund Elton, Mr. Henry Symonds, and the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin. Thanks are also due to the Editors of *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* and to Mr. E. W. Swanton for the loan of blocks, and to Mr. J. H. Spencer and Mr. F. Bligh Bond for plans and drawings for the volume.

“As announced last year, Miss J. L. Woodward, of Clevedon—a generous friend of the Society—died on June 21st, 1910. She bequeathed the handsome sum of five hundred pounds to your Society, free of legacy duty. From the terms of her will it was evident that she wished part of the amount allocated to the Library Extension Fund. This legacy was paid over to the Society’s bankers in February last, and your Council, after careful consideration, have spent £130 of that amount in fitting up the New Library with bookcases, and the

sum of £23 in purchasing a copy of the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, in 29 vols. The Council proposes to utilise a portion of the balance in providing cases for the new rooms set apart for the collections of coins, tokens, medals, plate, pewter, and specimens of early writing. A tender for renovating the room has already been accepted.

“In the last report a considerable amount of detail was given with regard to the work carried out, and the money expended, to bring the scheme for the extension of your Museum and Library to a satisfactory conclusion. Workmen have been employed in various branches of the work during the whole of last winter and spring and, with the exception of the Coin Room, the operations are nearly finished. At the Yeovil Meeting it was announced that the sum of £750 had been received and promised, including the Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse’s conditional promise of £100, and that at least another £300 would be required to meet the estimated cost of all the alterations and improvements. After much hard work, coupled with the generous response of your members, the fund reached the sum of £910 18s. 0d. at the close of 1910, further donations this year bringing the total up to £1,060. The Council is anxious to take this opportunity of thanking all those who helped to bring the Diamond Jubilee Fund to a successful issue.

“In due course the New Library will be filled with books and rendered available to members as a ‘silence room’ for study. The central cases have been fitted with castors so that they may be temporarily removed when the room is required for lectures. The ante-room will also be fitted with bookshelves for the storage of publications not often required. The strong-room below has been fitted with steel shelving, and your Society’s most valuable manuscripts have already been placed within its walls. The passage outside the strong-room is connected with the Library above by means of an iron spiral staircase. The wide stone staircase leading from the

entrance hall to the New Library is one of the chief features of the improvements; and the new heating appliances and electric lighting throughout the Castle have already proved of great convenience and comfort.

“Your Council has under consideration the Society’s rules, which they consider hardly suitable to present requirements, but as they have not been able to go through the whole of them, they cannot bring the matter before you to-day. When the revisions are ready they suggest that a special general meeting should be called for their confirmation.

“Your Council has to a certain extent been relieved of its growing duties by increasing the number of sub-Committees from amongst its body. They include the Finance, Building, Museum and Library, and Editorial sub-Committees. The Natural History sections of the Society already formed are, the Entomological, Ornithological, and Botanical. All of them have held meetings at Taunton Castle during the winter and spring. Short reports upon their work and the names of their officers will be found in the last volume of *Proceedings*.

“Owing to death, the number of your Trustees has recently become reduced to four, *viz.*, the Right Hon. Lord St. Audries, the Right Hon. H. Hobhouse, Mr. H. J. Badcock, and Lt.-Col. J. F. Chisholm-Batten. Your Council therefore begs to recommend the following as co-Trustees:—The Marquis of Bath, Earl Waldegrave, Lord Hylton, the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, Mr. W. B. Broadmead, Mr. H. H. P. Bouverie, Mr. A. F. Somerville, and Mr. A. E. Eastwood, all of whom have expressed their willingness to act.

“As previously reported, Mr. C. Tite had generously made arrangements with Mr. A. J. Monday to compile a catalogue of the manuscripts contained in the Serel Collection at Taunton Castle. This catalogue has now been completed and will shortly be available for the use of members. The Society’s thanks are due to Mr. Tite, as well as to Mr. E. A. Fry, who has now finished his index of the unpublished Somerset Wills,

abstracts of which were made by the late Rev. Frederick Brown, F.S.A., and genealogists have already had the advantage of using the card-catalogue kept in the Library.

“Since the last Annual Meeting an illustrated pamphlet, entitled ‘Structural Notes on Taunton Castle,’ by Mr. J. Houghton Spencer, has been printed as a hand-book for visitors to the Castle.

“The most important additions to the Museum during the past year are the buckle and button worn by the Duke of Monmouth at Sedgmoor. These interesting specimens were deposited in your Museum for thirty-five years, and formerly belonged to the late Mr. William Stradling; they have now been acquired by purchase. Since the death of Mr. Hugh Norris a number of objects have been added to the Norris Collection, including four English gold coins. Mr. R. Hensleigh Walter has made some important additions to the archaeological remains found on Ham Hill. Some of the relics found during the excavations at the Roman Amphitheatre, Maumbury Rings, Dorchester, in 1909-1910, have been presented to your Museum. Most of the coins added this year have been presented by Mr. H. Symonds and the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin. As a specimen of early printing, Mr. John Easton has presented a well-preserved book of the writings of Martin Luther, in the original embossed leather binding, 1560. Other donors to your collections are:—Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, Mr. C. Tite, the Rev. A. H. Scott-White, Mr. Arthur Bulleid, the Rev. W. T. Reeder, the Rev. R. H. Edwards, and Mr. F. Sprawson.

“To the Library, Colonel G. D. Stawell has presented his large work on ‘The Stawells of Cothelstone.’ From the late Mr. Hugh Norris’s effects a very rare tract relating to the Battle of Langport, 1645, and two manuscript volumes of accounts of the Church- and Poor-Wardens of South Petherton, 1695-1740, and 1804-1819, have been added to the Library. The set of the *Dorset Field Club Proceedings* has been rendered

complete, and a number of books have been given by the Rev. F. M. T. Palgrave. Donations to the Library have also been received from the Rev. W. S. Tomkins, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, Mr. C. Tite, the Rev. D. P. Alford, the Rev. S. H. A. Hervey, Mr. F. J. Snell, Mr. E. Pearce, and others.

“Several archæological excavations have been in progress in the county during the past year, viz., Glastonbury Abbey and the Meare Lake Village (both under the auspices of your Society), excavations in the neighbourhood of Bath (undertaken by a Committee chiefly consisting of members of the Bath Branch of your Society), a preliminary exploration of Stokeleigh Camp, and a further examination of the floor of Wookey Hole Cavern by Messrs. Balch and Troup.

“At Glastonbury Mr. Bligh Bond has continued the examination of the cloisters and chapter house, and has discovered the position of the north porch of the Abbey Church and of another chapel at the extreme west end of the so-called St. Joseph’s Chapel. Funds are greatly needed to continue this important work.

“The second season’s excavations at the Meare Lake Village were in progress from June 5th till June 24th (excluding the week for filling-in), under the direction of Messrs. Arthur Bulleid and H. St. George Gray. The ground excavated (about a quarter-of-an-acre) was situated in the same part of the Village and was directly continuous with last year’s work. The ‘finds’ will be exhibited later on in your Society’s Museum, and they form a valuable addition to the objects previously discovered. Up to the present time the work has been chiefly supported through the generosity of the late Lord Winterstoke, but before it is resumed it will be necessary to send out an appeal for donations.

“The Leigh Woods Committee, with Mr. A. E. Hudd and Prof. C. Lloyd-Morgan, has uncovered a couple of sections of the wall on the top of the inner vallum of Stokeleigh Camp, and these will be protected by railings to prevent any damage

by visitors. An excavation was also made through what appeared to be a rubbish pit, but no relics were found.

“Last September the Bath Committee excavated outside the churchyard at Charlcombe—presumably the site of the priest’s house, and during the same month between Bathwick and Powlett Street, where a Roman altar had been discovered. In May last two barrows were opened in the race-field on Lansdown.

“Discoveries of coins and other remains of the Roman period were recently made close to the entrance of Gough’s Cavern at Cheddar.

“It was hoped that Vol. I of the work on the Glastonbury Lake Village, by Messrs. A. Bulleid and H. St. G. Gray, would be in the hands of subscribers in time for the meeting, but this has been found impossible owing to the large size of the work and the greatly increased number of plates. At least fifty subscribers more are required to prevent a monetary loss on this large undertaking. Somerset is by no means well represented on the subscription-list, whereas a number of copies are going to Continental and American Libraries and Museums. A roughly sewn copy of Vol. I, as far as printed, may be seen in this room; and the authors will be pleased to receive the names of additional subscribers.

“The boring in search of coal at Puriton ceased on November 24th last, after passing through 2,070 feet of overlying formations without reaching the Carboniferous rocks. The operations had been in progress a year, and the Bridgwater Collieries Company has presented to your Museum cores and other specimens from the boring taken at about every 25 feet.

“Your Society has pleasure in announcing that the National Trust for places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty has undertaken the purchase and preservation of that very interesting building, the Priest’s House, Muchelney.

“The British Mycological Society meets at Taunton during the week beginning September 18th, and is organizing a sys-

tematic search for fungoid growths in the woods in the neighbourhood. Your Society will be giving them facilities for their work at your head-quarters.

“Your Society observes with regret that the Bath Field Club and the Clifton Antiquarian Club will shortly cease to exist.

“Your Society was represented at the Congress of Archaeological Societies on July 5th by the Editorial Secretary and the Assistant-Secretary.

“Owing to the increased size of your Society, and the recent developments which have taken place at Taunton Castle, your Council has felt justified in improving the general staff of the Museum and Library.

“Your Museum was visited by 7,810 persons during 1910, including 1,293 visits from members. This shows a small increase in the number of members, but a slight decrease in ordinary visitors, this being accounted for by parts of the Castle being closed during building operations.”

The Right Hon. HENRY HOBHOUSE said that he had been asked to move the adoption of the report, but he was in no way responsible either for its length or interest; and as it had only recently been put into his hands he could not deal with it as thoroughly as it deserved. They deplored the loss of such liberal supporters of the Society as Lord Winterstoke and the Hon. E. W. B. Portman, of such a learned member as Mr. Hugh Norris, and of some of the Society's most active members. He was glad to see that the gain in the number of members was fairly substantial. Their buildings at Taunton Castle had received considerable attention and made in every way better adapted to their purposes; he was glad that the work had been done without borrowing money. The raising of their Diamond Jubilee Fund of £1,000 would see them over their difficulties for some time. Their Society was always carrying on useful and interesting excavations, including at the present time the Meare Lake Village and Glastonbury Abbey. With

regard to natural history there was no reason why the nature study of their local schools should not find its climax in that Society. Though the work of boring at Puriton had been a failure so far as the discovery of coal was concerned, it had resulted in some important additions to their Museum. He could not conceive why the Bath Field Club should cease to exist. He finally drew attention to the subject of the preservation of ancient monuments in the county. County Councils now had power to attend to the preservation of ancient buildings. The whole subject deserved the close attention of the Society. They should be proud of their Society, which had had a life of over sixty years, and which had in Mr. Gray a most efficient and hard-working officer.

The Rev. W. T. REEDER, in seconding the proposition, said that many people looked upon archæology as "dry as dust," and evidently had a decided contempt for it. He added that if only people would study such a report as had been presented that day their views of archæologists and archæology in general would be considerably modified.

The resolution adopting the report having been agreed to, the Rev. H. H. WINWOOD rose in order to explain that the Bath Field Club, to which he belonged, had lapsed into senile decay; but a younger society, a branch of their own Society, had risen up to take its place and was doing very good work.

finances.

Mr. REGINALD C. BOYLE, Joint Treasurer, presented the balance sheet for the year 1910, which was as follows:—

Treasurers' Account.

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1910.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
By Balance of former Account...	143 18 7	To Secretarial Expenses, Yeovil Meeting	3 7 2
„ Members' Subscriptions, 1910 (824)	432 12 0	„ Repairs, Castle and Museum	13 8 0
„ Members' Entrance Fees, 1910 (79)	41 9 6	„ Stationery and Printing ...	7 14 1
„ Members' Subscriptions in Arrear (7)	3 13 6	„ Fuel and Lighting	30 1 6
„ Members' Subscriptions in Advance (11)	5 15 6	„ Purchase of Museum Specimens	9 11 10
„ Life Compositions	21 0 0	„ Purchase of Books	27 11 10
„ Annual Donations	3 0 0	„ Bookbinding	1 19 2
„ Donation to the Library ...	1 1 0	„ Guide Books	0 14 6
„ Donations to the Museum and Library Extension Fund (Diamond Jubilee, 1908) ...	570 4 0	„ Printing, Binding, Illustrations and Postage, Vol. 55...	150 18 5
„ Balance of Assist.-Secretary's Account (Annual Meeting, Yeovil)	7 0 4	„ Proceedings, Vol. 56	2 8 6
„ Rents	31 2 6	„ Museum and Library Extension Fund	701 2 4
„ Museum Admission Fees ...	52 17 10	„ Curator's Salary	150 0 0
„ Sale of Publications	16 0 5	„ Assistant's Wages	27 11 0
„ Somerset Church Towers (Brereton Fund)	2 0 0	„ Attendant's Wages	14 19 6
„ Library Fees	0 7 6	„ Temporary Assistance and Night Watchman ...	3 17 3
		„ Petty Cash	7 0 7½
		„ Postal Expenses	13 19 10½
		„ Subscriptions to Societies ...	9 2 6
		„ Insurance, including Fire ...	13 15 3
		„ Rates and Taxes	53 8 1
		„ Outdoor Work	4 4 0
		„ Watermain Wayleave	0 1 0
		Balance	85 16 3
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£1,332 2 8		£1,332 2 8
„ Balance brought down ...	£85 16 3		

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

Feb. 27th, 1911. Examined and compared with the Vouchers and Pass Book, and found correct.

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

The accounts were received and adopted on the motion of the Rev. C. H. HEALE, seconded by Mr. C. TITE. Mr. Heale said the financial statement was a very satisfactory one. The Diamond Jubilee Fund amounted to no less than £1,060, and during the year they had received Miss Woodward's legacy of £500, which would greatly help the Council in furnishing the Library and new Museum rooms. At the Castle there was now a Strong Room, which was fireproof; it was available for the storage of ancient parish documents, such as overseers' and churchwardens' accounts of bygone days, which could be deposited there and yet still belong to the parishes from which they came.

Election of New Members, Trustees and Officers.

MR. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, the Assistant-Secretary, read the names of 52 new members who had been provisionally elected by the Council since the last annual meeting; and their election was confirmed on the proposition of Mr. R. C. BOYLE, seconded by Mr. F. WERE.

The Right Hon. Sir EDWARD FRY, G.C.B., proposed the re-election of the Officers of the Society, with the additions of the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin as a Vice-President, Mr. G. P. Chamberlain as a member of the Council, and the following as Trustees:—The Marquis of Bath, Earl Waldegrave, Lord Hylton, the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, Mr. W. B. Broadmead, Mr. A. F. Somerville, Mr. H. H. P. Bouverie, and Mr. A. E. Eastwood. Sir Edward remarked that the present state of the Society was most prosperous, and all its officers had been most hard-working.

Mr. JOHN MORLAND seconded the resolution and it was adopted.

Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER said that he had been asked by the Hon. Secretary of the Somerset Record Society, the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, to read his report concerning that Society's publications. It stated that the *Glastonbury Feodary*, the volume for 1910, would shortly be ready for delivery. Its issue might be regarded as another nibble at the immense mass of Glastonbury documents still awaiting exploration at Longleat and Oxford (see Canon Jackson's note in his introduction to the "Customaria of Abbots Michael de Amesbury and Roger de Ford," issued as the Society's fifth volume in 1891). The volume for 1911 was in the press. It included all Somerset cases referred to the Star Chamber in the reigns of Henry VII and VIII, and was to be edited by Miss G. Bradford, of

Newnham College, who had already undertaken similar volumes for the Selden Society. Thanks to the enlightened action of the County Council (who had made a grant for transcription), the volume for 1912 would be a continuation of the Quarter Sessions Records for the Commonwealth period. The Minute-book was complete from the Bridgwater Sessions, Michaelmas, 1646 to 1656, and its contents would afford most valuable testimony to the labour involved in getting the county business into gear after three years' warfare. The list of subscribers to the Society remained at the same figure.

The Presidential Address.

The Lord HYLTON, F.S.A., then delivered his address. He said :—

Please allow me to express my gratitude to the Society for having chosen one as President whose qualifications for so honourable a post are of the slightest, beyond a keen interest in many of the subjects which occupy your attention.

Before passing on to various matters connected with the present meeting, may I draw a hasty comparison between the conditions under which the Society last met at Frome, and those of to-day? Eighteen years ago we had only 558 members as against over 850 now. At that time the debt incurred by the purchase of Taunton Castle had only just been wiped off. The acquisition of Glastonbury Abbey by public subscription, a matter of such intense satisfaction to Somerset archæologists, had not entered into our wildest dreams. The discovery of the Lake Village, near Glastonbury, was then a very recent event, and its exploration had scarcely been commenced, whilst the discovery of a similar village at Meare lay in the still distant future. The long series of valuable documents now enshrined in the volumes of the *Somerset Record Society* had only lately been begun. The archæological work of the last eighteen years, both inside and outside our limits,

has been steadily progressive, and of a nature to justify the aims and gladden the hearts of our own Society.

In one respect the aspirations of our predecessors have been disappointed, namely, in the publication of a new County History. The snail-like rate at which the *Victoria County History* travels is hardly likely to afford to the present generation any improvement on old "Collinson." Personally, I am inclined to be sceptical as to the great value of the "Victoria" series. Without for a moment wishing to seem ungrateful to the many writers of high eminence still engaged on this gigantic task, I fear that the amazing richness of the material available will compel the omission of much which might be published with advantage, and that, as regards parochial history at all events, necessarily abbreviated records will cause a sense of disappointment to the reader. The best remedy would appear to consist in the production of histories of separate localities, and of districts such as Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte's "History of Dunster," and Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey's "History of Part of West Somerset." Those favoured spots happen to have been lucky enough to attract the attention of learned authors to whom the expense of publication has proved no deterrent. It would be too sanguine to suppose that many other works on the same scale will ever see the light, though it is earnestly to be hoped that collections of local *memorabilia* will, nevertheless, be gradually formed in many other parishes, to await favourable opportunities of being printed.

In welcoming the Society to Frome in this Coronation year of our gracious King, let me trust that the excursions which have been arranged may prove agreeable and interesting to all who participate in them. This town itself, apart from the fine old Parish Church (well-known as the last resting-place of Bishop Ken) presents few attractions of strictly archæological interest. Its citizens justly consider it as "up-to-date," an epithet which hardly appeals to us antiquaries, who pursue objects of a precisely opposite description. Messrs. Singer's

famous Frome Art Metal Works have, however, earned widespread artistic renown, and you may be also interested to learn that many volumes of the *Victoria History*, to which I have just alluded, have been printed in this place by Messrs. Butler and Tanner—no small compliment to the excellence of that firm's establishment.

If Frome itself does not detain you long, in its immediate neighbourhood, you will, I venture to think, find a number of fascinating spots, situated amid scenery of great natural charm—ancient earthworks, castles, churches, inns, battlefields—recalling in turn one page after another of our national history, somewhat in the fashion of the pageants, so popular at the present day. Before attempting a hurried sketch of what we intend to visit, let me say one word, and one word only on the geological aspect of our proposed excursions, first reminding you that the late Mr. Charles Moore at one of our past meetings declared that “no locality in the country or even in the world was more interesting geologically than that round Frome.” It would be presumptuous on my part to attempt to forestall any of the valuable information which Mr. Winwood has so kindly promised to impart to us on this topic. Yet most dwellers in this district can be safely said to hold the science of geology in high reverence, as their principal guide towards any solution of a problem of engrossing interest to many of them. I refer to the vexed question of the probable extension of our coal measures, though in reflecting on the many unsuccessful borings which have been made, I feel the truth of a favourite saying by an old acquaintance of mine, who, speaking of the glorious uncertainties of mining, declared that: “A great deal more money has been put into the ground, than ever came out of it.” But “hope springs eternal” in the adventurer's breast, and if geological experts report unfavourably on his prospects, he may after all console himself by the knowledge that even the most learned men are not infallible, for I find in the year 1850, no less an authority than the

famous Dr. Buckland, wrote of the Radstock coal-fields, "it is a small one, and will soon be used up," whilst he regarded the Kingswood area as already extinct. "'Tis sixty years since," and the learned dean has long "slept with his fathers," but the Radstock coal-field is by no means "used up" yet.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to turn your attention from the works of nature to those of man. Tomorrow you will visit the standing stones on Murtry Hill, for which a very high antiquity has been claimed, though suspicions have certainly been expressed as to the remoteness of their age. Little or nothing is held sacred now-a-days, and I can only advise the champions of the standing stones to take comfort in the reflection that we have always had sceptics among us like Sydney Smith's tiresome friend, "who had been heard to speak disrespectfully even of the equator."

Whether or no the stones at Murtry belong to a very distant past, there can be no doubt of the authenticity of the remarkable chain of hill forts on the neighbouring knolls of Wadbury, Newbury, and Kingsdown. An admirable paper on Camelot was read, as some to-day may remember, at our meetings in 1890, by the late Mr. Bennett, in which he vividly described the march of the Saxons southward from Bath and Bradford-on-Avon, culminating in a great battle against the natives, towards the end of the VII Century. The forts to which I allude must have played an important part in that campaign, and I regret that time will not allow me to pursue this subject to-day.

Coming down to later times, of Norman work I need hardly remind you that plentiful traces will be found in many of the churches which we shall inspect.

At Farleigh our thoughts will naturally assume a mediæval tinge beneath the shadow of the crumbling castle walls which once dominated that valley, forming a striking badge of the power long exercised by the warrior race of Hungerford. The

pious care displayed by the late and present owners of Farleigh Castle in its preservation will be the more appreciated by the Society after their experience at Nunney, where they will be shocked at the dilapidated condition of its castle, and the whole structure, till lately a perfect example of its period, seems in danger of soon becoming a mere heap of rubbish, unless some serious effort be speedily made to prevent so dismal a disaster. The transition from the stern realities of those centuries, when life and property were only safe behind frowning walls and impassable moats, to the peaceful epoch ushered in by the close of the Wars of the Roses, will be illustrated on our passage from Nunney Castle to Mells Manor House. There you will have the opportunity of noticing (through the kindness of Sir John Horner) that Elizabethan architects knew how to plan and build a house, which should be delightful to the eye and suited for the dwelling of the descendants of the first occupants at a distance of 350 years from its erection.

You will recall with interest that Mells had its fleeting connection with King Charles I, who "lay at" the manor house in July, 1644; whilst Thursday's excursions will bring you on the track of his unhappy grandson, the luckless Monmouth. The gay and handsome figure of the latter was familiar to the inhabitants of Frome at the date of his rebellion, for the duke's wealthy western friend, "Tom of Ten Thousand," had feasted him at Longleat, on his earlier progress through Somerset, in almost regal pomp, when Dryden wrote that, "of all King Charles' progeny was none so beautiful, so brave as Absalom," hailed as

"The people's prayer, the glad diviner's theme,
The young men's vision and the old men's dream."

Even the caustic Count de Grammont had admitted that in Monmouth "Nature never formed a man more complete." It was a rainy month of June, in the year 1685, when this brilliant butterfly led his undisciplined army along the narrow valley

from Wellow to Norton St. Philip, where he fought, as you are all aware, a successful action against an advance guard of the king's troops commanded by his own half-brother, the Duke of Grafton. You will see at Norton the very inn, even then a venerable building, where it is stated that an attempt to shoot the Pretender was made by an individual greedy for the price set upon his head. Some doggerel verses recite how the would-be assassin exclaimed, "I've missed my mark and lost five thousand pounds," but even a violent death at the "George Inn" of Norton must have soon seemed to Monmouth a fate preferable to the long-drawn agony endured between the field of Sedgemoor and the last scene on Tower Hill.

Gentlemen, I feel that my address is reaching an unpardonable length, but I cannot close without saying one word on the churches of this district, a group remarkable for beauty even among the beautiful churches of our county, and after you have seen those of Frome, Buckland, and Orchardleigh, Nunney, Mells, and Kilmersdon, Hemington, Wellow, Norton, and last, but not least, Lullington, perhaps the gem of all, you will, I think, admit the justice of my contention. On their architecture I will not now dilate; most of them are recorded in our previous *Proceedings*, and new light may possibly be thrown upon this point during the course of the week. But may I earnestly plead with those concerned to loyally guard within their walls, and wherever possible, *in situ*, the valuable monumental effigies which some still contain. The sculptured tombs, for example, in Nunney and Wellow churches, depict makers of English history, whose tombs it would be sacrilegious to destroy. It is hardly less reprehensible to hide them away, but I have myself visited churches where a modern heating apparatus is allowed to conceal from public gaze the presentment of a crusading knight, or some proud prelate "in his habit as he lived," in whose company any true antiquary would far rather shiver, than inhale the pernicious vapours of a hideous gas-stove, bereft of the presence of the mighty dead.

Gentlemen, only one word more and I have done. No apology is necessary for the existence of such societies as ours. There was perhaps at one time a certain amount of ignorance prevalent as to the aims and objects of archæological associations, to which the epithet of "dry as dust" was applied by the vulgar herd, who spoke for instance of the noble science of heraldry as "silly," whilst generally only too eager to learn anything of the past history of *their own* families. If any answer were required to such-like criticisms, I would merely point to the ceremonial attending the Investiture of the Prince of Wales the other day as proof positive of the present appreciation and popularity of antique symbolism.

One result, if not one object, of our studies is the evidence of the continuity of all history. A French proverb wisely says, "the more things change, the more they remain the same." Those, who have not already done so, should buy at once a charming book, in which the story of Orchardleigh's fair domain—hard by this town—is told under a thin disguise. The rising generation can learn from its pages, as the vision of centuries passes before their eyes, that learning, art, and beauty, are not *their* exclusive gifts. "Fortes vixere ante Agamemnona," and whilst the present age rightly rewards valour, virtue, and patriotism, by the presentation of gifts or by the erection of statues and memorial buildings, such societies as ours are equally performing worthy acts by endeavouring to save the mouldering fortress, the Norman church, the mediæval tomb.

The BISHOP, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the President for his address, said Lord Hylton had alluded to the rapid decay of Nunney Castle; and if that was a fact, was it not a circumstance in which the Society ought to be ready to take some vigorous action, either by appeal to the owner or in some other way? If there was an opportunity of keeping Nunney Castle in good condition, he was sure the Society ought to do all it could to bring

about that desirable end. The way in which Lord Hylton alluded to their losses was very graceful. Though not a member of the Church of England, the late Lord Winterstoke acquired the advowson of Blagdon, and then desired to get rid of the modern church he found there,—a building erected about 1830, when “churchwarden architecture” was in its acme of ugliness. Lord Winterstoke restored the XIV Century church at a cost of £10,000. It was a most generous action. Lord Hylton then went on to show what an immense growth and improvement there had been in their Society since they last met at Frome. What they owed to Mr. Gray was beyond all words. Dr. Kennion passed on to the President’s remarks about the Duke of Monmouth, and related a story which was told him by the late Dean Boyle, of Salisbury, and which came from Lady Mary Gage, daughter of the fifth Marquess of Queensberry, and was to the effect that the Duke of Buccleuch, her grandfather, was tearing up a number of papers in her presence when he came across one which, he said, as a loyal subject of the Queen, he must destroy. The particular paper was the marriage lines of Charles II and Lucy Walter. The Bishop was afterwards informed by Lord William Seymour that it was not an unknown story, and that there was a duplicate copy of the document locked up at the Hague. That story, he thought, made one despise Monmouth more than ever, for he gave away his mother’s honour in the attempt to save his unworthy neck. The speaker believed there was a field at Norton St. Philip, sold in the last twenty years, which had been purchased by the owner of the old “George Inn” out of a sum of money left in the innkeeper’s hands at the time of the Battle of Norton, by an officer who was going into the fight and was killed. Nobody discovered the officer’s name, and the innkeeper retained the money for some time in case any relatives of the dead man should come to claim it, ultimately investing it in the land until a proper claimant appeared. A distinguished statesman of the present

day had always been much interested in the Duke of Monmouth, and wished he could have won the Battle of Sedgemoor. What would have been the result of the rebellion if the Duke of Beaufort had brought his whole force to back up Monmouth one could only conjecture ; but the fact that in the hour of defeat Monmouth deserted his followers made them glad that he was not the conqueror.

In seconding the motion, Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE said he thought that Lord Hylton's address quite justified the Society's choice of him as President. The speaker pointed out that they could not afford to put aside the past when they were considering either the present or the future.

The resolution of thanks was put to the meeting and adopted with acclamation.

Lord HYLTON suitably responded.

After the meeting, the members adjourned to the George Hotel Assembly Room for luncheon.

Frome Parish Church.

Luncheon was followed by a visit to the Parish Church of St. John Baptist, where the members were received by the Rev. Preb. W. F. H. Randolph, the Vicar.

The Rev. Preb. W. E. DANIEL, Rector of Horsington, and a native of Frome, began his address by remarking that in Frome the Church in which they were met was always called the "Old Church." It had been a sacred spot for more than twelve hundred years, for it was to that place that St. Aldhelm came when on his missionary journeys through the Forest of Selwood, the name of which apparently referred to the willows growing along the many streams which divided the country up, Frome then being already a place of habitation, though not a town. They knew that St. Aldhelm also went to Bradford, where on the banks of the Avon there still stood a Saxon chapel which many believed was erected in his time. At

Frome he founded a religious house and left a number of monks to minister to the people. All the time he lived he was requested to retain the government of the religious houses he founded, even though he became Bishop of Sherborne. Exactly where the religious house established in Frome was situated was not known. There was a place called "Paradise," a name which generally referred to the garden of a religious house; and there was a place at Keyford popularly called a nunnery, which was in reality a manor house. When the present vicarage was built, about 1740, it was said to have replaced the ruins of a monastery, but that was doubtful. Whatever monastery was founded by St. Aldhelm must have been destroyed very early, as it appeared in no list of such houses. Under the tower of the Church were to be seen, carefully preserved, two ancient Saxon stones, and he supposed those were the only relics of that period remaining. There was a story (though he did not know how far there was any foundation for it) that when that Church was being "restored" the workmen came across certain indications of an early burial which had the characteristics of a Saxon interment, and that the Rev. W. J. E. Bennett (who was then the Vicar of Frome), fearing that some antiquary would interfere, had them covered with quicklime. They knew that in 955 one of the Saxon kings, Eadred, died at Frome. It might have been this Frome or some other, but it could not have been his tomb which was found, as he was buried in the Old Minster at Winchester. That was the Church of St. John Baptist, a dedication which seemed to have been very appropriate to the foundations that St. Aldhelm made, for he was indeed "a voice crying in the wilderness." Apparently the Norman building which succeeded the Saxon Church reached as far as the end of the fourth arcade from the east, including the north and south porches. At that time there was a lady chapel on the north side of the nave, for there still existed the Norman doorway which formed an entrance for the chantry priests from the

outside into the chapel. Very likely the man who superintended the building of that Church was Regenbald, who was chancellor both to Edward the Confessor and the Conqueror. Both of them referred to him as "their preost." He was a man of large estates and was priest of Road and Milborne Port, as well as of Frome. Before he died, or when he died in 1133, he was able to transfer the patronage of that Church to the Abbey of Cirencester; and therefore from that time there had been no clerical Rector of Frome. The abbey acted as patron to the time of the Dissolution, and then the patronage passed into the hands of the Thynne family, where it still remained, and the lord of Longleat was lay rector of Frome. The present vicar was the thirty-sixth of whom they had record, but the list did not start until some time after the vicarage was first instituted.

Prebendary Daniel next dealt with the chantry chapels. The chapel on the south beyond the tower was called St. Andrew's, and this was restored to sacred uses about 1845, in memory of Bishop Ken. The chantry was called "St. John Baptist's at the altar of St. Andrew." The third, locally known from those buried in it as the Lock Aisle, now known as the St. Nicholas Chapel, was founded by the families of Twyneho and Cabell, of Keyford, a part of Frome. In the window of the chapel was to be seen a punning rebus on the name Cabell. The history of the lands that belonged to the lady chapel could be traced. In 1337 and 1348 certain lands were given to provide for the ministrations in that chapel, and at the Dissolution money was given out of those lands for the founding of a free school in Frome, which was situated where the St. John's infants' school now stood. The school was looked after by a schoolmaster, who was paid from the endowment; and over and over again could be found in the church rate-books records of expenditure incurred for desks and repairs for the free school. Before the Dissolution there was a vicar and three chantry priests to attend to the services

in the Church. In addition there was on Catherine Hill a chapel, dedicated in the name of St. Katharine, which had its warden, who acted as a sort of assistant to the vicar in respect of the needs of the town. After the Dissolution the vicar was left alone, but often the master of the free school was in orders and assisted him. Later, when the vicar was non-resident, there came curates.

When mentioning two or three of the vicars, Prebendary Daniel drew attention to the kneeling effigies of Anthony Methwin and his wife in the vestry. Anthony Methwin was vicar for a long period at the beginning of the XVII Century, and was buried in the vestry, his gift to the Church. The incumbent who came immediately after him was John Humfry, who was not in episcopal orders, till he was at the Restoration ordained deacon by Bishop Piers. He stayed until the time of the ejection in 1662, but although he counselled others to accept the prayer-book he could not do so himself, so he retired and was followed by Joseph Glanvill, the author of several books, including one on witchcraft. At the time of his death he was Rector of Bath, but some years before he had exchanged the vicarage of Frome for that of Street with Richard Jenkins, whose nephew and successor, John Jenkins, was vicar at Frome when Mrs. Rowe, the poetess, lived there, and when Bishop Ken was at Longleat. The bishop appointed John Jenkins as one of his executors, and left his silver communion service to the parish; in accordance with his wish he was buried outside the Church in his old diocese nearest to Longleat, *i.e.*, beneath the east window of the chancel.

The St. Andrew's Chapel, which had been previously used as the home for the parish fire-engine, was restored about 1844-5, by the Dowager Marchioness of Bath. On the tiles of the chapel were the initials "J.K.," and representations of scenes in Bishop Ken's life were contained in the east window. The glass in the window over the west door of the Church

was made for the east window, and was transferred when the chancel was rearranged.

Referring to the manor of Frome, Prebendary Daniel said it was held for some years by the Branche family, and was known as Frome Branche. The Winslades were its possessors from 1350 to 1405, when it passed to the Leversedges, who were also patrons of the lady chapel and remained for a great number of years until the family fell into decay. In the reign of King James I, the then head of the family involved himself in certain monetary difficulties, which left him a very poor man, and his estates to a very large extent passed to the Thynne family at Longleat. He (Mr. Daniel) was told that in South Kensington Museum was an iron screen, erected by the Leversedges, which stood across the entrance to the lady chapel until removed during the alterations of Mr. Bennett's time. In the middle of the eighteenth century the chapel passed with what remained of the Leversedge property to the Boyles. The parish of Frome also contained the manor of Keyford. Frome was the head of the deanery, which consisted of about fifty-three parishes, and the vicar was often appointed one of the penitentiaries of the diocese in the old days. Frome was likewise the head of the hundred. There never was any great family there which overshadowed the town. Probably the great man of the place before the Dissolution was the bailiff of the Abbey of Cirencester, who very likely lived at the premises now used as a laundry. Then there was a "Court House," where perhaps the business of the hundred might have been transacted, but the traditions did not carry them back very far in connection with it. The bedeman or sexton for the parish was appointed by the lord of the manor of Orchardleigh.

The Rev. Preb. RANDOLPH said he had been asked why the name of the Church was changed from St. Peter's to St. John's at the restoration in the middle of the last century. There was not a question about the original dedication having

been to St. John : they could see that by the references to the Church in Domesday Book. How St. Peter was intruded into the parish he could not say. [At Nunney Church, on the following day, Preb. Daniel said Frome Church became known as St. Peter's in consequence of a picture of "St. Peter's Repentance" having been placed as a reredos over the altar.] The Bishop of Bristol was his (Preb. Randolph's) authority for saying that the Saxon stones built into the tower had nothing whatever to do with the Saxon church, but the longer one was almost certainly a portion of the cross put up to mark the resting-place of the body of St. Aldhelm for a night at Frome, on the way from Doulting to the place of burial at Malmesbury. The Church was almost entirely rebuilt in the XII Century, and later restorations had, no doubt, taken away a good deal of the appearance of antiquity. In the XVIII Century the Church had become very dilapidated, and in 1736 a series of vestry meetings to promote the restoration began, continuing for eight years, but very little was done as a result. In 1812 a most appalling bit of vandalism was committed. The Bell Inn and certain cottages had been built in the churchyard. The parishioners called in Mr. Wyatt, an architect who was employed to build the stables at Longleat, and, in addition to clearing away the inn and cottages, a new west wall was built of clean white Bath stone. The estimated cost of the new west front was £842 10s., and the sum voted for the gateway which led into Bath Street was £136. The spire of the Church had been a source of trouble from time to time. In 1830 several feet of it was taken down and rebuilt; and he believed that Mr. Bennett had a large part of it rebuilt.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER stated that he had an illustration of the Leversedge screen, on which were the arms of Leversedge impaling Prater. Robert Leversedge, son and heir of Edmond Leversedge, who was the head of the family at the time of the Visitation of 1623, married a daughter of

George Prater, of Nunney, and died in 1673. He probably erected the very pretty screen in the reign of Charles I, before the family's prosperity declined.

The Geology of Vallis.

On leaving Frome Church the party walked to the top of Bath Street, where carriages and motor-cars were in waiting. A short drive brought them to Hapsford, where they left the conveyances and walked a little distance along the entrance road to Vallis Vale, stopping at a disused quarry, where the Rev. H. H. WINWOOD, F.G.S., gave an address. He said :

Ever since the late Charles Moore's discoveries in the strata forming the Mendip Hills, they have never ceased to be the happy hunting-ground of geologists. Though many workers, since his paper on the "Abnormal Secondary Deposits" was read before the Geological Society, now more than forty years ago, have been traversing his favourite ground and adding a few new details, yet in the main his work still bears witness to the accuracy of his life-long labours ; and the more the result of his work is studied, the more confidence is felt in his conclusions.

Our Society visited Frome in the year 1875, when, in the presence of several distinguished geologists, *e.g.*, Sir William Guise, the then President of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club, W. Ayshford Sanford, etc., Mr. Moore told his marvellous story. Having been present at that meeting, and having been associated with him in his researches in this immediate district, you must bear with me if you have a repetition merely of an oft-told tale.

These hills, which begin to disappear at Frome, have had a most important part in forming the physical character of the surrounding district. Extending in a nearly E. and W. direction hence to Weston-super-Mare, and across the Bristol Channel to South Wales (Brean Down, the Steep and Flat

Holmes being merely relics of their former existence), they rise in the form of a saddle-back, or anticlinal; the central core being the Old Red Sandstone, throwing off the younger beds of the Mountain Limestone with a steep dip (in some places perpendicular) on either side. If you ask how this position of strata, once horizontal, could have arisen, a simple explanation will suffice. As the heat of the interior of the earth is gradually lessening and the crust cooling, contraction necessarily follows, and consequently the surface of the earth has to fill a narrower space. As the result, portions were thrown upwards and portions downwards. You must for once reject Mr. Moore's view, which, at the time it was propounded, was not uncommon, that volcanic action was the cause of the upheaval and disturbance, his discovery of igneous rocks at Stoke Lane leading him to form this conclusion. Had he lived to the present day, he would probably have modified his views, the accepted theory now being that this disturbance was the *cause*, not the *result*, of this action; the dislocation and upthrow of the beds giving vent for the internal outburst of the lavas, which before had not any outlet.

Well, then, in brief, we must accept the theory, of which the evidence around us is indisputable, that at the close of the Carboniferous period, continuous, if not violent, disturbances occurred throughout England, and elsewhere, which distorted, crumpled up and overthrust these strata, hitherto horizontal, into ridges and mountains; the pressure and force which affected the Mendips coming from s. and n., thus doubling them up in an e. and w. direction or strike. As these folds rose above the sea, they were cut away by marine action and by subaerial agents, forming isolated patches or islands, before the Triassic seas submerged them.

The result of all this caused the beds of the Mountain Limestone to stand up in jagged edges and pinnacles, since worn down by the powerful agent of denudation into surfaces flat

and level as billiard tables. What this levelling agent has been, whether *water* or *ice*, is disputed; the more generally accepted theory being water, and presumably the action of the sea. A proof of this (had you time at your disposal) might be seen in one of these charming side valleys, where oyster-shells are seen adhering to the levelled surface of the limestone, which once must have been the sea-floor.

Having thus briefly described the general character of the strata forming our Mendip Hills, and the result of the forces which have worn them down, this apparently insignificant exposure at the Hapsford Mills will serve as an illustration. We are now standing at the end of the picturesque ravine called Vallis, excavated in the Mountain Limestone, of which this exposure is the most easterly. This apparently poor little section has a wonderful tale to tell. To an ordinary eye it looks like a common roadside quarry, but to the practised eye of the geologist it presents features of surpassing interest. The base is Carboniferous Limestone presenting a smoothed surface, whereon has been deposited beds of clay, conglomerate, and limestone; here some thirty feet of strata, representing some thousands of feet elsewhere. Those beds immediately resting on the limestone, consisting of clays and conglomerate, or pudding-stone, are all that has been left of the Rhætic series, the existence of which in England is due to Moore's discoveries. Between the limestone at the base and these clays and conglomerates an enormous interval exists; to fill this gap up we must picture to ourselves thousands of feet of Coal Measures and a like number of feet of the New Red or Keuper series, all of which ought to come in between the Mountain Limestone and those beds resting on them. You may ask how is this gap or unconformity to be accounted for? The work of denudation by sea, rivers, rain and frost, upon the old land surface has been enormous. The beds or deposits which intervened have been entirely swept away, and their thickness estimated as:—

Upper coal measures, fresh water	...	...	2,000 feet.
Pennant sandstone	...	...	2,000 „
Lower coal measures, fresh water and marine	...	...	2,000 „
Carboniferous shale	...	...	500 „
			—
			6,500

The waters of the succeeding periods which deposited the thick sediments of the New Red on the south of the Mendips must have been much shallower at this spot, as the rolled pebbles of limestone indicate the shore margin of the sea at that time—just as the pebble beaches of our seas form the margin of the shore at present.

Let us try and picture to ourselves the conditions that existed in those far-off days. The sea that laid down the materials forming those massive beds of limestone must have been clear and deep, crowded with minute organisms, sea-lilies, lamp shells, and branching corals, teeming with life. In process of time the sea bottom was exposed and became consolidated into carbonate of lime and rock. Succeeding Triassic and Liassic seas submerged this and laid down their deposit on the planed-down surface of this limestone; but their waters were more turbid, and the clay bands which come in between the conglomerate are the result. A close examination of the section indicates frequent oscillations of land and sea from deep to shallower water, as shown by the clays on the one hand and the pebbly beaches on the other.

But the story is not yet finished; on the top of this Rhætic series comes the limestone of the Inferior Oolite, a deposit as indicated by its lithology and fauna laid down in seas much less deep than those of the Mountain Limestone period. Here another great gap occurs, for between these Rhætic beds and the Inferior Oolite we miss all those clay and stone beds of the lower, middle and upper Lias, represented elsewhere by hundreds of feet. Denudation and wearing away has again come into play.

Here the geologist finishes his story of this section, and if he has in any way made the story clear, how imagination must revel in the picture of the vast movements in land and sea and the enormous antiquity of the deposition of even this little Hapsford section.

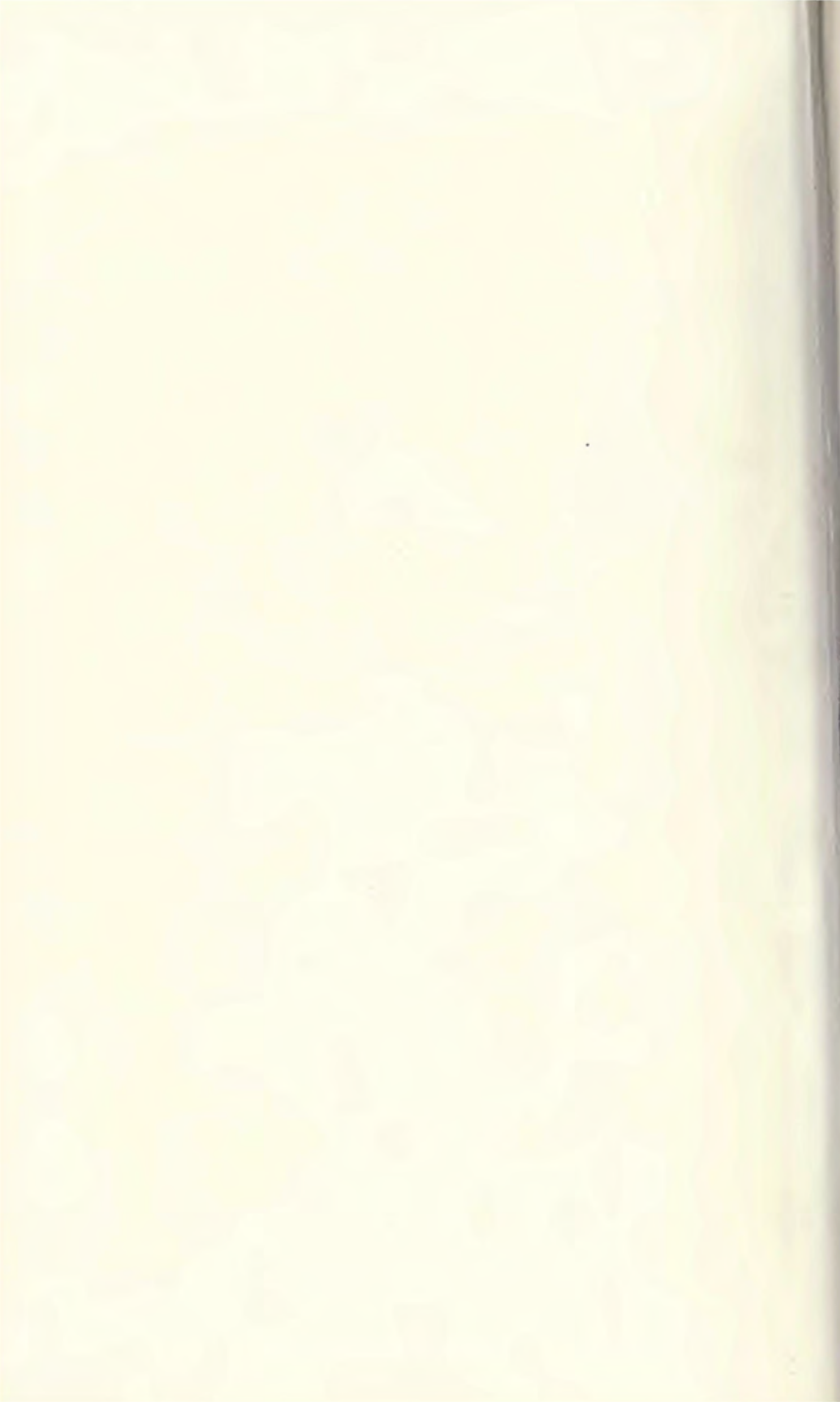
Elm Church.

The next stop was made at Elm at the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A., in the course of an address on the architecture of the Church, said that although the building had been a great deal modernized, it still retained features of great interest. The shell of the Church was very early Norman, or possibly pre-Norman. A good deal of herring-bone masonry was visible on the nave walls, north and south, and on the north side there was a blocked-up doorway, partly covered by the transept, which had a very early appearance. The Church seemed to have been enlarged in the first half of the XIII Century, when the nave was lengthened to the west and the tower added. There was some fine Early English detail in the tower, and it was possible that the influence of Hinton Priory was felt there. The probable date of the work was about 1240. The west door was very good, the label containing a fine ornamental dog's tooth, and the segmental head, recessed in two orders, should be noted. A little quatrefoil light surmounted the lancet window over the door, and might be regarded as a very early experiment in tracery. The tower was saddle-backed and very little altered, except that the modern slate roof spoils its appearance. The buttresses, raking to the ground level, with the bold string-course of roll-section over, were noteworthy. The string and plinth were carried on to the junction with the earlier nave, and there the plinth was returned inwards with a square mitre. A similar return of a plinth was visible near the north end of



THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, ELM, NEAR FROME.



the east wall of the chancel, and might point to a widening of the chancel in the XIII Century. In the south wall of the nave were two windows, originally Early English, as the drop arches inside testify ; but the tracery in them was of a simple "Decorated" order and was modern,—probably not a reproduction of old work, though some of the jamb-stones were certainly old. In the south wall of the chancel was a square-headed window of three lights, of the early Perpendicular type. It might even be of the XIV Century, of which date, he thought, was the porch, to judge by the rudely-worked members of the entrance arch. Inside the Church they had the old arrangement of a western gallery with the organ, which came in about the time of Elizabeth. The gallery was of painted pine and was in imitation of Jacobean. It was approached by an external stone staircase on the north side—quite a rare feature now. Such an arrangement might still be seen at Cameley, and there were formerly other examples at Shipham and Chilton Polden. The benches were interesting. Several of them were good Jacobean and rather like those at Mells, but the rest were a clever imitation. For the rest, the covered plaster ceiling of the nave and transept was not altogether unpleasing, but the pseudo-Gothic of the early XIX Century (which had obliterated all feeling of antiquity in the chancel) was a blot upon the Church. It was possible that the walls of the transept might in part be ancient (probably of the XIV Century), but that part of the edifice had been entirely modernized. At Buckland Dinham was a north transept of rather similar proportions and of XIV Century date. The lands of Hinton Priory stretched down as far as Buckland, and he thought that traces of the monastic influence were perceptible in the architecture of both churches. Mr. Bligh Bond called attention to two other Early English features. One was the lancet window in the north wall of the chancel, near which (on the outside) was a flat buttress, very shallow and rough ; the other was the Early English arch between nave and tower,

which had unfortunately lost its inner ring of mouldings, so that the true proportions were gone, and the corbels projected without anything to support. The window had only recently been opened up.

The Rector, the Rev. L. C. H. D. CAMPBELL DOUGLAS, said the Church was in process of restoration and visitors that day saw things at their worst. All the bosses of the nave roof were of different patterns. There were two rooms in the rectory with ceilings which matched with that roof and which must have been done at the same time. Oak was the wood used for the pews in the nave, and pitch-pine for those in the transept.

Buckland Dinham Church.

At the Church of St. Michael, Buckland Dinham, the members were received by the Rev. W. ARTHUR DWIGHT, the Vicar.

Mr. BLIGH BOND said they were fortunate in having Buckland Church in the programme, for it was a building of very great interest, possessing features of four or five different periods, from the XII to the XV Centuries. He would first call attention to the very charming specimen of a Norman font. It had a circular bowl, with two kinds of incised ornament round the top. Then there were Norman doors on the north and south of the nave, with segmental heads, and two of the original Norman windows still remained, round-headed inside, but square outside. The original outer arch of the south porch was Transitional Norman, and the chancel arch was of the same date. There was a beautiful chantry chapel of Early English date (probably about 1230), on the south side of the nave, with some fine detail in the windows and some curious brackets on the inner face of the south wall, one of which, he was told, was perforated on the top for holding tapers. On the north side of the nave was another, larger, chapel dating from about the time of

Edward II, and containing some rather time-worn effigies, in the form of floor-slabs, the figures in slight relief, supposed to represent Sir John Dinham and Joan, his wife, daughter of Sir Guy de Brian, K.G. Sir John was the founder of a chantry in the Church in the time of Edward II. Attached to the north side of the chancel was another chapel, but of the XV Century, containing some good windows and old stained glass. The porch was vaulted, with a fan-traceried roof, some time late in the XV Century, when a depressed Perpendicular arch was inserted inside the XII Century one at the entrance. There was a founder's tomb in early Decorated work in the north wall of the nave. The Church contained a fine Jacobean oak pulpit and a beautiful old Queen Anne sanctuary chair. The latter was in the tower, which was of late Perpendicular work, and of similar design to that at Hemington: the two towers seemed to be the work of the same hand. One of the windows in the north-east chapel had very refined mouldings, and some very pretty stone panelling was to be seen there. About 1480 would be the date of the Perpendicular work in the Church. The roof of the nave had been raised, and a clerestory put in, which, he believed, to be a modern imitation of XIII Century work. The communion table was of the XVII Century.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER remarked that he believed the Society had never before been to Elm or Buckland Churches, and what they had seen that day showed that they had not yet exhausted the places of interest in the county. The Dinham family also gave their name to the parish of Corton Dinham. They were an important Norman family. When Collinson wrote his "History of Somerset," there were three effigies in Buckland Church.

The Murtry Hill Stones.

When inside Orchardleigh Park, the members left the conveyances to view the standing-stones at Murtry Hill.

MR. ARTHUR BULLEID, F.S.A., read a short paper on the subject, from which the following extracts have been made:—

Chambered barrows are not rare, but there is a particularly interesting feature attached to those in this part of the west of England, namely their shape. The contour line of these tumuli is oval or pear-shaped, whereas in other parts of the British Isles, the Channel Islands and Brittany, with few exceptions, it is round. The chambered barrows of this district are (or were, for many are destroyed) mounds measuring 100 to 150 feet in length, 25 to 50 feet in width, and 7 to 15 feet in height. Twenty-eight of these tumuli are recorded by Dr. Thurnam, viz., eleven in North Wilts, one in Berks, thirteen in Gloucestershire, and three in Somerset. At the present time we are able to add two more to the credit of Somerset, viz., Frome and Holcombe.

There is little risk in stating that the Orchardleigh stones and surrounding earthwork are all that now remain of the burial chambers and a monumental mound of large proportions dating from the Neolithic age.

In an interesting paper on these stones, read before this Society in 1875,¹ Mr. Barnwell says:—"The character, however, of these stones is so patent to everyone who has had an opportunity of examining similar ones, that it is unnecessary to dwell on a modern tradition that these stones are not ancient at all, but were erected by a former owner of the estate for some curious reason; but if report speaks truly, that gentleman was the most unlikely of men, to have thus amused himself by setting a trap for unwary antiquaries, or for his private amusement."

But in my opinion there may be a question of doubt whether the stones are in their original position. I think there is sometimes a good deal more in local tradition than Mr. Barnwell would have us to believe, and without a thorough and systematic examination of this site, I would not like to say that

1. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxi, i, 40-44.

these stones are in their original position. Such stones have been sometimes moved and erected as monoliths. We have one example of this in the immediate neighbourhood. It may not be generally known, but in the garden of Fromefield House, little more than a mile distant from this spot, there stands a stone of large size, and had it not been for the brief note in the diary of a young girl written at the beginning of the last century, the history of this stone would have been lost. The facts of the case are briefly as follows: During the laying out of the garden a large mound was removed, and at the base of it was found the stone in question covering five walled compartments containing skeletons and pottery. The bones were allowed to remain intact, but the ground was levelled and the large cover-stone erected upright over the site.

On Faulkland Green, two or three miles distant, may be seen several standing-stones, some of which were placed there many years ago by a local builder.

Mr. Barnwell was inclined to think that the Orchardleigh tumulus, in its complete state, consisted of a large mound, the base of which, but at some short distance, was surrounded by a circular bank of earth. He goes on to say, "Between this and the base of the mound is a small stone, not of the same kind as the larger ones, and as in many instances graves were surrounded by circles of stones placed at regular intervals, the stone in question may be one of these, and the last survivor of the ring." These are doubtful points, and require careful investigation.

This barrow, like many others, has been so mutilated and illtreated that its dimensions and the position and length of the chamber cannot now be satisfactorily made out. When the mutilation and destruction of the Orchardleigh tumulus took place we know not, but we gather there has been little alteration in the mound during the last hundred years.

There has always been a mysterious and regrettable fascination regarding the contents of tumuli. They were rifled in

Roman times (see Wick Barrow, *Proc.* LIV), also in the VIII Century. In the reigns of Edward II and Henry VIII, royal licences were granted to dig barrows, and treasure was sought in them, even by the clergy.

Although some exploratory digging has taken place here on two or more occasions at a comparatively recent date, we understand that very little was found; the only fact on record, so far as we are aware, being that the buried portion of the larger standing-stone is of greater length than the part seen above the ground.

Thirty-five years have passed since Mr. Barnwell advocated the examination of this site, and it is to be regretted that our knowledge has not advanced since then. I cannot help thinking that, with the light of recent archæological research, many of the features which at the present moment appear to us doubtful and puzzling, might be elucidated and carefully recorded; and, with his experience, there is no one better able to undertake the work, and to set our minds at rest, than the Assistant-Secretary of our Society.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD stated that no doubt there had been a tumulus on the spot and some very big stones. The most important stone left was the smallest one lying at a little distance from the two standing upright. He would like to correct a statement he made when the Society visited Murtry Hill in 1875. That particular stone was not a piece of millstone grit; it was a sarsen stone and belonged to the Bagshot series, which came right above the chalk. The larger stones were oolite and probably belonged to the locality.

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND mentioned that in the library at Long-leat he had obtained the following information with regard to this place:—

“After I had looked at the old cromlech the other day I asked Mrs. R. Duckworth if the field in which it stands had any particular name. She said it was called ‘Murtrey,’ as were other grounds thereabout.

“It is curious that I find from notes taken from the old papers at Longleat that the monks at Henton had property all about Lullington and Buckland ; and among them ‘the Tithes of Mortuary’s Field.’ This is odd. ‘Mortuary Field’—the field of the dead—becomes ‘Murtrey.’

J. E. JACKSON.

18 April, 1875.”

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY said that after Mr. Bulleid and himself had looked over the ground a short time ago they came to the conclusion that there were at that spot the remains of a chambered long-barrow, and if the permission of the Rev. W. A. Duckworth, the owner, could be obtained, they were inclined to ask the Society to carry out some excavations there—not only the ground round the stones (which had been previously dug), but through the higher part of the barrow towards the west, where there appeared to be more of the remains of the original structure. There were very few long barrows in the county, and the cutting of one or two sections through that one might give some interesting results. The work would be comparatively easy, and if interments existed there they would probably be at a very slight depth below the field-level.

The Rev. W. A. DUCKWORTH then invited the party to tea, which was served under the shade of some of the large elm trees of the avenue at Orchardleigh House. The pleasure of the visitors was enhanced by the delightful views of park, lake and Wiltshire Downs they were able to enjoy whilst taking tea.

Lord HYLTON expressed the members’ high appreciation of the kindness and hospitality of the Rev. W. A. and the Hon. Mrs. Duckworth.

Mr. DUCKWORTH, after expressing the pleasure of Mrs. Duckworth and himself at entertaining the Society, said he believed it was thirty-six years since they last inspected the stones at Murtry Hill, although they had met at Frome once

in the interval. He said that he had no objection to a scientific exploration of the remains at Murtry being conducted on behalf of the Society.

Orchardleigh Church.

Subsequently, the members of the party made their way on foot through a portion of the park to the beautiful little Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They were there met by the Rev. J. G. MARSHALL, Rector of Orchardleigh and Vicar of Lullington, who said the Church, which stood on an island, was built about the year 1250, and had glass in the windows which dated from the XV Century. In the windows of the chancel, were representations of eight of the twelve apostles, each one holding a scroll bearing a portion of the creed. The figure in the centre, over the altar, was apparently a bishop; they did not know who he was. Then there was a very interesting priests' door, with a representation of the Blessed Trinity in the little window at the top—the earliest bit of glass in the Church. Perhaps the most remarkable objects were the two corbels from which the Lenten veil was hung. One of them had the hook, and was absolutely perfect. The west window had the very earliest kind of plate tracery. The tracery of the window on the south side of the nave was new, and so was that of the east window. There was a very fine font, which had never been finished; three of the niches were completed and the fourth begun. One of the figures on the font was identical with one over the aumbry; the door of the latter was probably the original one. The pulpit was Jacobean. The side chapel was new. The old house stood near the Church, on the north side, and its site was marked by a large stone—one of its buttresses.

Want of time did not permit of Mr. BLIGH BOND saying anything in Orchardleigh Church, but he has since supplied the following notes:—"This little Church, like its neighbour

at Lullington, forms one of the architectural gems of the county. Though extensively restored some years ago (in 1879), it still retains many objects of interest, and from its early date, it is somewhat unique in the district. Most of the structure appears to date from 1260 or thereabouts. There is a plate-traceried window of two lights in the west wall. On the south side, towards the east, is another in which a rather more advanced form of tracery is visible. On the north side is another extremely good window, of the Geometrical period, and a priests' door, with a glazed trefoil head over it of the early Decorated period, containing glass which is believed to be coeval with the stonework. A modern vestry is attached to the north side of the nave, and is entered by a traceried arch under a Decorated canopy. Though now forming an open arch, it is believed that this was formerly the canopy of an early XIV Century monument, but all trace of the effigy has vanished. The font is a beautiful feature (date probably about 1280). The ornament consists of several bands of foliage characteristic of the period, with little niches containing sacred figures, one being the Madonna and Child. Mention must be made of the curious little stone figures in the chancel walls, north and south, immediately over the altar-rail. These held the Lenten veil in the old days. The one on the south side retains the iron ring which held the string of the veil. There were also two very curious carved stone brackets in the east wall, with female figures, whose hair is being held back by other similar figures. In the north wall of the chancel is a most beautiful little Early English aumbry containing, in the canopy, a figure of our Lord, pointing to the wound in His side, and with His feet resting upon a skull, symbolic of the victory over death. The stained glass which fills the old windows is of the XV Century and is very fine and perfect of its kind. There is a very good modern screen of a type in harmony with the architecture of the Church."

Evening Meeting.

After the Annual Dinner at the George Hotel a meeting for the reading of papers was held at the Mechanics' Hall, the chair being taken by the President.

Meare Lake Village.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. ARTHUR BULLEID, F.S.A., and Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Joint Directors of the excavations, who described the work conducted at the Meare Lake Village that season. Mr. Bulleid dealt with the structural items of interest, and Mr. Gray with the antiquities discovered. Their remarks were illustrated by lantern slides.

The following is a résumé of their report:—¹

The second season's exploration of the Meare Lake Village began on June 5, and was continued for three weeks. The ground excavated was situated in the same part of the village and was directly continuous with last year's work.

The digging included the examination of the remaining portion of Dwelling-mound VII, the whole of Mound VIII, and portions of Mounds IX, X, and XI.

With reference to the construction of the above mounds, two, *i.e.*, Mounds VIII and IX, had special points of interest and call for mention here. Taken as a whole, however, this part of the work has been up to the present time somewhat disappointing, as little additional information has been gained regarding the structure generally, apart from that already acquired at the Glastonbury Lake Village.

Mound VIII was of medium size consisting of five floors and situated N.E. of Mound VII. No hearth was discovered associated with the two uppermost floors, which were separated with much difficulty throughout. An interesting series of

1. An account of the excavations of 1910 will be found in the *Proceedings*, LVI, i, 38-43.

eight superimposed baked clay hearths was, however, found belonging to Floors iii, iv, and v, surrounded by thick layers of fire-ash. The hearths varied from two feet six inches to five feet three inches in diameter.

Mound IX was of large size, consisting apparently of two floors, and was only partially examined. Below the clay was a thick layer of black earth composed of charcoal, fire-ash, and débris containing quantities of bones of animals and fragments of pottery. Under the black earth a well-preserved platform of timber was disclosed, bordered by the remains of the wattled wall of a circular dwelling. This timber was chiefly arranged in a N.E. and S.W. direction, and most of the wall-posts were made of squared oak, a feature not hitherto noticed in the dwellings previously examined.

The relics discovered this season were hardly as numerous as last year. A summary of them is appended.

Bone.—The bone objects were not very numerous. The most interesting specimen is a smooth pin without head, having a long recess or notch, along the middle of the shaft. A similar object was found with Late-Celtic remains on Ham Hill, South Somerset (Taunton Museum), and another on the Roman site at Iwerne, Dorset (Pitt-Rivers Museum, Farnham, Dorset). The other specimens include two tibiæ of horse (sawn and perforated), two large polishing-bones, pins, a dress-fastener, part of a drill-bow, and two objects of worked bird-bone.

Worked Carpal and Tarsal Bones of Sheep or Goat.—A large number of 'bobbins' and other objects, showing signs of considerable use, have been found, especially in Mound VII, where so many weaving appliances were discovered. Many of these bones are perforated in different directions; others have transverse markings, some deeply grooved and very smooth.

Worked Shoulder-Blades of Ox and Horse.—At the end of last season no less than thirty-two of these objects had been

found, all in Mound VII. Four more were collected from the same dwelling this year; and two others in adjacent mounds. Two of those found in Mound VII are ornamented with large examples of the dot-and-circle pattern. In all instances the bones are smooth, and the longitudinal spine had been cut down considerably. Many of them are perforated at the articular end (probably for suspension). They have been found where weaving implements are abundant, but their use remains to be explained.

Crucibles.—Fragments of two found this year.

Bronze.—Fifteen objects of this material were uncovered this year, but no fibulæ are included. There are three finger-rings, one ornamented by a cable pattern, two rivets (one of a new type), an awl, three thin moulded bosses, part of a belt-fastener, and a large part of the bordering of a perishable scabbard, including the bulbous chape. Perhaps the most interesting remains of bronze is a pair of pins with disc-shaped heads and arched stems.

Flint.—In addition to a number of flakes, a scraper and two or three finely-worked knives have been found.

Glass and other Beads.—The beads are numerous and varied. Nine were found last season; eighteen specimens this year. The collection includes two polished bone ring-beads. Six of the beads are of a yellow opaque glass, and two pale blue (also opaque). One of the finest specimens is a ring-bead of clear sea-green glass, and two are dark blue. A small blue bead is ornamented round the sides by a continuous wave pattern; two globular beads of clear white glass are ornamented in yellow, one by a spiral device, the other by a herring-bone pattern. The smallest bead is little more than one-eighth inch in diameter.

Antler.—The numbered objects of this material have now reached the total of seventy-three, twenty-four being found this season, including three antlers of roe-deer, one bearing knife-cuts, another being shaped as a knife-handle. Nothing

of exceptional interest has been found this season, many being pieces of cut antler impossible to name. The two hammers found have not been perforated for fitting handles. Several examples of the so-called "cheek-pieces," perhaps used in connection with the bridles and bits of horses, have been found, but the precise use of many of these objects is very doubtful, and their shaping and perforating varies very considerably.

Weaving-combs of antler.—Again we have a fine series, bringing the former number of twenty-one up to a total of thirty-five. Mound VII, which must have been a weaving establishment, contributes no less than twenty-nine of the number. No dwelling in the Glastonbury Lake Village produced more than nine of these combs. One example is dentated at both ends, with twelve and thirteen teeth respectively. The largest, having ten teeth, is $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. Several of them are ornamented with transverse and oblique lines, and one at least with dots-and-circles.

Iron.—The objects of iron are mostly fragmentary and much corroded as usual. The 'finds' include a chisel, knife, file, and an awl in its handle of antler; also an earth-anvil. The latter was found on the top floor of a mound, and only a foot deep below the flood-soil, through which, owing to its weight, it may probably have sunk subsequently to the occupation of the village.

Kimmeridge Shale.—Objects of this material have this season been increased from twelve to twenty-one, and they are more numerous than in the neighbouring village of Glastonbury. These objects are parts of lathe-turned armlets, with three exceptions, viz., a set of three roughly-cut heavy rings, which may have been used in connection with horse-harness. In section, one of the armlets (half) measures no less than 21 mm. by 16 mm.

Lead and Tin.—Last season three net-sinkers of lead were found, to which one has been added this year. The first object

of tin has been found, viz., a small whorl (? bead) ornamented with encircling lines of small punch-marks.

Querns.—Compared with the Glastonbury Lake Village these are plentiful at Meare, but the circular rotary querns are rare as compared with the saddle-shaped specimens, of which some well-preserved examples have been found.

Other Stone Objects.—Parts of circular blocks of stone have been found, slightly recessed on one face and having a narrow rim; they show signs of intense heat and may be parts of moulds for casting thin bronze. A large assortment of stone hammers and whetstones have been found.

Sling-bullets.—Several of the baked clay sling bullets typical of the period have been collected. Under the clay floors of the mounds three groups of selected ovoid stones were discovered, the numbers being 99, 182, and 347, respectively.

Spindle-whorls.—The former number of twenty-three has this season been increased to forty-three. Most of them are formed from discs of lias; a few are of baked clay, two being very large.

Pottery.—Shards of pottery have been very numerous—some three or four hundred-weights. All of them have been scrubbed and preserved, being sorted under the numbers of the dwellings. Several complete pots may probably be built up some day. The proportion of ornamented fragments is high as compared with those from the neighbouring village, and a great many new and highly ornate designs have been added to the collection. Very little ornamented pottery was discovered in the deepest layers; and much of it bearing typical Late-Celtic designs was found just under the flood-soil. The coarser plain pots were generally found in the black earth and brushwood below the clay floors.

Human Remains.—Two pieces of skull and one bicuspid tooth.

Animal Remains.—Found abundantly. The perforated

boars' tusks and canine teeth of large dog were no doubt used as personal ornament. The enormous number of bones of young animals indicates that the inhabitants of this marsh village must have been great meat-eaters. The remains of beaver and otter are frequently met with; and also a considerable number of bird-bones.

Mr. JOHN MORLAND, Treasurer of the Excavation Fund, stated that only a small balance remained over after the season's work, and he appealed for fresh subscriptions. He pointed out the extremely interesting nature of the work, and said it would be necessary to carry it on for a considerable number of years if the whole Village were examined.

Monmouth at Philip's Norton.

The above was the title of the second paper, by Miss H. C. FOXCROFT, dealing with the Duke of Monmouth's movements round Norton St. Philip in 1685. In Miss Foxcroft's absence the paper was read by the Rev. F. W. Weaver, and it is printed *in extenso* in Part II of this volume.

Excavations at Glastonbury Abbey.

The last item on the programme was an account by Mr. F. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A., of the recent excavations at Glastonbury Abbey, which are being directed by him on behalf of the Society. His remarks were illustrated by diagrams and lantern slides. A paper on the subject is printed in Part II of this volume.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER thanked the speakers for their interesting papers, and the Rev. Sydney Cooper was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his useful services as lanternist.