PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

DURING THE YEAR

1912.

THE Sixty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Wellington on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 16th, 17th and 18th, and was favoured with beautiful weather. This was an especially fortunate circumstance in view of the fact that the summer of 1912 was abnormally wet and cold.

A meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday morning, and was followed by the Annual General Meeting, which took place in the Town Hall. The Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, V.P., acted as temporary chairman, in the absence of Lord Hylton, the retiring President.

The Rev. E. H. BATES HARBIN briefly explained the reason for Lord Hylton's absence, and formally proposed the election of Professor Boyd Dawkins as President for the ensuing year.

Dr. J. MEREDITH seconded the proposition, and it was carried with acclamation.

The Hon. Professor W. BOYD DAWKINS, F.R.S., F.S.A., then took the chair ; and the names of members who had sent expressions of regret at inability to be present were announced.

The Annual Report.

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

"In presenting the sixty-fourth annual report your Council wishes to state that since its last report 65 new names have been added to the list of members. Losses by death and resignation have been 56. Altogether the net gain has been 9. The total membership at date is 870, against 861 at the time of the Annual Meeting last year.

"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) :—

"The Rev. D. P. Alford (1897), a member of your Council and President of the Taunton Field Club; author of the Society's guide book, 'A Short History of Taunton Castle.' He was keenly interested in the history, archæology, ornithology and botany of West Somerset. An obituary notice, with his portrait, appeared in the *Proceedings* for 1911.

"Mr. T. E. Rogers (1870), who died on February 12th last at the age of 94 years. He was Recorder of Wells from 1872 to 1901, Chancellor of the Diocese of Bath and Wells from 1884 to 1903, and compiler of the 'Records of Yarlington.'

"Dr. John Beddoe, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. (1873), the eminent anthropologist, a bibliography of whose contributions to scientific periodicals is given in 'Man,' October, 1911. In 1910 he published an autobiography entitled 'Memories of Eighty Years.' At one time he frequently attended the annual meetings of your Society, but few of his researches had reference to Somerset.

"The Rev. W. H. Lance (1871), rector of Buckland St. Mary (1885-1904), and later of Bagborough, who was keenly interested in the work of the Society.

"Lord James of Hereford (1901), M.P. for Taunton from

1869 to 1880; the Rt. Hon. John W. Mellor, P.C., K.C. (1885); Mr. H. B. Batten, Town Clerk of Yeovil (1887); Mr. J. M. Atkins, Editor of the *Wells Journal* (1884); Lt.-Colonel A. G. Boyle (1910); Mr. A. S. Bicknell (1883); the Rev. R. S. Bond (1897); the Rev. Stafford Tordiffe (1883); Mr. George Attwood, M.I.C.E. (1908); and Mr. R. Donne Hancock (1910).

"The balance of your Society's Account at the end of 1910 was £85 16s. 3d. in favour of the Society, all of which, however, belonged to the Museum and Library Extension Fund. At the close of 1911 there was a deficit of £9 1s. 7d., and a further liability of £4 2s. 8d. on the Extension Fund. In neither case was the liability for the cost of the volume for the year then expired, or on the other hand any unpaid subscriptions, taken into account. The total expense attending the issue of Vol. LVII (for 1911), including printing, illustrations and delivery, has been £158 9s. 9d. The illustration fund was kindly contributed to by Mr. J. McMurtrie, Mr. F. Were, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, and Mrs. D. P. Alford. Thanks are also due to the following for providing drawings and photographs for the volume:—Miss Foxcroft, Messrs. McMurtrie, F. Bligh Bond, H. St. George Gray, and J. H. Spencer, and Dr. F. J. Allen.

"The end of last year saw the completion of the structural alterations and decorating at Taunton Castle, carried out in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Society. The whole of the fund, viz., £1,060, has now been spent, and the operations were in progress for over two years; full details of the work have been given on former occasions. The Annual Meeting, being held this year within such easy reach of Taunton, gives to many members living at a distance an opportunity of seeing the alterations and improvements which have taken place at your headquarters.

"In the last report the Council had the pleasure of announcing that Miss J. L. Woodward, of Clevedon, had bequeathed

the sum of £500 to your Society for the Library and Museum. This fund is being specially devoted to the furnishing of the new Library and Coin Room and the purchase of books of reference. About half the money has already been spent. The new Library is now completely furnished, but several additional cases have yet to be provided for the Coin Room.

"Your Council has completed the revision of the Society's Rules, and much time has been bestowed upon their full consideration. Copies have been sent out to all members of the Society, and discussion upon the subject will be invited at the adjourned meeting this afternoon.

"Several important additions have been made to the Museum during the past year, including one of the carved oak doorways of Taunton Priory, which was purchased from Miss Fremlin ; it is figured in the *Proceedings*, Vol. XLIV, pt. i, p. 65. Ham Hill has again produced some valuable Late-Celtic and Roman remains, and these are being deposited in your Museum by Mr. R. Hensleigh Walter. Included among the objects which have already arrived is a large portion of a cuirass or *lorica*, consisting of 301 bronze scales alternately tinned. A valuable cope of the XV Century and a leather altar-cover *circa* 1600 have recently been given. Your Museum now contains the dies of the seals of the last four Archdeacons of Taunton from 1827, viz., Archdeacons Hamilton, Denison, Ainslie and Askwith. A large number of interesting local coins has been added to the collection, including about a hundred small silver Roman coins of the IV Century A.D., belonging to the well known hoard found at Holway, near Taunton, and a hoard of silver *denarii* discovered several years ago at Charterhouse-on-Mendip. The numismatic department has also been enriched by gifts from Mr. H. Symonds, Mr. Vonberg and Mr. S. Lawrence, and by purchases of coins found in the county. Other donors to your collections during the past year are :—The Rev. J. E. W. Honnywill, the Rev. Dr. S. J. M. Price, Mr. W. J. Cullen, Mr.

W. de C. Prideaux, Miss Barrett (Taunton), Mrs. J. H. Spencer and Mr. J. Standfast.

"The largest of recent donations is the collection of archæological and ethnographical specimens from many parts of the world presented by Mrs. Jervis-Smith, widow of the Rev. F. J. Jervis-Smith, F.R.S., Millard Lecturer in Mechanics, Trinity College, Oxford, who was formerly Vicar of St. John's, Taunton. This collection also includes some good specimens of ancient glass from Glastonbury Abbey, presented by Mr. E. J. Jervis-Smith.

"In 1907, your Council reported that Mr. T. Charbonnier had lent to the Museum, for a period of five years, an interesting collection of Pewter consisting of some two hundred specimens. He has recently added largely to this collection, and has kindly agreed to allow it to remain in your Museum until 1917. This collection of Pewter is undoubtedly one of the finest in the kingdom, and now occupies two large wall-cases in the Coin Room. A second edition of the Pewter guide book, with illustrations, will shortly be issued by the Society (price 9d.)

"Since the last Annual Meeting, Locke's 'Western Rebellion' (1782) has been reprinted in a cheaper form, and is now sold at 1s. a copy. 'The Mollusca of Somerset,' by Mr. E. W. Swanton, being published in three parts in the Society's *Proceedings*, is about to be issued as a complete volume (price 3s. 6d.), uniform with Murray's 'Flora of Somerset.'

"The Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin and the Curator have bestowed much time recently upon the re-arrangement of the Library, but a great deal yet remains to be done.

"The Library has been considerably added to, and your Council recently purchased a manuscript volume containing transcripts (about 1720) from the Glastonbury Cartulary preserved at Longleat. The Rt. Hon. H. Hobhouse has enriched the Library by presenting several reports of the 'Historical Manuscripts Commission,' 1891-1905, and two valuable cartu-

laries, one containing a calendar of title-deeds of Sir John de Moleyns, relating to the manors of Cucklington and Stoke Trister, written about 1350, and another, drawn up about 1460, recording the possessions of the Hungerford family, at one time owners of Farleigh Castle. Sir Prior Goldney has presented a number of Anglo-Saxon books, and several botanical books which belonged to the late Dr. R. C. A. Prior. Mr. H. Rodney has sent to the Library a large volume of Domesday Maps of Somerset and Dorset, compiled by himself. Nine vols. of 'Patent Rolls,' covering the periods 1216-1266, 1350-1354, and 1391-1399, have been added to the Library. Donations to the Library have also been received from the following, among others :—The Rev. F. M. T. Palgrave, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, Mr. C. Tite, Mrs. D. P. Alford, and the Rev. Dr. Price. Mr. Tite has also presented a complete Calendar and Index of the Serel Manuscripts in the Society's possession.

"It is no doubt a source of satisfaction to the members of your Society that Vol. II of the 'Victoria County History of Somerset' has now been published, and it is to be hoped that the succeeding volumes will follow with considerably less delay.

"Your Council take this opportunity of congratulating Messrs. Arthur Bulleid and H. St. George Gray on the publication of Vol. I of their exhaustive work on 'The Glastonbury Lake Village,' which is replete with information not only referring to the Lake Village, but to other Late-Celtic sites in Britain. As a work of reference—and it has gone to the chief libraries of the world—it has been held up as a model of what permanent record of archæological excavations should be. No expense has been spared in its production, but a large number of copies have yet to be subscribed for.

"Much time has been expended during the past year in the ticketing of your collections, and in bringing the portraits of Somerset worthies and framed Somerset pictures into a better condition for exhibition.

"Last winter H.M. Office of Works, co-operating with the Somerset County Council, initiated a list of Ancient Monuments in Somerset which were thought worthy of preservation, and they invited the assistance of your Council. The subject of the preservation of ancient monuments was discussed at the Congress of Archæological Societies, at which the Rev. F. W. Weaver and Mr. H. St. George Gray were your delegates.

"Excavations have again been in progress in the County, both at Glastonbury Abbey and at the Meare Lake Village. A certain amount of exploration has also been continued in Wookey Hole Cavern.

"The digging at Glastonbury Abbey is almost at a standstill, owing to lack of funds. It is much hoped that Mr. F. Bligh Bond will receive some substantial encouragement to continue his work. Mr. Bond and Mr. Gray will also gratefully receive donations towards the deficiency of £120.[1]

"The third season's excavations at the Meare Lake Village, under the direction of Messrs. Arthur Bulleid and H. St. George Gray, were in progress from May 27th to June 15th last. Although the items of structural interest proved to be of considerable importance, the relics discovered were less numerous than in previous seasons. The fund is now practically exhausted, and the work up till now has been supported chiefly through the generosity of the late Lord Winterstoke.

"The Natural History Sections of the Society are making good progress. The Entomological Section has been at work in the field, and the members are taking specimens for a Type Collection of Somerset Lepidoptera. For this purpose a large and convenient cabinet has been procured for your Museum. The Ornithological Section has added considerably to its members, and great interest has been taken by local ornithologists in the notes on Somerset birds edited by the Recorder, Mr.

1. Particulars as to the present position of the Fund and the proposed scheme for continuing the Excavations will be found at the end of the Excursion notes (in Part I of this volume).

James Turner. The Botanical Section has not held a meeting recently, but the members have had the advantage of taking part in the annual foray of the British Mycological Society, who made Taunton Castle their headquarters for a few days in September last. The meetings and excursions were most successful, and were reported upon in the last volume of your *Proceedings*. Members of the Parent Society may join any of the Natural History Sections on payment of 2s. 6d. annually; non-members pay 5s.

"Your Museum was visited by 7,137 persons during 1911, including 1,271 visits from members.

"In conclusion, the Council desires again to call the attention of the members to the inadequacy of the funds at the Society's disposal, and they recommend that the amount of 10s. 6d. be regarded only as a minimum subscription, in the hope that those who take an interest in the work, and feel able to do so, will contribute more largely."

Mr. H. J. BADCOCK, in proposing the adoption of the report, said he was particularly interested in the last paragraph concerning subscriptions. He was willing to allow that archæologists were more interested in getting instruction than in money-making, but the Society needed a larger income, and the question was how to get it. Their annual subscriptions did not much more than cover half their ordinary expenditure, but he thought it would be a mistake for the Society to arbitrarily raise the subscription. Members would rather raise their subscriptions themselves, and if the half-guinea were regarded as a "minimum," many members would gladly double the amount they gave because of the interest they took in the Society and the work it did.

The Rev. C. H. HEALE seconded and said that the interesting report which had just been read showed that the efforts of Mr. St. George Gray, their Assistant-Secretary and Curator, had been replete with success. During the last few years the Museum cases had been constructed on modern lines,

but there were still many of an antiquated type which would sooner or later have to be replaced by new ones, and the need of funds for this purpose was greatly felt. Many valuable gifts had been received during the past year, and the pewter collection was well worth a visit. One excellent move in connection with the work of the Society of recent years was the formation of natural history sections. They were arousing a great deal of interest among experts, and one result was that they were considerably increasing the Society's collections of natural history specimens.

The adoption of the report was agreed to.

Finances.

Mr. H. J. Badcock, Senior Hon. Treasurer, presented the balance sheet for the year 1911, which was as follows:—

Treasurers' Account.

The Treasurers in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1911.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
By Balance of former Account...	85	16	3
,, Members' Subscriptions, 1911 (834)	437	17	0
,, Members' Entrance Fees, 1911 (53)	27	16	6
,, Members' Subscriptions in Arrear (6)	3	3	0
,, Members' Subscriptions in Advance (5)	2	12	6
,, Annual Donations	4	1	0
,, Donations to the Museum and Library Extension Fund (Diamond Jubilee, 1908) ...	144	7	6
,, Woodward Bequest	500	0	0
,, Interest on Woodward Deposit Account	4	11	9
,, Bank Interest on Temporary Deposit	2	3	9
,, Balance of Assist.-Secretary's Account (Annual Meeting, Frome)	3	10	1
,, Rents	30	2	6
,, Museum Admission Fees ...	46	16	2
,, Sale of Publications	21	2	0
,, Somerset Church Towers (Brereton Fund)	2	12	0
,, Library Fees, Photographs, etc.	0	19	1
Balance	9	1	7
	£1,326	12	8

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To Secretarial Expenses, Frome Meeting	3	7	3
,, Repairs, Castle and Museum	24	3	0
,, Stationery and Printing ...	7	7	1
,, Fuel and Lighting	36	19	4
,, Purchase of Museum Specimens	30	17	5
,, Purchase of Books	17	5	7
,, Bookbinding	7	2	11
,, Guide Books	1	15	0
,, Printing, Binding, Illustrations and Postage, Vol. 56...	138	11	1
,, *Proceedings*, Vol. 57	8	0	4
,, Purchase of old numbers of *Proceedings*	5	19	11
,, Grants, Somerset Research	3	11	0
,, Museum and Library Extension Fund	175	9	10
,, Expenditure from Woodward Bequest	150	0	2
,, Curator's Salary	166	14	0
,, Assistant's Wages	32	10	0
,, Attendant's Wages	34	6	0
,, Temporary Assistance and Night Watchman ...	6	19	0
,, Petty Cash	8	14	6
,, Postal Expenses	14	16	8
,, Subscriptions to Societies ...	11	4	6
,, Trust Deed	3	13	0
,, Insurance, including Fire ...	13	16	3
,, Rates and Taxes	52	7	10
,, Watermain Wayleave ...	0	1	0
,, Deposit Accounts— Life Compositions	21	0	0
Woodward Bequest £450 Less amount withdrawn ... £100	350	0	0
	£1,326	12	8
,, Balance brought down ...	£9	1	7

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

Feb. 12th, 1912. Examined and compared with the Vouchers and Pass Book, and found correct.

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

The Rev. F. J. MONTGOMERY proposed the adoption of the accounts, and said members generally must feel that the work of the Society was carried on in an admirable manner. Personally he thought they had far too large a return for the annual subscription ; and the expenditure upon their Museum and Library was absurdly small. The volume of *Proceedings* was well worth the present annual subscription. He would

like the subscription raised to one guinea. He knew that could not well be done, but he hoped that the voluntary payment of an increased amount would gradually mature into a universal custom.

Mr. E. A. FRY seconded the proposition, and it was carried.

Election of New Members and Officers.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, the Assistant-Secretary, read the names of 65 new members, who had been provisionally elected by the Council since the last Annual Meeting, and their election was confirmed on the motion of the Rev. D. J. PRING, seconded by Mr. T. W. COWAN.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD asked if the branch societies supported the parent society by getting members for it.

Mr. GRAY replied that comparatively few members of the branch and affiliated societies belonged also to the parent society.

The Rev. Preb. F. HANCOCK, F.S.A., proposed that the Officers of the Society be re-elected, with the additions of Lord Hylton as a Vice-President, and Mr. J. Houghton Spencer as Honorary Consulting Architect. They were, he said, fortunate in having Mr. Gray for their Assistant-Secretary. He came to them with a reputation of work in various branches of archæology, and he had well maintained that reputation among them. They also recognised the good work he had done in the matter of excavation throughout the country. They were also grateful for the way the General Secretaries, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin and Mr. C. Tite, conducted their duties. On visiting a certain country house recently he stopped before a book-case labelled "Poetry and Fiction," and to his surprise saw the publications of the Somerset Record Society and the *Proceedings* of that Society were included. The extreme care, knowledge and accuracy Mr. Bates Harbin put into the Record volumes proved

the great mistake the owner of the house had made. They all rejoiced to have Mr. Badcock as Treasurer, and it was a great help to have him to manage their accounts. The speaker also favoured the proposal which Mr. Badcock had suggested, viz., that half-a-guinea should be regarded only as a minimum annual subscription.

The Rev. G. S. HENNING in seconding the proposition, fully concurred in the remarks which had been made in regard to the annual subscription.

The motion was agreed to.

Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. E. H. BATES HARBIN said the Somerset Record Society was getting on as well as could be expected in these times. Last year's volume contained Star Chamber Proceedings in the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII. That was the first time they had attempted that class of records, and he had been fortunate enough to get a Somerset lady (Miss G. Bradford) for editor, who was keeping up the very high standard which was set from the beginning of the Society.

This year's volume would be a continuation of the Quarter Sessions Records of Somerset, as the County Council had found money for the transcription. The volume would deal with the Commonwealth period, and would be found not less interesting than the two volumes of the kind which had preceded it.

He hoped that next year they would have a continuation of the Episcopal Registers of the first part of the XV Century. That volume would contain references to Lollardy in the county, and how it was got rid of.

Their subscribers had not fallen off in numbers, but he would be glad to get the names of some new ones.

The Presidential Address.

Dr. W. Boyd Dawkins, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Hon. Professor in the University of Manchester, then delivered his address,

ON SOME POINTS IN THE PREHISTORIC ARCHÆOLOGY OF SOMERSET.

Introduction.

It is with mixed feelings that I take the chair of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society, with which I have been connected for the last fifty years, in Wellington, where I attended my first meeting in 1862, as a "colt," fresh from digging the Hyæna Den at Wookey Hole, and in company with J. R. Green, who was then collecting materials that ultimately were used in the "History of the English People." Edward Ayshford Sanford was President, and among those prominent in the proceedings were Freeman, J. H. Parker, Hugo, F. H. Dickenson, W. A. Sanford, Moore, Warre, and W. A. Jones, all of whom have passed away, leaving the county richer for their labours. To that meeting I owe a lifelong friendship with H. H. Winwood, one of the few who have not yet finished their work. To that meeting, also, I owe the kindly appreciation of my efforts to discover the secrets of the caves, that led me in later years to attack the higher problems of the antiquity of man, and of the pre-history of Britain, using the discoveries in Somerset as a starting-point for enquiries elsewhere, and never losing touch with the county, in a somewhat strenuous life. It is, therefore, with peculiar pleasure that I, only a Somerset man by adoption, have accepted the honour of being your President.

I propose to address myself to the aims and the work of the Society, and to a few points of special archæological value.

The Work of the Society.

The Society, in common with those of the other counties,

has advanced the general education of the people, not merely by kindling an interest in the antiquities and natural history of the district surrounding the various centres of the annual meetings, and thus revealing the wealth of knowledge awaiting discovery, but also by collecting materials bearing on the history of man, and of the sequence of events, out of which the present order of nature has been evolved. It has been fortunate, from the very beginning, in attracting to itself the leaders of thought from the outside. At the first meeting at Taunton, in 1849, under the presidency of Sir Walter Trevelyan, we may note Buckland, one of the founders of geological science, born at Axminster and, therefore, almost a native of Somerset, explaining the relation of the scenery to the structure of the earth, and pointing out that the land in the vale of Taunton and Bridgwater was "too fat," and did not demand sufficient work from the well-fed farmers to encourage the study of agriculture. In that address he laid down the principles on which are founded our present geological knowledge of the county. We may also note among contributors to the early records of the Society, from the outside,—in architecture Willis; J. H. Parker, and Freeman, and Rolleston in pre-historic archæology. At the same meeting, too, Warre described the camp at Norton Fitzwarren, in the first of a series of essays dealing with the place of the camps in the pre-history and history of the West of England, and making the way smooth for the explorers of later times. The high character of the proceedings at this first meeting has been maintained down to to-day, and they constitute a county encyclopædia indispensable to the students of pre-history and history,—of architecture and of natural history.

Nor can it be said that the Society has finished its work, and that there is little left to be found out in the county. So far from this being the case, one discovery invariably leads to another, revealing the infinite abundance of the memorials of the past, and more minute investigation throws new light on

previous finds. In Somerset, at the present time, there is as much room for research as there ever was, and the field for enquiry is ever growing wider. The old order has given place to the new, but there is no sign of diminution in the numbers, or in the energy, of the workers. The establishment of the Somerset Record Society by its members is of itself a sufficient proof of vigorous growth, to say nothing of the explorations that it has carried, and is now carrying, out.

The Museum.

The present Museum at Taunton, in which the objects relating to the pre-history, history, and natural history of the county are arranged so that they tell their own story, is among the most important results of the work of the Society. Hitherto museums have not taken their due place in education. We are, however, slowly realising that the higher learning is that derived from the study of things as well as of books, and that the fruits of the tree of knowledge, plucked without the study of things, are sour grapes in our mouths. I look forward to the time when the museum will be used by students in the same way as a public library, and made intelligible to the visitors by plain, informal lectures, as is now the case in Manchester,—to the time when it will meet the demand for knowledge of their surroundings felt by all children, until their "satiable curiosity," as Rudyard Kipling terms it, is so effectively killed by our methods of teaching, that it only survives occasionally in after life, in adults remarkable for their originality. From all these points of view it is clear that the Society is keeping pace with the growth of ideas, and the wider outlook of the scientific renascence of the XIX Century.

The Four Stages of Human Culture.

I now turn to the consideration of a few of the more noteworthy points in the archæology of the county. In 1862 the

four stages of human culture, palæolithic, neolithic, the bronze, and pre-historic iron ages, had been clearly proved by researches over the whole of Europe: each being higher than that which preceded it, and all testifying to the truth of the view of Draper, that mankind is to be looked upon as "one man always living and incessantly learning." All are amply represented by discoveries in the county, and some of them more fully than elsewhere.

The River Drift Hunter.

The oldest traces of mankind in Somerset are the rude, unpolished implements, found by Pritchard and Elton in the river gravels and surface deposits, in the region extending from Broom in the Valley of the Axe, on the Dorset border, northwards through the districts of Chard and Whitestaunton, and Staple Fitzpaine, into the Valley of the Tone as far as Taunton. They are identical with those of River-drift Man (= *Chellean*, *Acheulean*, *Mousterian*, of French archæology) found elsewhere in Britain and on the Continent in association with the remains of the mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, the horse, bison, stag, reindeer, and other wild animals, in the river deposits of Pleistocene Age. Here they are mostly formed of the Upper Greensand Chert of the Blackdown Hills and the adjacent districts to the south in Dorset and Devon, and they therefore indicate not only the presence of man, but the further important fact that he found his way into Somerset from the south, where the materials for implements were abundant. His range north of Taunton has not yet been ascertained. It is however certain, from the occurrence of chert implements in Oxfordshire, that he ranged far into the Midlands, armed with weapons made in the south of England. He was a hunter, following the wild animals in their annual migrations, like the lions, bears, hyænas and wolves of the period, as I have pointed out elsewhere, under geographical and climatic conditions entirely unlike those of to-day.

The river-drift hunter found no difficulty in following the herds of wild animals from France into and across the Valley of the English Channel, into Dorset, Devon and Somerset, and across the great forest-covered lowlands then occupying the estuary of the Severn, and sweeping to the 100-fathom line far to the north and far enough to the west to include Ireland. He hunted without the aid of the dog, and was ignorant of the use of pottery, and held his place against the great carnivorous beasts with the rudest and most primitive weapons. The climate was continental with hot summers and cold winters, and as the general level of the British area was not less than 600 feet higher than it is now, it is probable that the higher hills in Wales, such as the Brecon Beacons and the highlands further to the north, were crowned with snowfields, and that the upper tributaries from them to the Usk, Wye, and Severn, ran milk-white from the melting glaciers. It is a significant fact that no river-drift implements or remains of the Pleistocene wild beasts have been met with in any of the upper tributaries to the above rivers. It probably implies the existence of an ice-barrier in South Wales, preventing the invasion of the upper valleys, either by the wild beasts or the hunters. This barrier to migration, we may note, forms part of that extending diagonally across Britain from the estuary of the Severn to the north-east as far as Flamborough Head and the East Riding of Yorkshire. To the south-east of this line were the hunting grounds in which the remains of the game and the implements of the hunter are associated in the river gravels, at the same time that the glacial clays and sands were being deposited by the melting of the glaciers in Wales and the region generally to the north-west of that line, where river-drift implements and the Pleistocene beasts are conspicuous by their absence. From all these facts it may be inferred that the hunter in the plains of Somerset at that time looking northwards saw the glaciers of South Wales, and wondered at their beauty in the rays of the rising and setting sun.

The river-drift hunter left his implements in the cave of Brixham, explored in 1858-59, and in the lower strata of Kent's Hole, near Torquay, 1864-78; while in the upper portion of the cave-earth the more elaborate implements belong to hunters of a higher type, whom I have termed the cave-men (=all palæolithic hunters later than Mousterian in French archæology). We have, therefore, here a sequence showing that the former is the older of the two, a conclusion since verified by a similar association in other caves, both in Britain and in France.

The Cave-Man.

The presence of cave-man in Somerset is proved by the discoveries made in 1859-64 in the Hyæna-den at Wookey Hole, laid before the Society at Wellington in 1862. Like the river-drift man he was a hunter, ignorant of pottery and of domestic animals, including the dog. He was a nomad, wandering as the hunt led him from one shelter to another, and ranging over middle Europe as far to the south-west as the Spanish side of the Pyrenees, as far to the south as the Alps and the Carpathians. In Britain he ranged as far north as the Cresswell Caves in south-eastern Yorkshire. He is specially distinguished from the river-drift man by his wonderful artistic skill in carving the animals that he hunted, and in representing their action either in incised lines on bone, antlers or stone, or as in the discoveries recently made in Auvergne, and in the province of Santander, by the frescoes in red, yellow, and black on the sides and roofs of the caves.

These Hunters probably of different Stock.

There were, therefore, in our county two groups of palæolithic tribes; the older, or the river-drift, and the newer, or the cave-man. It is probable that the first of these belongs to the Neanderthal race, proved to have been living at the time in Germany and France, and as far south as Gibraltar. With

regard to the latter, all the evidence we possess indicates that he is to be classed with the Eskimo. His art, implements, and weapons were the same, and he hunted the same animals, seals, whales, reindeer, and musk-sheep. For these reasons, although no human skeletons have as yet been found of the age of these remains, I am inclined to group the cave-man in Britain with that Arctic race. This view, put forward in the sixties, has been strengthened by later discoveries, in similar refuse heaps in the caves of middle eastern Europe and in Asiatic Russia, that bridge over the interval separating the cave-men of Britain and France from the Eskimo inhabiting the shores of Behring Straits.

The Great Antiquity of Man.

Both these tribes of hunters lived in Britain and on the Continent, at a time so remote that it is impossible to fix a date in terms of years. There are no chronometers in nature that can be used to measure time past. All attempts to measure it by an appeal to the rate of erosion of the land, or the thickness of the deposit from floods, or the amount of salt in the sea, are idle speculations, founded on the false assumption that there was no variation in these things in the past. They are themselves variable, and therefore cannot be used as standards of time. We may, however, infer, from the great geographical and climatal changes that took place in Britain at the close of the pleistocene age, as well as from the sequence of events that separate the pleistocene age from the historic period, that the occupation of Somerset by the two races of hunters goes back to a vast and immeasurable antiquity. Both disappeared from Europe at the close of the pleistocene period, and both are mapped off from their neolithic successors of the succeeding prehistoric period, by the geographical changes, by the sinking of the land, by which the sea occupied the low lands and isolated Britain from the Continent, and divided it from Ireland, and thus preventing migration from

the Continent. The Continental climate became insular at this time too, and more equable than it was before. It was sufficiently long to allow of the extinction of the characteristic pleistocene wild beasts.

The Interval between the Pleistocene and Prehistoric Periods.

The interval between the pleistocene and prehistoric periods has not in my opinion been bridged over by discoveries either in France or in Britain. In France the mingling of palæolithic with neolithic remains in the cave of Mas d'Azil is due to the introduction of the latter during or after the neolithic age. In Britain the implements found in and around the flint-mines of Cissbury and Grimes Graves, taken by Reginald Smith to be palæolithic in age, are merely implements more or less imperfect, and in process of manufacture from the block of flint towards the ordinary finished article of late neolithic or early Bronze Age. The transition from palæolithic to neolithic culture took place somewhere, but the region where it took place is still unknown.

The Prehistory.

We must now pass on to the consideration of some points of interest in the prehistory of our own county after the British Isles were severed from the Continent. The prehistoric period is characterised by the introduction of the domestic animals, and the neolithic industrial arts and civilization, and by the higher developments of culture, marked by the use of bronze and of iron, brought into Britain by successive bands of immigrants. It ranges in time from the neolithic age to the dawn of history, or in other words to the Roman Conquest.

The prehistoric farmers and herdsmen passed westwards into Somerset over the dry chalk-downs of Dorset and Wilts, and along the ranges of Lower Greensand, Oolites, and Upper Greensand, extending from Dorchester to Axminster and the Devon border. The settlements occur mainly on the dry up-

lands and were only extended into the lower forest-clad marshy grounds in the Prehistoric Iron Age. They consist of clusters of circular huts sometimes protected by a rampart and enclosing sufficient ground to take in their flocks and herds. They are also marked by the burial mounds, and are more or less linked together by roads following the ridges, and avoiding the valleys then filled with forest and morass.

The Prehistoric Roads.

We may take for example the long line of ridgeways, running along the summit of the Quantock Hills, from St. Audries to Cothelstone, linking together the burial mounds and the camps, and west of Taunton through Wiveliscombe and along the Brendon Hills to join the network of other prehistoric roads near Exford which are dated by both mounds and settlements. A third example is presented by the ridgeway running east and west on the top of the Blackdown Hills past Castle Neroche to join 'the oldway' at Ilton, north of Ilminster. It is crossed by three roads running north and south; one on Combe Hill passing Simon's Barrow on towards Wellington, a second from Broom Down northwards past Widecombe towards Taunton, and a third from Combe St. Nicholas to Castle Neroche and also making for Taunton through Staple Fitzpaine. We may also quote a fourth in the ridgeway, modified in later times by the Roman engineers, extending from Frome on the east along the Mendips, throwing off one branch near Shipham to the north past Dolebury Camp, and a second at Banwell towards Weston-super-Mare. It continued to the west as far as Uphill, and the mouth of the Axe, from which there was free communication along the sands to Weston-super-Mare and Worlebury.

These roads began as tracks linking one neolithic settlement with another, grew into roads for pack-horses, if not for carts, in the Bronze Age, and were further developed into the network of well-defined roads for wheeled vehicles in the Pre-

historic Iron Age, that extended over Britain at the time of the Roman Conquest, and forms the basis of the existing routes of travel. An important section of the future work of the Society will be the fixing of the archæological date of these roads by their association with settlements and tombs.

The Population.

The population in the Neolithic Age in Somerset, as in the rest of Britain, was small, and confined mainly to the uplands. In the Bronze Age it was large and also on the uplands. In the prehistoric Iron Age it centred chiefly in the lowlands, and at convenient points on the rivers and on the sea; such for example as Worlebury, the settlements in the marshes of Glastonbury and Meare, and last, though not least, in Bath—the city of Sul. I would also add to the list Wellington and Taunton, from the convergence of the prehistoric roads. If this line of enquiry be followed up, it will probably be found that most of the existing towns in the county date as far back as the prehistoric Iron Age, if not beyond.

The Ethnology.

The prehistoric inhabitants of the county fall, as in the rest of Britain, into three well marked groups: (1) The small oval-headed tribes, probably dark in complexion and with black hair, were the sole possessors of the land in the Neolithic Age. They belong to the stock which I have termed Iberic in Britain, in France, and Spain, and which Sergi has called Mediterranean in Italy and the Mediterranean region.

(2) These were invaded in the Bronze Age by the broad-headed and mostly taller tribes, who had already conquered and absorbed into their mass a portion of the Iberic population of the Continent, and imposed upon them their Goidelic or Gaelic tongue—the older of the two divisions of the Celtic language. Their speech still survives in the Highlands of Scotland, in Ireland, and the Isle of Man, and has left its mark

in river- and hill-names in almost every part of Britain. In Somerset the Axe (water) may be quoted among the rivers, and Dunkery Hill, Bleadon, Dundon among the hills (*Dun*=camp or fort).

(3) The third great invasion from the Continent took place in the Prehistoric Iron Age, the tribes speaking the Brythonic (Welsh) tongue, who have also left their mark on our topography in such names as Pen, Pennard (*pen*=hill, *ardd*=ploughland: compare Penarth in Glamorganshire); Pylle, Pilton (*puyll*=pool); Mendips (*maen*=stone); Ebbor Rocks (*aber*=mouth or entrance); Avon (*afon*=water) and others. These tribes found their way into Britain before the days of Pytheas, and were followed some 250 years later by others, speaking probably a closely-allied tongue—the Belgæ, whose conquests, arrested by the Roman arms, did not extend over Southern Britain further to the west than Somerset.

Somerset in the Prehistoric Iron Age.

I must now conclude with a brief summary of the additions made to the archæology of our county by the recent exploration of the Lake-villages at Glastonbury and Meare, and of the remains left in Wookey Hole Cavern by the dwellers in the Prehistoric Iron Age. The researches of Warre and of Dymond into the fortified settlement of Worlebury, at Weston-super-Mare, had proved that the inhabitants of Somerset before the Roman Conquest were far advanced in civilization, but they gave very little precise information as to the date. By these new discoveries this phase of culture finds its true place in the pre-history of the county.

The Lake-villages were clusters of round huts surrounded by a stockade, planted for security on the edge of the marshes. The inhabitants of that at Glastonbury smelted iron and made various edged tools and weapons—axes, adzes, gouges, saws, sickles, bill-hooks, daggers, swords, spears, etc. They also smelted lead ore from the Mendip Hills, and made net-sinkers

and spindle-whorls. They probably carried on the manufacture of glass beads and rings and other personal ornaments. They were also workers in tin and in bronze. It is likely that the beautiful Glastonbury bowl was made in the settlement, since unused rivets of the same type as those of the bowl have been commonly met with. They were expert spinners and weavers, carpenters and potters, using the lathe at least in the former industries. The discovery of a wooden wheel, with beautifully-turned spokes, proves that they possessed wheeled vehicles, while the snaffle-bits of iron imply the use of the horse. Their commerce was carried on partly by land, and the possession of canoes gave them the use of the waterways. They were linked with other settlements by the road running due east from Glastonbury, that formed a part of the network of roads traversing the county in the Prehistoric Iron Age, and more especially with the lead-mines and the fortified villages or camps of Mendip, and of the rest of the county.

The Lake-villagers were undoubtedly in touch with their neighbours by sea and by land. Their jet probably came from Yorkshire; their Kimmeridge shale from Dorset; the amber from the eastern counties or from the amber coast south of the Baltic. The cocks for fighting were probably obtained from Gaul, and the oblong dice are identical with those used in Italy in Roman times. Some of the designs on their pottery are from the south, and the bronze mirrors are probably of Italo-Greek origin. The technique of the Glastonbury bowl is that of the goldsmiths of Mykenæ. The whole evidence points to a wide intercourse with the other British tribes, as well as to a commerce with those of the Continent, extending as far south as the highly civilized peoples of the Mediterranean. It falls in line with that offered by other discoveries recorded in other parts of Britain, in settlements and tombs, by General Pitt-Rivers, Sir Arthur J. Evans, and others, proving that the inhabitants of Britain were highly civilised, and were not isolated from the higher

Mediterranean culture, for some 200 years before the Roman Conquest.

We may infer from the absence of Roman remains that the Lake-villages were abandoned before the influence of Rome was felt in Somerset.

All doubt, however, as to this point is removed by the recent exploration of Wookey Hole Cavern, where the group of objects in the Lake-villages was found in five well-defined layers underneath two superficial strata of Roman age, the latter being dated by the coins ranging from the time of Vespasian (A.D. 69-79) to Valentinian II (A.D. 375-392). Here we have proof that the civilization of the Prehistoric Iron Age was pre-Roman, and that it ended in Somerset with the Roman Conquest. It has been traced in other parts of Britain as far back as 150 to 200 B.C.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking the discoverers and explorers to whom we owe these two most valuable contributions to prehistoric archæology,—Messrs. Bulleid and St. George Gray, for their long and patient work (from 1892-1907) in the Lake-village of Glastonbury, the first instalment of which has been published by the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society,[1] and to Messrs. Balch and Troup for their memoir, "On a Late-Celtic and Romano-British Cave-dwelling at Wookey Hole, near Wells," read before the Society of Antiquaries of London.[2] It is to be hoped that their discoveries will be followed up by other workers in other places, and that the exploration of the two Lake-villages at Meare, begun under the auspices of our Society, will be completed so as to throw more light on the last, and perhaps the most fascinating period in the Prehistory of Somerset.

The Rev. J. WORTHINGTON moved a hearty vote of thanks to the President for his address. He said it was full of prac-

1. "The Glastonbury Lake Village," 4to., 1911 (Vol. I).
2. *Archæologia*, LXII (1911), pp. 565-592.

tical suggestions and they should take to heart some of the things he called upon them to do. Professor Boyd Dawkins had alluded to his work in the north. He (the speaker) was a Manchester man and one of the earliest students of Owen's College which was opened sixty-one years ago, and in connection with which their President had worked so nobly. They trusted he would be spared for many years to find his way into Somerset and take his place as a member of their valuable, and they might now say ancient, Society.

Mr. C. TITE, in seconding, said they well knew what Professor Dawkins had done for the county and also for the country at large. As to his suggestions about Museums, he could inform the meeting that the Taunton Museum was visited by the children of several schools in the town and district. Only the previous week a large number of working men from all parts of the country came to Taunton for a special purpose, and a very considerable number visited the Museum.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

Luncheon was served at the Squirrel Hotel at 1.15 p.m.

Rules of the Society.

At 2.15 p.m. the members re-assembled at the Town Hall, for the special business of considering the Rules of the Society as provisionally revised by the Council. A copy of the proposed new Rules to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting was sent out to every member of the Society at least three weeks previous to the meeting held for their consideration.

The President occupied the chair. The revised Rules were read by the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, one of the Hon. Secs., and all the additions to, and alterations of, the former Rules were mentioned and some of them discussed.

Rule XV was freely discussed and several suggestions were

made for its improvement. Ultimately it was unanimously resolved that it should read as follows:—

"Each Member on admission to the Society shall pay an entrance fee of 10/6, and an annual subscription of not less than 10/6. Subsequent annual subscriptions shall be due on January 1st. Other members of a subscriber's family, living at home, may pay a reduced annual subscription of not less than 7/6, but such members will not be entitled to receive a copy of any of the Society's publications free. Any member intending to withdraw from the Society shall give notice to that effect to the Assistant-Secretary on or before December 31st, failing which such member shall pay the subscription for the ensuing year. The fee for Life Membership shall not be less than Ten Guineas."

Major Griffith Davies proposed and the Rev. C. H. Heale seconded that the Rules as revised and amended be accepted by the Society. This proposition was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Rules of the Society, the Bye-Laws for the Government of the Museum and Library, and those relating to the Formation and Affiliation of Branch and District Societies, as adopted at the Annual General Meeting, are printed at the end of this Volume.

Wellington Parish Church.

The Meeting at the Town Hall was followed by a visit to the Parish Church (*see* frontispiece), which was described by Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A.

He said: The Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Wellington (commonly but quite erroneously known as the Church of St. John Baptist) is of very ancient foundation, as may be seen from the admirable summary of records relating to Wellington by the late Mr. F. T. Elworthy embodied in Vol. XXXVIII of this Society's *Proceedings* (1892). In the year 904,

Wellington became an Episcopal Manor, as appears by a charter of that date, and was associated with Buckland, whose Church is also dedicated to St. Mary.

Domesday records show that the place was a considerable one at that time, as well as an ancient one, but as regards the Church, there is a gap in the documentary records till A.D. 1215, when we first hear of a 'parson' of Wellington. This gap is, however, bridged by architectural evidence, since we have traces of two buildings at least, and possibly three, preceding the present, which is of the Perpendicular period. These evidences consist of a few Norman stones found in the rebuilding of the chancel in 1848, but which have unfortunately not been preserved; an Early English doorway to the south porch incorporating two stones[1] of earlier date (now forming the bases of the nook-shafts, but which seem unmistakably to be Romanesque capitals inverted); a window and priests' doorway of about the same period on the south side of the chancel, of which sketches are preserved in the Pigott collection (these have been removed in the rebuilding of 1848 and are now brought out on the wall of the extended south aisle); and, lastly, a sepulchral recess and effigy of the first part of the XIV Century, formerly in the north wall of the chapel on the north side of the chancel, but now removed to a position underneath the east window of the same. This, however, brings us to a later date than that during which the records are silent, and this piece of work is probably A.D. 1320 or thereabouts, together with the reconstructed piscina on the south side of the chancel.

The effigy of which mention has been made is that of an ecclesiastic and there is an obscure and mutilated inscription around its base not now entirely accessible for inspection, but which was deciphered many years ago by an official of the British Museum, and which runs as follows :—

1. These two stones are of a material different to the rest of the doorway, and show a coarse diagonal tooling of Norman character.

✠ . RICHARD : PERn : d(e) (Saint) MERE : OF : WELINTONE : (HERE) : LIGGITH : IN : GRAVE : IHV : CRIST : GODES : SONE : GRAWNTE : HIM : (REST?)

Note, in passing, the evidence this supplies of the original dedication of the Church, which is substantiated by several wills.

Mr. Edmund Buckle, at the Society's Meeting here in 1892, gave it as his opinion that the figure represented that of the founder of the north chapel, and Mr. Elworthy considered that the remains of the late XIII or early XIV Century Church (he instances the south doorway and the east window of the chancel, of which the present one is a reproduction) were probably representative of additions or restorations made by the same former vicar of Wellington whose tomb and effigy are here preserved.

If this be so, then it may not be amiss to speak of this parson as the founder of the chapel, and it is possible that certain facts, whose records are to be found in the Register of Bishop Drokensford at Wells (c. 1316), may throw light upon his identity.

In Mr. Elworthy's notes (*Proc.* XXXVIII, 233) you will see an extract from the Drokensford Register by which it appears that on 19 August, 1316, the Bishop issued a commission to two clergymen of the locality to 'reconcile', *i.e.* to re-consecrate, the Church, probably as a result of crime within its walls.

These clergy were Dr. Thomas Dillynton, rector of Combe Florey, and Richard de Ford, sometime rector of Bradford-on-Tone, who was then quite a young man, and was ordained priest shortly after 1309. He and his colleague were both bishop's chaplains, and Richard de Ford afterwards received various promotions.

There were several Fords in the neighbourhood of Wellington, but the principal place so named was the manor of Forde in Bradford, held in the time of Henry III by William de Forde.

These facts may be only in the nature of coincidences, but they seem to offer presumptive evidence for asking whether

(*a*) There is any record of a Ford Chapel in this Church.

(*b*) Richard de Ford's preferments included that of the vicariate of Wellington.

The corollary would be that this is the tomb of Richard de Forde, of Forde in Bradford, parson of Bradford, and then of Wellington, and bishop's chaplain, afterwards prebendary and cathedral treasurer, who, with Dr. Dillynton, reconciled the Church, and through whose agency, or that of his family, the fabric was in part rebuilt after its pollution by crime. The date 1320 is about the latest that can well be fixed for the monument in Wellington church to its vicar, as in 1323 another cleric, Bartholomew de Welynton, is named in the same register, and Mr. Elworthy says that he must have been appointed some time before 1321, as the commission given him by the bishop, which was to collect payments from all his bailiffs, would hardly have been issued to him upon his first coming into residence.

The piscina in the chancel is a good deal modernised, but retains two curious corbel-heads in support of the shafts on each side. One is the head of a king, the other that of an ape. Their meaning we can only conjecture. We might agree to let them stand as symbols of a contemporaneous event,—the defilement of the Church, represented by the brute,[1] and its reconciliation, typified by the crowned head opposing it.

Another smaller piscina, of a date apparently rather later in the XIV Century, is in the wall of the south aisle behind the place where Judge Popham's great tomb now stands. This tomb which is of Elizabethan date, stood in former times partly under the arch towards the chancel (and at that time the south chapel terminated with the first arch, the other being added in the XIX Century extension). There were palisades of wood

1. The ape has a monk's tonsure; and the two other heads, which terminate the label over the arch, are those of a monk and a woman.

and iron around it, and the space it now occupies was a chapel, thought by Mr. Elworthy to have been that of the Guild of St. Saviour in Wellington, as a small crucifix is cut on the centre mullion of the window over this part. The east wall of this chapel, now rebuilt in a position further to the east, contains still the old window in the jamb or internal splay of which may be seen some niche-work for small statues. There were other guilds or friendly societies[1] of ancient date in the town, having chapels in the parish church, namely those of St. George, St. Katherine and the Trinity. That of St. Katherine was on the north side of the nave, in a former aisle. As the whole of the northern part of the Church is new, we cannot identify the place.

The Church as we now see it is chiefly of the XV Century, to which epoch belongs the lofty nave with its ceiling, and the first pair of arches flanking the chancel on the north and south sides. Much harm was done at the reconstruction of the Church in 1848, when the chancel as well as the north aisle were rebuilt, many old features being lost, including the rood-loft turret and stair. The orientation of the chancel was altered.[2] The south porch underwent alteration in the time of Queen Elizabeth (see tablet with names of churchwardens and date 1577). At this date the Early English arch was probably rebuilt and altered. The western tower is a fine feature, though not one of the most elaborate (*see* frontispiece). The stair-turret is placed in a peculiar and conspicuous position in the middle of the south side, and this arrangement will be seen in one or two other churches locally. The evidence of the bonding of the walls of aisle and tower on the north is in favour of a later date for the tower.

A very fine feature is the panelled arch between tower and

1. These guilds were not trading guilds but benefit societies.

2. Both aisles were at this date extended one way to the eastward, necessitating the construction of two new arches to the chancel, which are copies of the two original XV Century arches just westward of them.

nave. The chancel arch is inferior, and appears to be a very late piece of work, probably taking the place of a narrower one, just as was the case at Bradford and Buckland close by.

Minor features of interest are the two stone brackets on the piers north of the nave, and similar ones in the hollow of the jambs of the east window of the south chapel; remains of the old screen-panels worked up in the west galleries and the pulpit; a fine old Jacobean chest in the vestry; two old sanctuary chairs; and a reading-desk made out of a Jacobean bedstead.

The pulpit is a composite structure, put together in 1799, the basis being a good work of the type prevalent at the end



of the XVII Century. Affixed to its panels are some smaller and more ancient panels of very delicate and beautiful late Gothic tracery, bearing shields charged with three clover-leaves, and in one case a cross fleury.

The pulpit is raised upon a hollow stem, the sides of which are filled with very fine sections of fan-vaulting, evidently a spoil from the old rood-screen. These are embossed with foliated canopy-work, agreeing in character with the flat panels now in the galleries, but more rich in execution. The work is now hidden from sight, but if the pulpit were raised it would have an excellent effect.

The Rev. W. W. PULMAN, Vicar of Wellington, asked if it was likely that the mother church of Wellington and the daughter church of West Buckland would have the same dedication. He thought it far more likely that the original dedication of the Church was to St. John the Baptist, and that after a period, during which it was ascribed to St. Mary the Virgin, the old dedication to the Baptist was reverted to.

Mr. BLIGH BOND replied that there was no evidence before the XVIII Century that it was dedicated to St. John.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER mentioned the case of Frome Church, which was really dedicated to St. John the Baptist, but for a time was attributed to St. Peter, and said the bishop's registers supported the mediæval wills with respect to the dedication of Wellington Church to St. Mary. There was no evidence to support a theory about a double change in the dedication. It was rather hard that after members of the Society, twenty years ago, clearly pointed out that the true dedication was to the B.V.M., they should on that occasion come into the Church and see "St. John the Baptist" on all the notices.

The PRESIDENT remarked, with regard to the controversy over the dedication of the Church, that the meetings of the Society would be very dull if they did not now and then "make the feathers fly."

Dr. F. J. ALLEN said the fine and interesting tower belonged to a class which prevailed throughout the western part of Somerset, and throughout Devon and Cornwall. They were distinguished by the way the buttresses were set at a

short distance from the corners, and the extraordinary scarcity of windows, but in the case of the Wellington tower one could see influence of the neighbouring towers of the Quantock district, especially in the window tracery. The very numerous grotesque figures of the parapet were frequent in the Devon towers. The stair turret occupied the centre of the south side where windows to let in light would have been more appropriate.

West Buckland Church.

After a short interval for tea, the members drove to St. Mary's Church, West Buckland, where Mr. Bligh Bond gave another descriptive address. He said:

This parish in mediæval days was coupled with Wellington, and the Church partakes of the character of the sister Church at Wellington in some respects. This is notably the case in the lofty and spacious proportions of the nave, and in the design of the western tower. The roof is of the XV Century, but has at some time been lowered, and the heads of the clerestory windows cut off.

The nave arcades have been described as "Decorated," but they cannot be later than about 1260, and are in all probability earlier than this. On the north side are remains of a scroll moulding, which is still perfect on the cap at the east end of this arcade. There is also a square section remaining in the caps on this side, but every other feature has been pared away, so that the general character is lost and the piers have a nondescript aspect. There remain, however, some evidence of yet earlier piers in the plinth blocks on which the present ones are constructed. These are XII Century in appearance.

The same may be said of the curious fragment of masonry remaining in the southern jamb of the chancel arch. Here may be seen traces of the east wall of the earlier nave, in the shape of a portion of a hagioscope with flat segmental head

and curved label. There would have been two of these, one on each side of the narrow chancel arch of the period, but, following the custom of later years, these obstructions were chopped away to make room for a wider arch. Some of the detail of the chancel arch is of the Devonshire type. Here may be seen a typically West-country capital let into the work.

In the south aisle wall appears a rood-loft staircase, opened during the recent restoration. The small single-light window in the north wall of the chancel was discovered and opened up at the same time.

The square bowl of the font is probably of the XII Century. Two of the sides show original work in the flat diaper-work of the panels, but the other two appear to be much more recent, and were probably worked when the font was removed from its original position.

There are a few good benches left in the Church. These are solid, well-moulded but plain, and were pronounced by Mr. Freeman to be interesting examples of XIV Century work. There are a few good old encaustic tiles in the Church floor. Jeboult mentions a fine screen standing in 1873. Of this no trace remains. There are two interesting chairs of the Queen Anne period in the sanctuary.

The present Vicar of Wellington had taken great interest in West Buckland Church, and had carried out its restoration in an excellent manner.

Dr. F. J. Allen stated that the tower was a smaller specimen of the same type which they had seen at Wellington, but the buttresses were diagonal. His attention had been drawn by Mr. E. Capron (Wellington) to the fact that John Peryn, of Wellington, who made his will in November, 1509, bequeathed 3s. 4d. to the building of the new tower of Buckland. That satisfactorily gave them the date of it.

Leaving Buckland Church the party proceeded to

Gerbestone.

In the ordinance of Bishop Joceline concerning the endowment of the provostship of Combe St. Nicholas, made 1235, from the endowment of the Vicar of Wellington, the hay of the demesne of Gerebert, knight of Wellington, and of his heirs was excepted (*Cal. MSS. of Dean and Chapter of Wells*, vol. I, p. 244). From this knight Gerbardestone may have received its name. The tithing of Gerbardestone is mentioned in the earliest court roll extant of the Manor of Wellington, 12 Dec., 1277, when John de Gerbardestone was a juror. (*Materials for the History of Wellington*, by A. L. Humphreys, pt. ii, p. 166). In 1334 John de Gerberdeston and Agnes, his wife, settled one messuage, the mill, and various lands in Gerberdeston on John de Moleton of Ashill and Isabella, his wife, with remainder to their son Thomas (*Ped. Fin.*, 8 Edw. III, no. 49; *S.R.S.*, XII, 171). In 1365 John de Molton sold the manor of Gerberdeston, subject to the life interest of Agnes, widow of John de Gerberdeston (who must therefore have been a later generation than the juror of 1277), to Sir Henry Percehay, Justice of the Common Pleas (*Ped. Fin.*, 39 Edw. III, no. 3; *S.R.S.*, XVII, 60).

After the death of Sir Henry's only son William, *c.* 1390, his large property was divided between the families of Warre and Francis, his cousins and heirs; and in this division, Gerbestone came to William Francis, who settled himself at Combe Florey. In the Court Rolls of Wellington, under 1432—Gerbereston.—William Fraunceys makes default of common suit; therefore in mercy. (Written over: 'by fine heretofore'). (*Humphreys*, II, 194). The farm was now let on lease. In 1556 Richard Buckland of Martock, by his will, left to his wife Cecilia his lease of the manor of Gerberdiston which he had of the demise of Sir William Francis, knt., deceased, with remainder to his nephew, Christopher Dodington, and to his son William. In 1581 John Perry left to his wife Elizabeth

'all such wenscott, bordes, bedsteeds, and hangings within my house at Gerberston,' together with all the farm and stock and growing crops, also the lease made to him by John Francis (to whom he left a short gowne furred throughout with collaber) of the farm and barton, dated 22 Oct., 12 Elizabeth (1570), with remainder to John Perry of Halse, his brother, and his children. The widow died in 1595, and in the numerous wills of the Perry family extending to 1754, as given in *Humphreys*, there is no reference to Gerbestone.

By kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Marke the party were able to wander at will over this interesting old house.

The Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, after referring to part of the history given above, said: As regards the date of the building it is hardly likely that Elizabeth Perry, with no children to succeed, would build a new house or make much alteration in an old one during her widowhood, 1582-1595. John Perry's will shows that he was a man of substance, and there is nothing in the plan or details to forbid the period between the grant of his lease, 1570, and his death in 1582, as that in which the house, if not erected *de novo*, was at all events altered on the Elizabethan plan.[1] This was a central hall with wings at either end; and it will be noticed that the hall is simply a large room with another floor over it, instead of occupying the whole space up to the roof tree. The south wing contains traces of an older building, and has several stairs made out of solid blocks of wood. As a rule a moderate sized house of this period would have a staircase at either end of the hall to give access to the wings; and when the hall has been altered beyond recognition in modern times, the stairs will often provide a clue to its original position in the building.

The President expressed the thanks of the Society to Mr. and Mrs. Marke for allowing the members to inspect their house.

1. The next tenant to Mrs. Perry may have done some building in this style.

Evening Meeting.

After the Annual Dinner at the Squirrel Hotel, a Meeting for the reading of Papers was held at the Town 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 Village during that season. Mr. Bulleid dealt with the items of structural 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 third season's exploration of the Meare Lake Village by the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society began on May 27, 1912, and was continued for three weeks under the joint supervision of Messrs. Arthur Bulleid and H. St. George Gray. 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 parts of the following mounds: N.E. portions of Mounds X and XI, remaining from the excavations of last year; N. quarter of Mound XII, and the S.W. portions of Mounds XIII and XIV.

With the exception of Mounds XI and XII, none of the above-mentioned sites appear to have been occupied for any length of time as dwellings, for neither wall-posts nor hurdles were discovered, and the clay floors were without the usual covering of black earth and charcoal. This no doubt accounts for the paucity of smaller finds during the season's digging. Mound XII contained two hearths, both of which were incomplete and in a poor state of preservation.

1. An account of the excavations of 1910 will be found in the *Proceedings*, LVI, i, 38-43; the work in 1911 is described in Vol. LVII, i, 42-47.

With reference to the construction of the mounds, several points of interest were noted, and foremost among these was the substructure under Mound XIII. This mound was supported by a massive foundation of logs and timber, of greater importance than any hitherto found at Meare. Apart from the strength and arrangement of the timber, the substructure yielded many pieces of worked oak and wattled hurdles. The latter included one complete hurdle and parts of five others. The complete hurdle measured 14 feet in length by 5 feet 6 inches in width. Amongst the pieces of worked wood were several mortised oak beams, three knobbed oak piles with sugar-loaf shaped heads, a wheel-shaped disc cut from a solid piece of oak, and a wooden handle belonging to some implement.

With reference to Mound X, a noteworthy feature was the large number of slabs of lias covering the surface of the upper floor.

Although the items of structural interest proved to be of considerable importance, the relics discovered were much less numerous than in previous seasons, and some of the clay floors examined did not appear to have been lived upon. The following is a summary of the objects found :—

Bone.—A very few pieces of cut bone of minor importance. Another worked shoulder-blade bone, with perforation, was found, bringing the total number of these objects up to thirty-nine.

Crucibles.—Seven items from Meare are now classified under this heading, including an almost perfect triangular specimen repaired this season, which has fused bronze adhering to the inner surface.

Bronze.—Five objects of bronze were collected this year, including a rivet-head and two spiral finger-rings, one being composed of two twisted strands of wire, the other ornamented like the fragment of a bracelet figured in 'The Glastonbury Lake Village,' vol. i, plate xlii., E 12.

Flint.—Six scrapers, two worked knives, and four other small roughly worked implements were found this season ; also a large number of flakes, and several pieces of burnt flint.

Glass Beads.—Only one (with herring-bone pattern) was added this year, bringing the total up to twenty-eight.

Antler.—Few of the fragments of cut antler were of special interest, but an object covered with large dots and circles, presumably the greater part of a hair ornament, was found. Only one weaving-comb of this material was discovered.

Iron.—The few pieces of iron collected were in a bad state of preservation.

Kimmeridge Shale.—Part of a plain armlet and another worked fragment were added to the collection.

Querns.—An upper and a lower stone of rotary querns and fragments of others were found ; also part of a saddle quern.

Other Stone Objects.—Several sling-stones, found singly ; about twenty whetstones ; a pounder ; ten small smooth pebbles (perhaps *calculi*) ; and a few flat discs, not perforated. A stone socket, formed from a water-worn slab of lias, presumably for the support of a wooden post, was also found.

Spindle-whorls.—These objects have now reached a total of forty-five.

Baked Clay.—A few objects of baked clay were found, including parts of two triangular loom-weights, and some small balls, partly perforated.

Pottery.—The shards were not so abundant as in former seasons, but the proportion of ornamented pieces was perhaps larger than usual, and the greater part of some pots was found. The treatment of the curvilinear designs, herring-bone patterns, the trumpet patterns, and the dot-and-circle ornaments fully exemplify the skill and artistic feeling of the Late-Celtic potter. Most of the pots bear indented designs, and some are ornamented by means of potter's stamps and the roulette. Some of the pots are ornamented on the bottom, and several of the bases are perforated.

Animal Remains.—Large quantities of mixed bones of domesticated animals, for the most part broken small, were found in Mounds X and XI, and on the first floor of Mound XIII. Few complete bones were dug up, and the remains of beaver, otter, and birds were not so plentiful this season.

A few hazel-nuts were discovered in the foundations, and fragments of charred bun-shaped 'cakes,' which await microscopical examination to determine the composition of the food.

Mr. GRAY stated that the sum of £208 had been expended upon the excavations from 1910 to 1912, including the late Lord Winterstoke's gift of £100.

The PRESIDENT in thanking the speakers said it was perfectly clear that at Meare, as in the Glastonbury Lake-village, rectangular huts preceded the round ones, though as a rule it would be the reverse.

Excavations at Glastonbury Abbey.

The next 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 he has been carrying out since 1908. His remarks were illustrated by lantern slides. A paper on the subject is printed in Part II of this volume.

Somerset Church Towers.

The programme concluded with a lantern paper by Dr. F. J. ALLEN entitled "Further Notes on Somerset Church Towers." It is printed *in extenso*, with illustrations, in Part II of this volume.

Mr. W. SYDNEY PRICE was cordially thanked by the President for the use of his powerful lantern.