

Sixty-first Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Guildhall on Tuesday morning. Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE, Vice-President, High Sheriff of Somerset, occupied the chair in the absence of the Marquess of Bath, the outgoing President, being supported by the Mayor of Wells (Alderman A. G. Russ) wearing his robe and chain of office and accompanied by the members of the Corporation, the three Hon. Secretaries (the Rev. F. W. Weaver, the Rev. E. H. Bates, and Mr. C. Tite), and the Assistant-Secretary and Curator (Mr. H. St. George Gray.)

The MAYOR OF WELLS said he had a very simple duty to perform but at the same time a very pleasant one, in welcoming the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society on behalf of the Council and City and

Borough of Wells. They hoped that the weather would in no way interfere with their investigations out of doors. They were delighted that after a lapse of twenty-one years, the Society should again pay them a visit, and he hoped personally on behalf of his wife and himself to receive a large number in that room on the occasion of the *Conversazione* next evening.

MR. A. F. SOMERVILLE, on behalf of the Society, thanked the Mayor for the kindly welcome he had given them. Wells was well known for the welcome and hospitality which it showed to all those who had the pleasure and honour of visiting the City. The Mayor and Corporation had given a very good example quite recently of how they could entertain our future King and Queen. He thanked the Mayor not only for his attendance, but also for the use of their City Hall. He moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor and Corporation, which without being formally seconded, was carried by acclamation.

The New President.

Proceeding, Mr. Somerville said it was his pleasing duty to propose the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells as President of the Society during the ensuing year. He was personally instructed by the Bishop to apologise for his absence at that meeting. The Bishop was engaged in the House of Lords the previous night, and for that reason he was unable to be present that morning.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS, F.R.S., seconded the proposition. He looked back upon the old days when Lord Arthur Hervey was President of this Society; he also remembered the two previous meetings that were held at Wells, and he felt that that Archæological Congress which they were then beginning was likely to be equal to those which had gone before, and he felt sure that the Lord Bishop would maintain the high standard of efficiency which had been up to that time maintained by those various distinguished men who had held the position.

The resolution was then carried unanimously.

THE REV. F. W. WEAVER then read letters of apology from Lord Bath, Lord Waldegrave, the Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. T. H. M. Bailward, and the Rev. C. S. Taylor, F.S.A., for inability to attend that meeting.

The Annual Report.

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

“ Your Committee present their sixty-first annual report. Since their last report 65 new names have been added to the list of members. The losses by death and resignation have been 35. Altogether the net gain has been 30. The total membership of your Society at date is 797,¹ against 767 at the time of the Annual Meeting last year.

“ The balance of your Society’s account at the end of 1907 (the General Account and the Castle Restoration Account of former years having now been combined) was £168 18s. against the Society. At the close of 1908 there was a deficit of £216 9s. 8d. 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. LIV (for 1908), including printing, illustrations, and delivery, has been £130 17s. 8d. No less than 50 plates and drawings were included in this volume, the greater part of the cost being kindly defrayed by the Wick Barrow Excavation Fund, the Norton Camp Excavation Fund, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, Mrs. Bramble, and Mr. F. Bligh Bond. Thanks are also due to the publishers of the *Reliquary*, the Oxford University Press, Mr. Francis Bond, and the Editors of *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* for the loan of blocks. Various photographs and drawings for the volume were provided by Mr. F. Bligh Bond, Mr. H. St. George Gray, and Mr. Reginald Weaver.

1. A total of 800 members was announced at the *Conversazione* at Wells on the day following the Annual Meeting, July 14th, 1909.

“In commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Society your Committee proposed a scheme at the Taunton Meeting last summer, for annexing the apartments in the Castle formerly occupied by the Curator for the purpose of the extension of the Museum and Library. The details of this scheme were presented to you in the last Annual Report, when it was considered necessary to raise a sum of £650, including £175 required for the improvement and reparation of Castle House, now the Curator's residence. After various promises of donations last autumn a printed appeal was issued in the spring and sent out to all your members. A fair response was made and the fund now stands at about £320. Every detail of the proposed alterations has been dealt with by your Society's Building sub-Committee and their architect, and your general Committee earnestly solicit further donations in order that this very necessary and desirable work may be proceeded with as soon as possible.

“Your Museum has been enriched during the past year by a steady flow of acquisitions, although there have been no large collections presented or bequeathed. The Wick Barrow Excavation and Lecture Fund has raised money sufficient to provide a good polished mahogany show-case for the relics found in the barrow and for a model of the area. The pre-historic boat from Shapwick has now been placed on an ebonized stand, and when all moisture has evaporated, the broken parts will be set up by means of iron brackets, etc. The Meare Lake Village relics found in trial-excavations by Mr. Arthur Bulleid last year have been presented by the Misses Counsell and Mrs. Roberts, three sisters. The West Somerset Yeomanry have deposited on loan a new case containing an officer's uniform of that troop dating from 1833. The Rev. A. M. Foster has presented the staff of office of the ancient borough of Newport, North Curry. Dr. and Mrs. Hopkins have added several new specimens to the collection of the brass emblems of Somerset village clubs. Mr. F. J.

Barnes has given a cinerary urn from a large barrow at Portland. The old sheriff's carriage of Somerset, bearing the arms of Barrett and the crest of Speke, has been presented to your Museum through the kindness of Mr. J. Standfast. Several framed portraits of Somerset worthies have been presented by Mr. C. Tite, Mrs. John Louch, Mr. G. W. Rigden and Mr. W. de C. Prideaux. The Ham Hill collection of Roman and other antiquities has been added to by Mr. Hensleigh Walter. Mr. Kenneth Hayward has collected a large number of flint implements and flakes from the surface on Creech Hill and at Godminster, near Bruton, and sent them to your Museum. Mr. Courtney Gardner has obtained a large series of shards of Roman pottery and a few other objects from Larkhill Lane Quarry, Preston Plucknett, Yeovil, which he has given to the county collection. Other donors in the Museum department are :—Mrs. Rutherford, the Rev. C. H. Heale and Messrs. C. E. Cotching, G. H. Greed, R. Brown and S. Lawrence.

“The most valuable addition to the Library during the year is an original chartulary of Mynchin Buckland Priory, of the early XIV Century, bequeathed to your Society by the late Mr. J. Brooking-Rowe, F.S.A. Probably the most notable and complete archæological work, recently issued in two volumes, relating to Somerset, is Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte's “History of Dunster,” now added to your Library. Books relating to Wells and Glastonbury by Chancellor Scott Holmes, Canon Church, the Revs. W. Greswell and C. L. Marson, and Mr. Bligh Bond, have just been published. Fairbairn's “Book of Crests” has been purchased for your Library. Among the chief donors to the Library during the year are :—Mr. H. H. P. Bouverie, Mr. Francis Bond, Mr. W. de C. Prideaux, Mr. C. Tite, and the Revs. D. P. Alford, E. H. Bates and F. W. Weaver. Your Committee are glad to report that the use of the Library is steadily increasing.

“In connection with the manuscripts housed in the Ex-Vol. LV (*Third Series, Vol. XV*), Part I.

chequer of Taunton Castle belonging to the Manor, and other manuscripts in the possession of your Society, some useful work has been in progress. Mr. H. B. Sheppard, the Steward of the Manor, has produced a valuable paper entitled "Courts Leet and the Court Leet of the Borough of Taunton" which has been published by your Society and is obtainable at the price of 1s. a copy. The Rev. A. J. Hook has prepared a manuscript list of the contents of the Exchequer of Taunton Castle; and Mr. C. Tite has arranged for the compilation of a catalogue of the manuscripts contained in the Serel collection at Taunton Castle, a work on which Mr. A. J. Monday is already engaged. Through the kindness of Mr. E. A. Fry the unpublished wills compiled by the Rev. Frederick Brown are being indexed.

"An interesting series of four lectures on archæological subjects,—on two occasions by Mr. Bligh Bond, and on single occasions by Mr. St. George Gray and the Rev. C. W. Whistler,—were given at Taunton Castle during last winter in aid of special funds. The Taunton Field Club have for several years continued to use the Castle for the purposes of their conversaziones and lectures; and as long as space is available winter lectures at your Society's headquarters should be encouraged.

"Owing to excavations having been conducted in this county during the last few years on scientific lines, your Society has attained a high position in archæological field-work, a fact which has been commented upon from time to time in the press. Among the most notable of these excavations are those which have been carried out at Glastonbury Abbey, the Glastonbury Lake Village, Wick Barrow, Castle Neroche, Small Down Camp, Norton Camp, and Lansdown (the latter under the care of the Bath Branch). Mr. Bligh Bond has continued the excavations at Glastonbury Abbey during the present year; and Mr. H. St. George Gray completed the first portion of his work at Charterhouse-on-Mendip

in June last.¹ Excavations under the charge of Messrs. Balch and Troup have also been in progress in Wookey Hole as opportunities have occurred ; and Mr. Arthur Bulleid intends to dig two sections through Ponter's Ball this season.

“ It is anticipated that excavations at the Meare Lake Village will be begun next year. The undertaking will be a costly one and will probably extend over several years ; subscriptions are already being collected for this purpose, the list being headed by a generous gift of £100 from Lord Winterstoke. Your Committee is glad to be in a position to report that the various owners of the greater part of the land comprising this lacustrine habitation have signified their approval that the antiquities discovered shall be exhibited in your Museum and become the property of your Society. Messrs. Bulleid and Gray hope to be in a position to publish Vol. I of the quarto monograph on the Glastonbury Lake Village next year. It will be profusely illustrated and printed privately for subscribers.

“ Through the munificence of Mr. George A. Wills, Stokeleigh Camp and Leigh Woods, on the Somersetshire side of the Avon, have been saved from threatened disfigurement by the builders who are over-running that part of Clifton. Although the property will pass into the hands of the National Trust, a local committee of management is being appointed who will undertake the conservation of the camp. For this purpose your Society has been asked to appoint one representative, and Colonel Cary Batten, of Abbots Leigh, has been selected.

“ It is understood that an endeavour is being made by the National Trust to secure for the public an opportunity of purchasing a part of the Cheddar Cliffs. If the Trust is successful in its negotiations, and the public support it by subscribing the purchase money, an important step will be taken towards securing the preservation of the beauty of the gorge

1. These excavations were completed in unfavourable weather in July, 1909.

and ending the quarrying operations which are so damaging its beauty and amenities.

“Various members of your Society have suggested the formation of sub-committees, or sections, throughout the county, specially to promote the study of local Entomology and Ornithology, and later on probably of other branches of natural history also. Your Committee will gladly welcome any suggestions bearing on this subject, and it is hoped that the proposals will lead to a revival of greater interest in birds and insects and other branches of natural history in Somerset amongst the members of your Society.

“Mr. H. St. George Gray, the Assistant-Secretary and Curator of your Society, having held office for a period of eight years in April last, your Committee unanimously agreed to increase his salary by £20 a year, and expressed their cordial appreciation of his services and of his zealous endeavours on behalf of your Society: and they desire to congratulate him on the warm appreciation of his work in connection with archæological excavations which is frequently expressed by antiquaries of high repute.

“Your Museum was visited by 7,902 persons during 1908, including 1,655 visits from members, an increase of 67 per cent. since the beginning of the century. 3,335 persons have visited the Castle during the first six months of 1909, which shows an increase of 11 per cent. compared with the same period last year.

“To render this report more complete it will be appropriate to record that the Millenary of the foundation of the See of Wells was celebrated on Tuesday, June 22nd, with due pomp and dignity. At noon on that day the Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at the west door of the Cathedral Church where they were received by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Bath and Wells and the Dean and Chapter of Wells. In a forcible sermon the Primate reminded his hearers, that just a thousand years ago, in Canterbury

Cathedral, Archbishop Plegmund consecrated seven priests to be Bishops, one of these being Athelm, the first Bishop of Wells. Subsequently there was an impressive ceremony at Glastonbury, when the Bishop of Bath and Wells and his co-trustees, Mr. R. Neville-Grenville and Mr. A. F. Somerville, committed the future charge of the Abbey to the Archbishop of Canterbury and an Advisory Council. The task of rendering the present ruins safe and of preventing their further decay is being undertaken by Mr. W. D. Caröe, F.S.A., whilst Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A., is still engaged in his interesting excavations at the Abbey.

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

“W. L. Winterbotham, M.B., a member for forty years, and your Society’s Local Secretary for Bridgwater from 1877 till the time of his death (Jan. 23, 1909). He was at one time a regular attendant at your Annual Meetings.

“Alexander Hammett, of Taunton (1878), one of the Hon. Auditors of your Society since 1898, who was always ready to assist in local matters referring to the general interests of the Society, and who was Hon. Sec. of some of the exhibitions held in the Great Hall before it became part of the Museum proper.

“Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., M.P. for Taunton (1904), and J. Harvey Treat (1907), both Life Members of your Society; Sir Frederick Wills, Bart. (1906); the Rev. W. T. Blathwayt (1878); G. W. Mitchell (1876); and Walter Ludlow (1892).”

Mr. A. E. HUDD, F.S.A., said he had been asked by some of the entomologists of the county—who were not very numerous but still scattered a good deal over the county—to approach the Council of the Society and point out to them that when the Society was established it was styled an Archæological and Natural History Society, and that formerly a good deal of

natural history work was done by the Society. Of late years, however, natural history had not received the attention it deserved. It had now been proposed to the Council, and they had adopted the idea, that if it was wished to form sections for natural history studies in connection with the Society they had no objection to that course being taken. The Council had met them more than half way, and he thanked them for the consideration given to the matter.

The CHAIRMAN said they were very much indebted to Mr. Hudd for drawing attention to this department of the Society's work. He should, however, like to remind members that there were societies and field clubs affiliated, or closely connected, with the Society, including two in that district, at Wells and Shepton Mallet, who devoted a great deal of attention to natural history. He felt quite sure the Society did not wish to lose sight of natural history and would be only too glad to do anything to promote the formation of the sections proposed from time to time.

Canon SCOTT HOLMES proposed the adoption of the report, and said he did not think he ever remembered a year when the Society had met under more promising signs for the work of the future. It was memorable for the fact that they had celebrated the thousandth year of the existence of the Diocese, and the Church had had a great deal to do in promoting the success of the Society in the past. It was memorable also on account of that enterprise and effort which so successfully brought to an end the purchase of Glastonbury Abbey, and he thought those who had taken an interest in the study of Glastonbury Abbey would admit that it was memorable for the excellent work, and the extremely interesting discoveries made by Mr. Bligh Bond. The Chancellor spoke in high terms of the success and usefulness of the officials of the Society. When they thought of the enthusiasm which Mr. St. George Gray threw into all the work; when they thought of the efficient criticism and historical ability that Mr. Bates put

into the work ; when they thought of the hard work and patience which Mr. Weaver always threw into the work, they could not but realise that the Society must be successful.

Mr. J. E. W. WAKEFIELD seconded the proposition, and said they must all realise the immense amount of capable and most interesting work which had been recorded in that Report.

The adoption of the Report was then put to the meeting and carried.

Finances.

The Rev. E. H. BATES, in the absence of the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. H. J. Badcock), presented the Annual Statement of Accounts which was as follows :—

Treasurer's Account

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1908.

RECEIPTS.		£ s. d.
1908. By Members' Subscriptions, 1908 (745)	391	2 6
" Members' Entrance Fees, 1908 (107)	56	3 6
" Members' Subscriptions in advance (10)	5	5 0
" Life Composition	10	10 0
" Donations, Restoration and Deficit Fund during 1908... ..	11	19 3
" Donations, Museum and Library Extension Fund... ..	39	9 0
" Balance of Assist.-Secretary's Account (Diamond Jubilee Meeting, Taunton)	14	4 1
" Rents	34	8 2
" Somerset Church Towers (Brereton Fund)	4	15 4
" Museum Admission Fees	44	19 10
" Sale of Publications	35	5 0
" Library Fees	0	9 2
" Sale of Photographs	0	19 1
Balance	216	9 8
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	£865	19 7

EXPENDITURE.		£ s. d.
To Balance of former Accounts: General A/c, £155 4s.; Castle A/c, £13 14s.	168	18 0
" Secretarial and other ex- penses, Diamond Jubilee Meeting, Taunton	7	5 10
" Repairs, Castle and Museum, including New Fittings	51	7 2
" Fuel and Lighting	29	19 1
" Stationery and Printing	12	18 4
" Purchase of Museum Speci- mens	4	1 8
" Purchase of Books	13	17 11
" Bookbinding	9	7 6
" Pewter Guide Book	7	8 5
" Printing, Binding, Illustra- tions and Postage of Vol. 53	132	0 11
" Curator's Salary	130	0 0
" Temporary Assistance	7	6 6
" Attendant and Night Watch- man	18	3 2
" Repairs and Alterations, Castle House (Diamond Jubilee Fund)	169	3 9
" Petty Cash	8	19 10½
" Postal Expenses	12	2 5½
" Subscriptions to Societies	10	3 6
" Insurance, including Fire	13	1 11
" Rates and Taxes	50	14 1
" Outdoor Work	0	10 6
" Interest on Overdrawn Ac- count	8	9 0
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	£865	19 7
" Balance brought down	£216	9 8

H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurer.

Jan. 13th, 1909. Examined and compared with the Vouchers and Pass Book, and found correct.

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

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD, F.G.S., in moving the adoption of the accounts said that after hearing the admirable report that had been read, and the good work that had been done in the Museum and Library, it should be an encouragement to all their members to support such an institution, and he hoped that the debt would soon be wiped off.

The Rev. E. H. BATES explained that it was absolutely necessary to put the Castle House into repair before Mr. Gray could go into it. The cost of this would come out of the Diamond Jubilee Fund (for special alterations to the buildings), and had this not appeared in the Balance Sheet, the Society's deficit at the end of 1908 would not have been nearly so great as at the end of 1907. He also wished to point out that at the end of 1908 not one subscription for that year was unpaid, which was proof of the care bestowed in conducting the finances of the Society.

The Rev. C. H. HEALE seconded the adoption of the accounts, and said as the work and membership of the Society increased more money must be spent, and they looked to members to help them to carry on the work of the Society in an efficient manner. He referred to the seemingly large cost of their publication. Through the energy of Mr. Gray, the number of their members was rapidly increasing, and the more members they had, the greater would be the cost of the volume of *Proceedings*.

Election of Members and Officers.

The ASSISTANT-SECRETARY (Mr. Gray) read the list of 65 new members, and said that this brought their membership up to 797.

On the motion of the DEAN OF WELLS, seconded by the Rev. Preb. W. E. DANIEL, the election of the new members by the Committee was confirmed.

The Rev. Preb. F. HANCOCK, F.S.A., moved the re-election of the officers of the Society with the additions of the Marquess of Bath, Lord Winterstoke, and Canon Church, F.S.A., as Vice-Presidents, and the following as Local Secretaries, the Rev. Preb. J. Street for Ilminster, the Rev. C. W. Whistler for Dorset, Mr. R. Hensleigh Walter, M.B., for Stoke-under-Ham, and the Rev. E. S. Marshall, F.L.S., for West Monkton; also Mr. H. J. Badcock and Mr. Reginald C. Boyle as joint Hon. Treasurers. Mr. Hancock said they must all feel proud of having men of such attainment as Mr. Weaver and Mr. Bates, ably assisted by Mr. Tite, as their Hon. Secretaries for conducting the general business of the Society. Then it was scarcely necessary to say how fortunate they were in having secured Mr. H. St. George Gray as their Assistant-Secretary and Curator some eight years ago. He thought they were extremely proud in the south-west of England at having a man of such distinction in various branches of archæological work and who had had such an excellent training before he came to them, for many years, with that veteran antiquary General Pitt-Rivers. Lord Bath and Lord Winterstoke took a deep interest in the Society. It was very important that the Lord-Lieutenant of the County was one of their active members and his interest in the Society would doubtless help them in securing the Cheddar Gorge from further destruction. And they all felt it was a very worthy compliment paid to Canon Church for all his archæological work. And not the least important provision of this resolution was the proposal that Mr. H. J. Badcock should be asked once more to take up the duties of Hon. Treasurer. It was very many years since Mr. Badcock joined his father in aiding the financial work of their Society, and it had been a great boon to the Society that they had had the assistance of Mr. Badcock's financial ability. They were told now that Mr. Badcock felt that the work was growing too much for him and he was anxious to associate with himself Mr. Reginald Boyle

as joint hon. treasurer, in the same way as he had become associated with his father many years ago.

Mr. W. MACMILLAN seconded the resolution which was cordially agreed to.

The Rev. Canon CHURCH said it was a long time since he first became connected with the Society, as long ago as 1863, and he had closely followed the Society's work ever since. He thanked the Society for the great honour they had conferred upon him ; it was a kind of old-age pension to him.

Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. E. H. BATES, Honorary Secretary, said that since their last meeting the volume of Quarter Sessions for the reign of James I had been issued. It had been favourably received ; and the County Council had provided funds to have the Sessions Rolls from 1625 to 1666 repaired and bound. From this latter date the Minute Books are complete, so that with the exception of the Civil War period the Local Records as far as regards general business were at last accessible to students. The second volume of Quarter Session papers dealt with the reign of Charles I, and he ventured to think it would be found as valuable as the earlier book. The issue for 1909, the Mynchin Buckland Cartulary, was making steady progress. For 1910 the Council had decided to issue the Glastonbury Feodary preserved in the Bodleian Library. This document gave the descent of ownership of the manors belonging to the Abbey down to 1350, and the lists would be very valuable in supplementing the Public Records.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE spoke of the excellent work of the Somerset Record Society, and Canon HOLMES alluded to the records of the Somerset Quarter Sessions, regarding them as a most delightful introduction to civil life in the XVII Century.

A vote of thanks to the High Sheriff for presiding terminated the Annual Meeting.

The Cathedral.

After luncheon at the Swan Hotel the members paid a visit to Wells Cathedral. Here, undeterred by the falling rain, Mr. W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE, Assistant-Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, proceeded to describe the very beautiful façade of the west front. Mr. Hope said it was somewhat surprising in these days when so much attention was paid to the arts and crafts of the mediæval workers, that so little should be known of the unrivalled collection of XIII Century imagery that covered the west front of the Cathedral Church. There was not such a display as this anywhere else to be seen in this country or in any other so far as he knew. They would see that the front was a great screen of tabernacle work, carried not only across the west front of the nave and aisles, but round the two flanking towers as well, and also round all the buttresses of towers and front. All the tabernacles of the front and north tower had been filled with imagery, but the south and east sides of the south tower never had any images, owing to their inclusion within the cloister. Both stonework and imagery were throughout of Douling stone. The tabernacle work was divided by a marble string-course into two main ranges. The lower range was sub-divided into (1) a deep ashlar plinth, and (2) a series of pairs of niches for life-sized images. Above each pair was a quartrefoil containing the figure of an angel issuing from the clouds, and forming a kind of frieze to the whole is a series of larger quatrefoils containing groups of sculpture.

The images of the lower range consisted originally of 22 south of the great west doorway, and 38 to the north of it, but of the former all were lost but two at the south end, and of the latter only 17 were left, all of which were on the north tower. Of the angels 21 out of 30 remained; and of the sculptured groups 35 out of a possible 49, the chief losses being on the north half of the front.

The upper range consisted of a series of tall pointed panels, containing a double tier of niches. On the fronts of the buttresses these contained sitting figures of kings, bishops, etc., but the rest were filled with standing figures. Of these only eight were lost out of a total of 116.

Above these tiers of niches was a trefoiled arcade, forming a series of housings carried all round the front, buttresses and all, containing wonderful groups of nude figures representing the Resurrection of the Dead.

Over the west end of the nave was a two-storied series of niches, containing representatives of the nine orders of Angels with the twelve Apostles above, surmounted originally by Our Lord in Majesty. The Apostles and Angels were later in date than the great series below.

Now there was the question what all these figures meant. The lower range unquestionably belonged to the Bible story, and had for its central point the figure of Our Lady and Child over the west door. So many of the flanking images were lost that it was hardly safe to speak positively from what were left, but they seemed to have represented the Apostles and Evangelists, the Prophets and Patriarchs, and to have concluded on the north tower with the four women who were witnesses of the Resurrection, the companions of St. Paul, and the deacons appointed with St. Stephen. The angels above these figures held crowns, or mitres, or palm branches, or scrolls, but had sustained much damage through boys throwing stones at the birds that had nested behind them.

The Sculpture groups ranged themselves right and left of a central group of the so-called Coronation of the Virgin which had unfortunately been sadly injured. To the south the sculptures were scenes from the Old Law, to the north from the New Law.

Turning to the imagery of the upper tier they began with the sitting figures on the fronts of the buttresses, of which there were 20. They represented popes, bishops, a priest, kings, and

nobles or princes. At least two had what seemed to be a writing or charter spread out on the knee, which suggested that the images represented benefactors to the Church, and perhaps also the pope, bishop, dean, and king who were living when the front was built. The standing figures ranged themselves right and left of a principal group of figures filling the niches round and between the west windows, the chief of whom represented King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. The figures south of these appeared to be those of bishops, hermits, and monks, who were reckoned as confessors, and those to the north of kings and queens, nobles and ladies, knights and youths who were accounted saints. It was unfortunately very difficult to identify the majority of the figures ; they were not named, and many of them never carried any distinguishing emblem, and it was only from the peculiar features of a comparative few that they had been able to get any light at all. One figure at the extreme end of the north range, a man standing up to his knees in water and carrying two children, could only be St. Eustace, and the lady beside him was probably his wife, St. Theospis. Another figure on the north half of the front, a bishop carrying the top of his head in his hands, from analogy with contemporary glass at Lincoln could be safely claimed as St. Thomas, the martyred Archbishop of Canterbury. The knight beside him was unidentified ; he could hardly be one of the four murderers of St. Thomas. A group of twelve figures on the north side, nine of whom are kings, were shown standing upon small crouching or squirming figures, and therefore represented martyrs. It had been possible from this fact and the emblems to identify some of them. Another fine figure of a youth who held a sword might have been St. Alban.

It is a curious coincidence that with a few exceptions all the standing figures could be allotted names from the writings of William of Malmesbury ; the prelates, monks, and hermits to the south from his *Gesta Pontificum* ; and the kings, queens,

princes, nobles to the north from his *Gesta Regum*. That was to say that all the figures, with the exceptions noted, might represent English saints.

The Resurrection groups that surmounted the imagery had for the most part suffered much from the weather. As studies of the nude they were of course extremely remarkable, and as might be expected from that early date they were merely interesting, but they nevertheless displayed considerable vigour on the part of the carvers, who had also contrived to impart into them a wonderful amount of variety.

Mr. Hope concluded by asking his hearers to remember that they were looking at English work, there was nothing about it of French or German. Often in this country, when there was anything beautiful it was always said to be French or German; they never gave credit to their own countrymen for anything produced so beautiful as this.

A finely-illustrated paper on the Imagery and Sculptures on the West Front of the Cathedral by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope and Mr. W. R. Lethaby is published in "*Archæologia*," LIX, pp. 143-206.

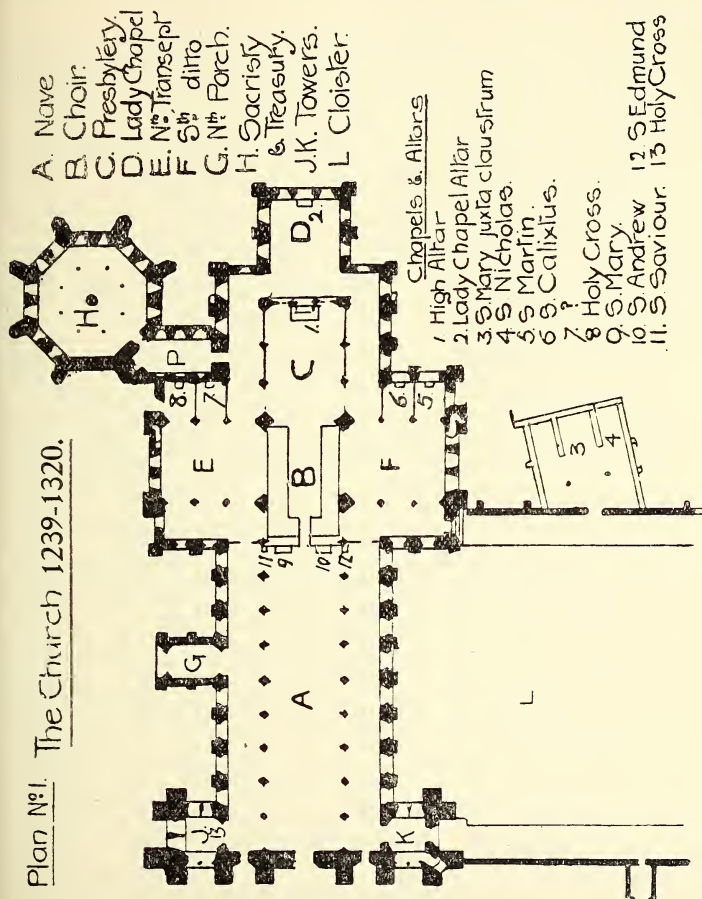
Interior of the Cathedral.

The members then made their way into the Nave where the Rev. Canon C. M. CHURCH, F.S.A., received them. He said :¹ The last meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological Society at Wells was held in August, 1888, twenty-one years ago. It fell to my lot at that time to talk from this same place to the members of the Society on the documentary evidence relating to the early architecture of the Cathedral Church contained in the manuscripts in possession of the Dean and Chapter.²

1. The lecture (first in the Nave, afterwards in the Choir), was illustrated by two diagrams of the Church (*a*) as consecrated in 1239, (*b*) as prolonged after c. 1320. *Plans* i, ii, accompanied the description given.

2. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxxiv, 1888, pt. ii. "The Documentary Evidence relating to the Early Architecture of the Cathedral Church."

On the strength of that evidence the tradition which had hitherto held the ground, that Bishop Joscelyn was the sole builder of the church in the XIII Century, was then for the



first time publicly called in question. At that meeting Mr. Freeman, whose lectures will always contain the best summary of the history and constitution of the Church of Wells, said "We must not (as on the strength of our printed authorities we have hitherto been inclined to do), take a wide leap from

Robert in the middle of the XII Century, to Joscelin in the XIII Century. It is now plain that besides these, Reginald in the XII Century did great works. This is plain from several records of his time."

We may now with confidence take a further step onwards, at this meeting, in defining the early architecture of the church.

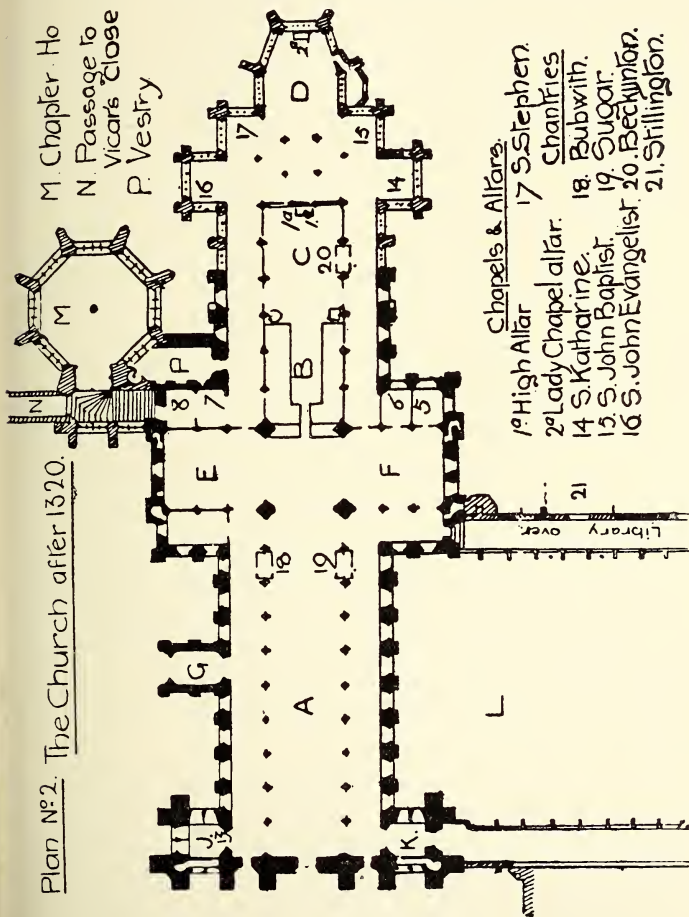
During the last twenty years it has come to be generally accepted that Bishop Reginald de Bohun in the latter part of the XII Century, 1174-1191, was the chief builder of the church which was consecrated by Bishop Joscelin in 1239, and of which he is the acknowledged builder of the west front. This is the judgment of the latest critic and historian of Gothic architecture,¹ who boldly gives the priority to Wells in the introduction of the pointed arch in Bishop Reginald's time.

"The last quarter of the XII, like the last quarter of the XI Century was a momentous period in English medieval architecture; the latter completed the structural development of English Romanesque, the former that of English Gothic. The former is usually assumed to commence with the building of St. Hugh's choir at Lincoln in 1192. Really, however, the first complete Gothic of England commences with the choir, not of Lincoln, but of Wells, as begun by Reginald Fitz Bohun, who was Bishop from 1174 to 1191. . . . It was in the West of England that the art of Gothic vaulting was first mastered, and it was in the west, first apparently at Wells, that every arch was pointed and the semi-circular arch was exterminated."

We may see in the neighbouring churches of Wells and Glastonbury dated examples (1184-1187) of Romanesque and Gothic combined, but showing the advance of Wells in the introduction of the pointed arch. In 1187 Bishop Reginald, in the 15th year of his episcopate, consecrated the Lady Chapel,

1. Francis Bond's "History of Gothic Architecture," p. 105.

Glastonbury, begun after the fire in 1184. In Wells at that date the north porch, the three western arches of choir, nave and triforium exhibited the pointed arch, in contrast with the



round arch at Glastonbury; but also with Romanesque features still retained, in the heavy mouldings, the chevron, the roundels, and incised medallions, the square abaci to the columns, the sculptured capitals, rich with the imagery,

animal, grotesque, and foliated, of early date, but of skill and beauty unsurpassed.

The same writer says of the Wells capitals of this date, "The western sculptors were far ahead of the rest of England : at Wells, the craftsman's hand can be seen gaining in cunning, capital by capital, till foliated capitals and scrolls of conventional foliage were produced that remained unsurpassed to the last days of English Gothic."

So now we may say that documentary and architectural evidence combine in determining the part taken by Reginald in the building of the church in the last quarter of the XII Century, in a style which Professor Willis described to the last generation as "transitional Norman, worked with considerable lightness and richness," but distinguished from the Early English style which followed by greater massiveness and severity, "having a character unlike any Early English building," but which he only hesitated to ascribe to Reginald's work for want at that time of manuscript documentary evidence, since brought to light, in confirmation.

But now if we accept Bishop Reginald, 1174-1191, as the first builder of the present church, what part is to be assigned to Bishop Robert in the earlier part of the century 1136-1166, who is acknowledged as one of the makers of Wells after the See had been retransferred from Bath ?

We have very little documentary evidence as to his share in the fabric of the church.

All that we are told by the contemporary writer in the "*Historiola*,"¹ points to his building much at Bath on the Norman church in repairs and additions, at great expense—but no more is said about the fabric of Wells than that "the church was constructed by his counsel and help,"—and that it

1. The only original authority for the early history of Bishop Robert's work on the fabric of Wells is contained in the *Historiola de Primordiis Episcopatus Somersetensis*, "a brief history of the bishopric of Somerset, from its foundation to the year 1174," a tract published by the Camden Society MDCCCXL, under the title "*Ecclesiastical Documents*."

was finished and dedicated with some solemnity at a date before 1148, the twelfth year of his episcopate.¹

Eighteen years more remained of his episcopate, and eight years of vacancy of the See, before Reginald's appointment, 1174, and during those years there is no mention of any building at Wells.

The question has been raised whether Bishop Robert did more than rebuild and consecrate the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin, which Bishop Giso (1061-1088) had built and endowed, and which Bishop John (1088-1122) had given over to dilapidation, or destroyed, when he left Wells for Bath.

Robert had found this chapel in existence when he came to Wells in 1136, and the endowments of it are recorded among the possessions of the See at that date.

As no remains have been found of Norman buildings in Wells, and the existing church is generally supposed to be in a style of architecture later than Bishop Robert's time, we seem led to the conclusion that Bishop Robert's work was the rebuilding on the same site of Bishop Giso's church. Excavations made by the Dean and Chapter,² under the superintendence of Mr. E. Buckle in 1894 on the "Camera" (the ground south of the present church), have brought to light foundations of an ancient chapel on this ground, the traditional site of Giso's Saxon buildings and church, and a worked Saxon stone found there also have given additional confirmation to this tradition.

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The building appears to have consisted of a simple rectangle, 15 feet wide and about 40 feet long, with walls 3 feet 2 inches thick, to which aisles on either side had been afterwards added. The peculiarity of the building was that it stood on different orientation to the orientation of the present church as indicated in Plan I, and that it stood by the side of a cut stone

1. A.D. 1148 is fixed as the latest date, as bishop Robert de Bethune of Hereford (who was one of the assisting bishops) died early in that year.

2. A full account of the results of the excavations is given in papers in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XL, 1894, pt. i, p. 35.

water channel running from one of the wells at the east end of the ground, in a line exactly parallel to the chapel, and within a few feet of it on the south side. It may be that these ancient foundations mark the site of the church of Bishop Giso which Robert found there and rebuilt, and made the cathedral church of his time at Wells, while he was employed in much larger and more costly fabric work at Bath in the first part of his episcopate. The greater part of his time would have been devoted to his great work of framing the constitution of the chapter and prebendal system of Wells which has lived to this day, and which gives him his claim to be the first chief maker of the church. If so, that church of Bishop Robert's time would have been the cathedral church, while Reginald was building the larger church on a new site, in the new transitional style, the next thing to Norman with pointed arches, carried on by Bishop Joscelyn and finally consecrated by him in 1239. The church of Bishop Robert, "the old church," then became the "Chapel of the Blessed Virgin near the Cloister," set apart for mortuary devotions in the XIII Century, of which we have evidence in our charters from 1250 and onwards, until it was supplanted and built over by the large chapel of Bishop Stillington in the XV Century, destroyed in 1553.

The Chapter House.

The Chapter House next claimed the attention of the members. Here they were received by the DEAN OF WELLS, F.S.A., who in the course of an interesting description of the building, said :

The English Chapter House is almost exclusively national—at least in its circular or octagonal form ; and the earliest example in England of a circular chapter house, with a central pier or pillar, is that of Worcester, erected about 1140. The early Norman chapter houses were rectangular, as at Bristol.

In continental Europe, in the early Byzantine or Roman-

esque cathedrals, the bishop sat on his throne, high in the semi-circular apse in the centre of his clergy. So it was in the VII Century and still is in the XX Century at Torcello in the lagunes of Venice, where the bishop's throne is reached by fifteen steps surrounded by six ranges of stone seats for his Presbyters far below his feet ; that they may hear and obey, not discuss. The seats at Torcello are arranged like those of a theatre, as in the Coliseum at Rome or in the Roman amphitheatre at Verona, which still stands with its forty-three tiers of steps capable of seating 20,000 spectators.

But the Anglo-Saxon spirit even after the levelling flood of the Norman conquest, demanded discussion not dictation, a law not an ukase, the sound preliminary of free Parliamentary debate without 'the closure.'

One point in the framing of our Chapter House noteworthy and praiseworthy is this. Like the family dwelling-rooms of every nobleman's palace in medieval Italy it is on the *piano nobile*, the floor of the gentle folk, not on the ground. Therefore it is not only free from damp but flooded with sunshine, open to heaven, east and south and north, with a well-lighted staircase on the west.

I am often asked, "Sir, when was this cathedral built" ; and the answer must be "In divers times and sundry manners long ago."

But with this Chapter House the answer is simpler, and the answer is perfectly given by Canon Church in his "Chapters on the Early History of the Church of Wells," and in his quotations from Professor Willis, whose architectural history of the Church of Glastonbury, especially in his identification of the Lady Chapel at the west end, is the finest piece of architectural logic I ever read.

Professor Willis writes : "The Chapter House stands upon a vaulted substructure, not really a crypt, for it is not underground. It is entered from the north aisle of the choir by a doorway and passage.

“The style of the Chapter House is so greatly in advance of the substructure and stairs as to show that a considerable interval of time elapsed between the one and the other.”

Again Professor Willis writes: “I conceive that in 1286 the portion of the Chapter House called the crypt was completed.”

I may personally say that coming to Wells in March 1891, having made in the previous September a driving tour through Shropshire, I remarked to my companions in that tour, as we looked back upon the staircase windows from the double doorway of the Chapter House, “Those windows with their geometrical stonework remind me of the church windows at Acton Burnell that we saw last summer.” I learnt in a day or two that the staircase windows at Wells were put in by Bishop Burnell, remains of whose castle with the old church, still existing but just restored, we had seen six months before.

Edward I had been Bishop Burnell’s pupil as a boy and youth, and was all through his life strongly attached to him; and in Burnell’s Castle at Acton Burnell, Edward I held a Parliament in 1283.

As early as 1270 Edward I had vehemently pressed upon the hesitating monks at Canterbury, actually breaking open the doors of their Chapter House, the election of Burnell as Primate of all England, but had pressed in vain.

In 1286 the crypt or undercroft was finished, and in May of that year Burnell accompanied Edward to France, and remained there till 1289.

With all his faults—and he was a very worldly ecclesiastic, marrying his daughters with vast dowries to great nobles and securing the Deanery of Wells to his son—the confidential minister of the greatest of the Plantagenets all his life, he must have been a lovable and generous man, as well as a great statesman.

From the completion of the undercroft till the work of building the real chapter chamber was undertaken, must have

been about twenty years, and all through those years there must have been a solid, though temporary roof; an outlet for the rain falling on which roof, is marked by a wooden panel on the north-east side; the panel or door having been inserted when the Dean and Chapter had to underpin the fine old building eleven years ago, as it showed widening cracks under four of its eight windows.

This was done by inserting carefully, yard by yard, Staffordshire blue bricks, leaving one of every 15 or 20 out, to let water escape freely in the time of subterranean flood from Mendip. The old builders, six hundred years ago, knew the force of the water rushing from Pen Hill, 900 feet above Wells, and did not dream of arresting it forcibly. On the contrary, the foundations of the Chapter House were found to be mere disconnected lumps of mountain limestone, each piece about the size of a baby's head, so that the water could always escape. Surely it is much to the credit of those old builders that their simple system lasted six centuries.

But in six centuries, *gutta cavat lapidem*, and my arm could anywhere along the eastern, north-eastern, and south-eastern faces, be inserted up to the armpit, between the actual wall and the foundations that had ceased to touch, but were supposed to support the wall. The undercroft however was so solid and lay so low as to escape subsidence, oscillation, or sign of disintegration. Notice the massive lock of its outer door; the wrought-iron hinges of the inner door, and behind the door the dog-tooth fragment of XII Century capital beside it, possibly the work of Reginald ere he was translated to Canterbury.

The Chapter House you see is quite beyond praise of mine. Exquisitively beautiful, and, bar earthquakes, imperishably strong.

The first meeting of the Dean and Chapter in their just completed Chapter House was held July, 1319, all but six centuries ago. Surely there was in England no more brilliant

period for the power of the church, for chivalry, for architecture, for stained glass, than the fifty-five years of the reign of Edward I and Edward II, the one so strong the other so feeble, 1272-1327.

The greatest builder of the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew since Joscelin says our historian, Canon Church, was Dean Godley or Godelee, for in his time and greatly by his energy (1) the central tower was raised and roofed in, (2) the chapter house was finished, (3) the lady chapel was built, (4) the choir was being refitted with new stalls, and being prolonged eastward, (5) the parapet round the whole of the earlier church was renewed. Almost contemporary with Dean Godley was Bishop John Drokenford, 1309-1329, taking up his high office four years later than the Dean, and laying it down four years earlier, 1305-1333.

“Let us now praise famous men and our fathers who begat us . . . Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth for evermore.”

The Bishop's Palace.

Subsequently the members were entertained to tea by the BISHOP and Mrs. KENNION, who were warmly thanked by the Rev. E. H. Bates on behalf of the Society.

After tea the Rev. Chancellor T. SCOTT HOLMES gave an interesting description of the “Bishop's Palace,” in the course of which he said they did not know where the original manor house of the bishop stood, but perhaps it was on the site of that house which in Joscelin's time became known as a “Palace,” the house in which they now were. This Palace was certainly built by Bishop Joscelin between the years 1220-40, and probably towards the latter end after the work in the Cathedral had been nearly finished. It consisted of an undercroft, where they were now gathered, and over it a hall and a room to the east which was probably the bishop's private oratory, and part of the east was also probably used as his bed-chamber. The

entrance to the house was one bay north of the present entrance, and opened directly in front of the door leading into the undercroft or crypt. The chapel was on the site of the present chapel, but undoubtedly had an undercroft similar to the one under the great hall, and the entrance to the chapel was from the upper rooms by means of a door which now existed in the newel staircase on the south-west. There were two staircases in the turrets, south-west and south-east, and these led into the chambers of the bishop and to his chapel. The servants' rooms, and probably the kitchen, were to the north-west, and the tower known as the "Angel" tower was probably of that date. The present chapel was built by Bishop Burnell, 1275-92, and its great height was probably due to the fact that Bishop Burnell, who had built his hall yet further to the south-west, desired to have the entrance to the chapel on the same level ; and he accomplished that by taking away the undercroft and throwing the space into the chapel. The great " Guest Hall," of which the ruins still existed, was also erected by Bishop Burnell. It consisted of five bays divided into nave and aisles, and at the west there was a screen and gallery above. The gallery was entered from a staircase that led out of the north-west entrance porch of this hall. The kitchens and offices were yet further to the west and were approached by a passage through the doorway in the middle of the present western wall. A careful examination of the corner between the present chapel and the ruins of the hall showed that there must have been a priests' room in the corner. The doorway which gave entrance on the north-east of the chapel was modern ; the staircase turrets of the chapel were probably raised by Bishop Burnell in order to make the roof of the chapel on the same level as the roof of the hall. It was Bishop Ralph de Salopia who turned the bishop's manor house into the magnificent building of to-day. He surrounded it with the moat, walls, gatehouse, and bastions. The licence to crenellate was dated March 29th, 1340. The

bastion on the north-west side of the palace-wall was used as a prison for criminous clerks and had a guard-house over it. The buildings to the north of Joscelin's hall and chambers were entirely re-arranged and enlarged by Bishop Beckington, 1443-65. He seems to have built a second hall to the north-west of Joscelin's buildings as a parlour, with a kitchen, a gatehouse with tower over it, and a curtain-wall leading across from these buildings to the corner of the chapel, the curtain wall having a cloister attached to its inner side. Over the hall of Bishop Beckington, Bishop Clarke, 1523-41, built other chambers as bedrooms, and the bay window on the ground floor, and the two oriel windows on the north side looking over the moat were also due to him. The oak staircase at the north end of Joscelin's building was probably inserted by Bishop Berkeley, 1560-81, who in doing so had to destroy the northern bay of the vaulting of the undercroft and removed the room that was over it, and he probably removed the partitions in the galleries on the ground floor and on the first storey. The lancet windows of the ground floor gallery looking west might perhaps have been removed at this time to make room for the present larger lights. To Bishop Montague, 1608-16, the Palace is indebted for much restoration of a careful kind. To him was due the screen across the southern portion of Beckington's Hall, the west window of the chapel, and probably the Jacobean arch which leads from Jocelyn's buildings to those of Beckington. It was generally believed that Bishop Montague pulled down the north-west turret-staircase of Bishop Joscelin and made the present square tower with its Jacobean entrance porch. The top storey of this however was added by Mr. Ferrey for Bishop Bagot. The Palace suffered much during the Commonwealth through the action of Cornelius Burgess who lived in the Deanery and who had purchased the Palace and the Manor of Wells when the Bishop's estates were sold by the Commonwealth Council. He intended to make the Deanery thoroughly

habitable as the house of a layman, and used lead and timber taken from the Palace for that purpose. The damage thus inflicted was said to have been repaired by Bishop Piers when he came back in 1660, and who now seemed to have pulled down the curtain wall and cloister walk which formed an inner cloister in the front of Joscelin's building, though he was said to have left the tower built by Bishop Beckington as an entrance to the inner court. It was uncertain when this tower of Bishop Beckington's was pulled down. Bishop Beadon, 1802-24, altered Bishop Beckington's chambers on the north by raising the roof and making two stories and a ground floor, instead of one storey and a ground floor, and put in perhaps the Early English windows on the north side of the ground floor. The ruinous state of Burnell's Hall was due to Bishop Law, 1824-45, who would have pulled it down and taken it away had the building not been so well and solidly built. Bishop Bagot, who followed, raised the roof of Joscelin's building and made two storeys instead of one, and the plaster ceilings in the gallery and several rooms were due to him. Lord Arthur Hervey turned the fireplace which was now in the crypt round from the entrance gallery where they saw the mantelpiece indicating the original position of the fireplace. The present state of the crypt as a habitable chamber, now already famous for the hospitality of Lord Arthur Hervey and the present Lord Bishop, was due to the public spirit of Lord Arthur Hervey.

The Bishop moved a vote of thanks to Canon Scott Holmes, who briefly acknowledged. The members afterwards spent a pleasant time in viewing the Palace and its charming grounds.

The Presidential Address.

After the Annual Dinner at the Swan Hotel, the President presiding, the members assembled at the Guildhall, which had been lent for the occasion by the Mayor of Wells, for the Evening Meeting.

THE LORD BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS then delivered his presidential address. He said : You have done me a great honour by electing me to fill this chair, and I heartily wish that I felt myself more deserving of it. My predecessors as bishops of this ancient See, who have been placed by your Society in the position which to-day I am called to occupy, have brought the credentials which have been sufficiently attested, either by their own capability or the recognition of their researches into one or the other of the branches of the important subjects for the study of which you are associated. I am here to-day, partly for chronological and partly for acquisitive reasons, but from each of these causes you may certainly eliminate the personal element ; for, if you have made me president because of the great reason that the Bishopric of Wells was founded just a thousand years ago, you will acquit me of all responsibility for being your Bishop when the millenary had to be celebrated ; or, if for the reason that I happen to have had some share in restoring Glastonbury Abbey from its position as a private possession to the guardianship of trustees, and in placing the power of directing the uses to which it may be put in the hands of a council of representative Churchmen, you will, I hope, recognise that, personally speaking, the acquisition is in no sense a gain to myself.

It is, however, as I believe, for these reasons that you have placed me in this position, which, as I recognise to the fullest degree, might so much better have been filled by some other of yourselves. For I wonder whether any other county can show in proportion to its population so considerable a body of men who in the past, or who being still with us in the present days, have exhibited so wide an interest in the archæology or in the natural history of their neighbourhood as is the case in Somerset. It is not only that in the past have there been intellectual giants whose strength has been used in turning the history and experience of the past for the benefit of the present and future, such as Professor Freeman, Bishop Hob-

house, Dean Plumptre, Lord Arthur Hervey, Canon Buckle, Mr. W. A. Sanford, and others ; but that, in Canon Church (who we are thankful is still with us to check the rash impetuosity of impatient writers and speakers and to set us the example of steady and assiduous investigation), Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey, whom we rejoice to see that the King has delighted to honour ; the present Dean of Wells, Canon Scott Holmes, Preb. Hancock, Mr. Greswell, Dr. Bulleid, Mr. St. George Gray, Mr. Taylor (of Banwell), Preb. Street, the Archdeacon of Taunton, Dr. Powell, Mr. Bates, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Somerville, Preb. Grant, and many others, who in greater or less degree have devoted their abilities to recording facts of interest and history, and so are handing on to others that information which they have gathered in their observant lives, we have quite an army of explorers, and we possess a valuable library of their writings. Among such explorers of the wonders of nature we have with us to-day two whose birthdays may be separated by several decades, but who, both of them, have done and are doing much to reveal to us the mysteries of underground fairy land, and to bring from the caves and holes of the earth not only fascinating stories of the wonders of nature, but revelations of the history of our British ancestors, about whom we are as eager to learn as could have been "Japhet in search of a father." I am not transgressing any rules in mentioning Prof. Boyd Dawkins, known to the world, and who years ago spoke at one of these meetings ; and Mr. Balch, of Wells, who deserves to be, and will be, some day known to a world who will wonder why we have not made more of him. Surrounded as I am by such men as I have mentioned, and by many more whom I should like to mention, you will not wonder that with a most limited equipment of knowledge, and that gained second hand through yourselves, I do not attempt, as my predecessors have done, to put before you for treatment in a circumstantial manner particular subjects about which you, most of you, know far more than I do.

I wish indeed I had the kind of knowledge which would enable me to present to you an historical account of any great branch of trade or manufacture which had made its home in our county, the effects of which could be traced in the architecture or in the groupings of the population, as was so happily done by Mr. Somerville when your President in 1907, in the very interesting account which he gave of the wool trade in all its features. Such a topic, treated as that one was treated, becomes a source of unfailing interest in its bearing upon all that happened in the periods described. It is not only suggestive of the way in which money was procurable for the magnificent church towers of our diocese, but it sets one thinking of the different way in which people in different times have used the wealth they earned, and of its distribution in different parts of the county.

Or, again, I wish I had the leisure to work out an account of the contemporaneous building carried out in different parts of our county at any one particular period, and the causes which led to such building. I am thinking, for instance, of the varied results upon this county of the murder of St. Thomas à Becket in the reign of Henry II. I wonder in the first place whether at Williton the remorse and fear of Reginald Fitzurse had any direct effect upon any portion of the church ; or whether any church-building resulted from the desire of de Tracy, de Morville, or le Bret, to make atonement for their crime : for they were all West Countrymen, and probably fled in this direction. At any rate, may we not be justified in the belief that the invitation of the Carthusians by Henry II to come to this country and settle upon the Royal demesne of Witham was directly the result of an injunction of the Pope to the King to found or re-found three monasteries in consequence of the fearful murder ? Thus Witham began, and however crude and rough may have been its beginning when Hugh of Avalon came to rule over it, its importance began to be felt ; and our Charterhouse-on-Mendip, with its charming little mission

church, admirably devised and built, shares with Lincoln Minster its direct lineage from the building of St. Hugh. One would fain linger awhile on the Mendips, and ask you to take your stand there and meditate upon all the ways in which history and present day excavation and present day work will suggest to you that "the old order changeth giving place to new." You are standing where, in days of Roman occupation, the lead mines were worked by our British forefathers under the hard sway of Roman soldiers. You can picture to yourselves the transport of the heavy metal, stamped with the Imperial seal, carried—I know not how—down the steep roads that led to the waterways, where it would be shipped for carriage to the coast. You can imagine the sufferings of the toilers reascending 800 or 900 feet; you can imagine their wonderment as they watched the formation of that amphitheatre now again (I believe) disclosed. What new arts, what new ideas, what new amusements must have been presented to them?

Or you can picture to yourself, in the distance across the water and the swamps, the *Ecclesia Vetusta* made of wattle, with its new teaching of the goodwill towards men, and the strange sound this would have in the ears of those inhabitants of the lake villages, who fain would hide themselves from the face of all those strong, strange men who had mastered their tribes and were revealing new ways of life to them. Then you would let a century or two pass by, and still from Mendip picture another scene. No longer do the disciplined Romans exercise their sway. The heathen Saxon are in possession. As they sweep across the British Isles they have no time to thread the Selwood Forest or the reedy waters stretching from our Severn to our Pilton or Harbour town; thus the little Christian settlement lives on, and these Angles become themselves converts to the Christian faith and Glastonbury is looked upon with veneration. We cannot stay at Charterhouse, though the coming of the Carthusians who have given it

its name, and still more the passing away of these monks and the desertion of that which, from a Church point of view, was left as no man's land, belonging to no parish, might be well worth consideration, for it is a case, so far as I know, unique and suggestive. But there are those here who will rejoice in knowing that the care of Preb. Coleman and the interest of Lord Arthur Hervey, and the generosity of the people who live there, headed by Mr. Lambrick, have resulted in the building of a little mission church to which allusion was made, and it is filled by the people.

Henry II has not been forgotten amid the new ideas into which the coming and passing of his Carthusians have introduced us. You will let me invite you to Glastonbury. I dare not attempt to describe it. Its beauty, its known history, its legends, its associations, all speak for it. Whatever you may assert or deny about it you will allow it the power of inspiration. When I acquired it, we had to guard it legally, and thus it is vested in the Diocesan Trustees, a body of gentlemen of our county incorporated to hold property. We had to watch over its proper use, hence the Council of which I spoke, and we had to safeguard the condition of its ruined buildings, and therefore my colleagues and I have placed it under the care of one of the most experienced and competent of our architects, Mr. Caroë. You will have an opportunity of seeing for yourselves, and hearing upon good authority what steps it was necessary we should take, and take promptly, if some of the most valuable and interesting features of the magnificent ruins were to be saved from decay. It must be borne in mind that the new appearance of the stone-work just now inserted will soon wear off, and that the ivy which formed so picturesque a feature was as much a cause of danger as it was beautiful as an adornment. The re-erection of the tower at the south-west corner of St. Mary's Chapel was absolutely necessary if the walls were to be put into a condition of safety. The same may be said of the arch

thrown across the building. But the most valuable of the work entered upon by Mr. Caroë in grouting cement into the walls will probably remain, as is so often the case with the most important work, unnoticed and unnoticeable. The casing of the great part of the massive piers of the great church was, I believe, only just undertaken in sufficient time, and has been accomplished in a sensible manner. The corbel stones, which needed careful re-setting or renewal on the walls of St. Mary's Chapel, have revealed one or two features of unusual interest, and their use in their present position is almost of the nature of a parable. Two of them, at least, which were placed *in situ* as far back as A.D. 1180, have proved themselves to be ancient Celtic crosses, of a shape familiar I am told to students of northern architecture of the British times. How one would like to know their history! Did they mark the graves of British churchmen? Why were they disturbed or removed? Why were they used as mere corbels or coping stones, or whatever the purpose may have been? Does the fact mark any indifference among the XII Century builders to the ancient church which existed before the Saxons came—or were converted—to anything anterior to the Norman Conquest? Anyhow, I may reckon myself among those who rejoice in the reappearance of anything which testifies to the continuity of the Church of England with the ancient British Church; and in this connection I should like to say how peculiarly interesting do I find those recently published "Chapters on the Early History of Glastonbury Abbey," by Mr. Greswell, which mark so strongly and in so many ways these Celtic associations of the ancient church in Glastonbury which are too often ignored by the mediæval writers. But it is not only in the care for the ruins, but in the excavations which have been made by Mr. Bligh Bond that you will find much to interest you and to satisfy you. His discovery of the foundations of the Chapel of St. Edgar was, in its way, quite brilliant, and the many little surprises upon

which he and his hard working band of amateur explorers have lighted, such as the already famous medallion, with its date and the richly cut and gilded and coloured stones, and the encaustic tiles, are among the signs which give hope that in the future more discoveries may be made. It would be unfitting that I, who am but a humble learner, should attempt to set before you the history of the wonderful ruins you will never tire of examining in Glastonbury. No doubt the story of these will be explained by the most capable. I have but introduced you to the sacred spot where you behold what is left of Henry II building. But in the back of your mind you erect again from its charred ashes the old church of wattle, where the service of the King of Kings was offered in the British days, where came Paulinus and King Ina, where Canute worshipped, where St. Dunstan ruled, where King Arthur lay buried, and where amid all the changes that befel our land the voice of praise to the Blessed Trinity ceased not, and the faith and courage of the men of old were renewed.

I would that I could take you to some of the churches of this diocese, which it has been recently my privilege to see restored. It was but the week after our great thanksgiving service, in those ruins, on the 22nd of June last, which their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales attended, that the Church of Isle Abbots, a church of quite remarkable beauty, was re-opened. A year or two ago the shadow of a dark cloud lay over it. It seemed almost doomed to destruction. Serious fractures had appeared in the walls, and the movements had increased considerably. Much of the church is XIII Century work; much also, and very beautiful this is, belongs to the XV Century. The details of the church are rare and present fine features. The piscina and sedilia are of great richness. The font is Saxon. In the restoration, which happily was placed in the hands of Mr. Caroë, many discoveries were made—for instance, (1) a stone coffin of very large size, and weighing over three-quarters of a ton, was

found in the centre of the chancel. But, unfortunately, this had been rifled, and the lid was lost. (2) A hagio-scope with a hinge post for the veil, by which the altar would be hidden during holy week. (3) A consecration panel on the inside of the east wall (south end). (4) Part of the original stone reredos with colour on it, also (5) the colours on the chancel screen, which had been hidden by varnish. (6) Several coins of Charles II, and, strange to say, a number of wolves' teeth. Now this church is safe again, and so well is it restored that only those who saw it in its apparently hopeless condition would recognise how great had been the undertaking.

Of another church, rich in its antiquity—noble and inspiring in its proportions—and of very varied styles, recently restored, must I make mention. I mean Milborne Port. I want to allude to it not only because of its intrinsic beauty and importance—and in many respects it is one of the most striking and interesting churches in this diocese—but because this is another instance of a valuable church recently in great danger through ominous cracks manifesting themselves, and increasing with serious rapidity. This church was also wisely placed in the hands of Mr. Caroë, and has been skilfully treated by him. He has been good enough to give me some notes upon the church, which, with your permission, I will read to you.

The church is mentioned in Domesday. "Rainbold holds the Church of St. John." Rainbold was Chancellor to Edward Confessor, and subsequently to the Conqueror. It is said that when the nave was re-built in 1067-9, some Saxon work existed in the west wall. As there was a Saxon church here it may have been of stone, and was probably enlarged by the new chancel tower, transepts, and a great doorway, by Renibold. The eastern part of the chancel has all the evidences of early Norman work, in the erection of which Saxon workmen were employed. It seems to have been lengthened eastward very soon after its erection. About the middle of the XII Century a sacristy was added to the north side of the chancel,

and in the XIII Century a tall lancet window upon the south side, and the whole chancel was re-roofed at this date. Later a two-light low side window was added on the south side. The XV Century builders added a storey to the tower, took out the east and west Norman arches of the crossing, and inserted pointed ones in their place, put a window in the east and a window and door in the south wall of the chancel, and remodelled the nave. They also added the great buttress in the south-east internal angle of the cross. In the early part of the XVI Century the south chantry was added to the chancel. As usual, little respect had been paid to the older work by the successive builders. This system continued to prevail during the last century. In 1841-4 a gallery over the rood-loft, probably a remnant of the original construction, was removed, the south transept was entirely rebuilt, the Norman doorway on the south side of nave "restored to its original proportions," the zigzag over the arches was copied from Stoke-under-Ham, and the finish of the upper part of the door from Iffley. In 1867-9 the nave and north transepts were rebuilt, the former being extended about 20 feet to the west. In the execution of this work many ancient evidences were lost. It remains to state that the XV Century windows of the chancel were cusped and rich in tracery. Only a portion of the east window is original, and the south window is a poor copy of the old with cusps omitted, and dates from churchwarden times. The Norman staircase turret is specially interesting, and recalls the similar characteristic feature at Christchurch, Hants. Starting from a circle on the ground it becomes successively an octagon, heptagon, and octagon again, the changes being subtly contrived. There is a very heavy peal of six bells, erected by Thomas Bilbie, of Bristol, in 1736. One of them bears an amusing challenge: "Come here friend Knight and Cockey too, Such work as this you cannot do, Thomas Bilbie made all we." Knight was a bell-founder of Blandford; Cockey was a bell-founder of Frome. The heavy

peal had so completely shaken the tower that until the recent works were undertaken the bells had not been rung for some thirty years or more. The tower is now, however, almost free from vibration during bell-ringing, while there is hardly a mark to show that the building has been touched. The chancel roof was in a very decayed state, and had thrust out the walls more than a foot. The main roof and walls have, however, been retained intact, being supported by some additional framing, which tells its own story without introducing any discord. The same framing has been used to tie back the east wall which leant outwards dangerously. By these devices, the tottering ancient work has been made safe, without change in its aspect. Some of the ancient niche work from the west end, still in very perfect condition, has been built into a stone shed in the churchyard. On the death of Rainbold, the church was handed to the Augustinian Abbey of Cirencester, Rainbold having been head of the College of Secular Canons, which had formed the nucleus of the monastic foundation. The Abbey held the advowson till the dissolution. The advowson subsequently passed to Winchester College, and thence to the Medlycott family, the present owners. The architecture of the chancel is specially interesting in its form, on account of the connection of its founder with both the Saxon and Norman dynasties. It gives a suggestive clue to what the Confessor's great church at Westminster may have been; a church which we know was erected in the Norman manner at the close of the Saxon era. The rood-screen, a piece of XV Century work, has features of interest, and had a loft till 1841.

I think, when I first became Bishop of this diocese that the churches still in use which seemed to me to be in the most pitiable condition were those of Cudworth and Chillington. The former a little church with some good Norman architecture in it, the latter a small church with XIII and XIV Century work, almost ruined by wretched treatment in the

early part of last century—and both of them likely to soon fall to pieces. Thanks to the energy of Mr. Allan, the present rector, a most painstaking student of architecture—who has shown the most watchful care over the buildings entrusted to him—the former of these is now a beautiful and carefully restored church, and the latter is in course of being restored. But the list of churches which have needed and have received careful restoration within the last forty years is a very long one, and the amount of money which in the aggregate has been spent upon them in that period would probably surprise you. The generosity of the subscribers has been a boon to the masons, and the zeal for the House of God which has led people to make great sacrifices for the maintenance of our beautiful churches has brought great blessings to many of the working men of Somerset.

I will ask in closing my remarks to call attention to one little church not far from Langport, which has fallen into a condition that would fill with sadness the minds of those who could see it, or otherwise know of it. It is the little Norman church of Swell, in the parish of Fivehead. It is, alas! disused, and its condition is a disgrace to us. The Vicar of the parish has his hands full in the care of a church—the tower of which is in a woebegone plight. For the repair of this he is doing all that he can do, and the necessary work upon it is, I understand, to be at once begun. But the interest of people who care for that which is old and has beauty in it, should be aroused in this ancient little chapel of Swell. It would be well if a pilgrimage to it could be organised next summer. To rescue it and to restore it to its proper use would be a worthy undertaking, and with any indication of a willingness to aid in such an enterprise I will gladly, if spared to do so, arrange some such expedition during the summer of next year. It only remains for me now to say how heartily, in the name of the citizens of Wells, I have the honour of welcoming you to our ancient and charming city;

and, with the hope that for all your expeditions the weather may be more kind than hitherto in this summer it has shown itself to be, I greet you on your revisiting Wells with the wish that your memories of this year's meeting may be of mingled instruction and enjoyment.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE proposed a hearty vote of thanks to his Lordship for his address. They would agree with him, he was sure, that not only had Dr. Kennion justified his election as their President by the great interest he had taken in Glastonbury Abbey, for which he naturally felt proud, but also by the high merit of his address which was full of valuable suggestions. He had shown them how deep was his interest in the churches of the diocese. He thought it was fortunate that some of the Somerset clergy were members of the Society. What would be their position if they had not amongst them many of those who were guardians of those magnificent churches for which Somerset was so famous. They were glad to have Mr. Bligh Bond as their diocesan architect, especially as he had taken so great a part in the ecclesiological work of the Society. They must remember too that it was on behalf of this Society that Mr. Bond carried on the work of excavation at Glastonbury Abbey.

Canon SCOTT HOLMES seconded the vote of thanks.

The proposition was unanimously carried, and the Bishop suitably acknowledged the compliment.

The Architectural Genesis of Wells Cathedral.

The Presidential Address was followed by an extremely interesting paper (illustrated by diagrams) "On the First Cathedral Church of Wells, and the Site thereof," by Mr. W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE. This is printed in Part II.

The PRESIDENT said that everyone present must have been profoundly indebted to Mr. St. John Hope for the interesting description he had given them, and the theory he had brought before them concerning the position of the old church.

CANON CHURCH¹ drew attention to the distinctive character of the several doors of the church as bearing upon the subject of the paper. He remarked on the relative position of the doors to the areas on which they were specially designed to open at the time at which they were built. The church was not built at one time, but in different sections, and the doors of the sections as they were built were adapted to the wants of the different areas at the time.

When Bishop Reginald began his building on the present site the old church on the south ground, the church of Bishop Robert, was still the centre of worship, and it is probable that the south transept was the first part built, to be in proximity to the old church, to the haunts of the worshippers, and to the ground and house of the bishop.

The Southern door in what is now the southern transept then would be the first door necessary for the new building—"the greater church," *major ecclesia*, as it is called in the earlier documents.

This may account for the remarkable and unusual position of the old Font as at the entrance of the first part of the new church.

The North transept would follow. Then the eastern limb with the high altar at the end, and the earliest altars of St. Martin, St. Calixtus, and Holy Cross, and perhaps of St. Andrew in the eastern aisles of the transepts, and another smaller door south and north in each transept admitting directly to these aisles and their altars. Then as the church grew westward down the nave there rose up on the north side the great North Porch, "the great door of the canons," *magna porta canonicorum*, the "high door" *alta porta*, which opened out to the area specially appropriated to the canons, where Reginald had made over to the canons free of rent to him, the barton, or canon grange, with the barn where

1. Since the meeting these remarks on the doors of the cathedral church have been amplified by Canon Church.—EDITOR.

they daily received their quotidiens—that northern quarter where gradually grew up the houses, for the dean and canons, for the schools, and for the district called the “Liberty.”

As the church extended westward, according to Reginald and Joscelyn’s plans, (for we must remember that they were contemporaries for part of their time, as bishop and canon, and so shared in their building plans for some years), it was necessary to provide a great South-western door for public entry from the town now growing up at the south-western side, and the great door was approached through a colonnade or cloister, of which the shafts and capitals still remain embedded in the later XV Century cloister wall, and gave entrance by a flight of steps and richly carved portal of Bishop Joscelyn’s Early English work into the lowest bay of the nave.

Meantime from 1220 to 1243 at least, the great work on the Western face of the church was in course of construction. The ground in front of it must have been a masons’ yard for the building up of buttresses and imagery, and all the sculpture which was to rise up on the western end of the church, shut off from public approach, and traffic of the town of that day. In 1239 these works were sufficiently finished for consecration. We may be rather surprised when we look upon the west front to see how comparatively low and undignified the doors are of this great space, compared with our great North Porch—and other magnificent portals of some other churches of the time. Perhaps we may be less surprised if we consider what was the original area upon which these doors were meant to open and shut. Certainly it was not the intention of Bishop Joscelyn to make a great display of statuary only for the glorification of the church, or for the decoration of a public place. “They dreamt not of a perishable home, who thus could build.” The ground on the west of the church was designed by Bishop Joscelyn to be the great burial ground, the *Campo Santo* of the town and neighbourhood. So when the church had been consecrated, and Bishop Joscelyn had died and

been buried before the high altar in November, 1242, one of the first statutes of the Chapter decreed the laying out of the burial-grounds round the church.

In July, 1243, a statute was made, assigning the (*a*) cloister garth for the burial of the canons, (*b*) the ground eastward behind “the Chapel of St. Mary near the cloister” for the vicars choral, and (*c*) the ground before the West front, within certain defined limits, for the burial of the lay people. These western doors were to open and shut upon a burial ground—*God’s Acre*; they were raised with no special idea of stately effect, but in subordination to the general purpose of the church and the teaching of the imagery on the west front,—of holding up before the eyes of those who went in and out of the doors of this House, of the mourners primarily, and of all mortal men, the story of man’s fall and redemption, the Resurrection and the Judgment to come.

In so far as these remarks bear upon Mr. St. John Hope’s paper, it is clear from this burial act of the chapter in 1243 :

1. That the “atrium” of the church of Bishop Robert from which he expelled the buyers and sellers, could not have been at the west end of the present church, but must be sought for in a south-west direction towards the present market place.

2. That if the church of Bishop Robert had once extended in the south-west direction over the present Palm churchyard, all remains of it must have disappeared in 1243—when the statute appointing that ground to be the burial ground of the canons was passed.

3. That the east end of the ancient church of Bishop Robert was then standing under another name, when the same statute of 1243 directed that the Vicars Choral should be buried in the churchyard towards the east, behind the “*Chapel of St. Mary near the Cloister*,” as it was then called.

With these considerations Canon Church was prepared to accept Mr. St. John Hope’s theory of the position of the ancient church—and agreed with him that we have none of

Bishop Robert's work in the present church, begun on a different area and with a different orientation by Bishop Reginald after 1174.

CANON SCOTT HOLMES regarded Mr. Hope's paper as speculation and very interesting speculation. But because it was interesting, they must not forget that it was also speculation. Mr. Hope briefly replied.