

The Annual Report,

which was as follows :—

“ Your Committee present their fifty-eighth annual report. Since their last report fifty new names have been added to the list of members (during eleven months). The loss by deaths and resignations has been 43. Altogether the net gain has been seven. The total membership of the Society at date is 670.

“ The balance of your Society's general account at the end of 1904 (your accounts being made up in each year to December 31st) was £153 6s. 11d. against the Society. At the close of 1905 there was a deficit of £163 10s. 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 cost of Vol. LI (for 1905), including printing, illustrations and delivery, has been £112 3s. 5d. The thanks of the Society are due to the Rev. F. W. Weaver, F.S.A., Mr. T. S. Bush, the Rev. Dr. S. J. M. Price, the Rev. C. S. Taylor, F.S.A., and the Glastonbury Antiquarian

Society, for their assistance in defraying the cost of some of the illustrations; to the Editors of *Som. and Dor. Notes and Queries* for the loan of two blocks; and to Dr. F. J. Allen, Mr. Arthur Bulleid, Mr. H. St. G. Gray, and Mr. Reginald Weaver, for their photographs and drawings.

"As stated in your last report an appeal was issued in February, 1904, for the purpose of raising a special fund to clear off outstanding liabilities and to carry out urgent repairs. £600 was required for the purpose. Up to the time of the last Annual Meeting, the sum of £405 9s. 6d. had been raised, since which the total has reached £446 7s. 6d. leaving £153 12s. 6d. before the £600 required is realized. Your Secretaries beg to state that the list is still kept open, and that additional donations will be printed in the next volume of the *Proceedings*.

"Your Society's buildings are at the present time in a good state of repair, and it has not been found necessary to do anything this year beyond a few repairs on the roof and painting rain-water pipes.

"The large number of presents to the Museum during the last few years has been maintained during 1905-6, and again the "Walter Collection" has been largely added to by Mr. R. Hensleigh Walter, M.B. The interest in the "Norris Collection" has been increased from the fact that Mr. Gray's paper on the subject in the last volume of the *Proceedings* has been reprinted to serve as a Guide to the collection. Mr. C. Tite has again added several portraits to the collection of Somerset Worthies; the whole collection has now been framed and each portrait has a descriptive label attached. Mr. J. E. Pritchard, F.S.A., has presented several flint arrowheads and other stone implements found by himself at Banwell and Dolebury Camps, etc. From Mr. F. T. Elworthy, F.S.A., your Society has received several Roman lamps from Rome and Naples; from Mr. E. B. Kite two important Bronze Age implements; from Mr. T. Charbonnier a fine series of iron keys.

One of the javelins carried by the Somerset Javelin Men, who formed the judge's escort during the Assizes about 1860, has been presented by Mr. A. J. Vickery. A well-preserved peacock in case has been received from Mr. Brice Bunny. Other interesting objects have been presented by Miss Mary Woodforde, Miss L. Badcock, the Rev. Dr. Price, the Rev. Trevor Griffiths and Mr. H. Franklin.

"Your Society has received from the Trustees of the British Museum three ebonized cases containing a series of electrotypes of ninety-eight medals illustrating British History beginning with the reign of Henry VIII. An interesting acquisition is the plaster cast bust of Robert Blake, the defender of Taunton Castle.

"Miss Laura Badcock, of Taunton, has kindly offered to make a collection of Needlework and Lace of all dates and countries for the Museum, and it is hoped that an exhibition of the examples collected will be held at Taunton Castle in due course. Any member interested in the formation of this collection should communicate with the Curator or Miss Badcock.

"The Library has been very largely increased this year chiefly through the liberality of Mr. Charles Tite, one of your Hon. Secs., who has presented about two thousand volumes of Local Books, a collection which he hopes to augment and improve as time goes on. The object of the collector in making this unique collection has been to include books by Somerset authors, books relating to Somerset, and books printed in the county. It will be known as the "Tite Collection of Somerset Books," and special cases will shortly be provided for their arrangement. Your best thanks are due to Mr. Tite not only for this important addition to your already extensive literary stores, but for many other donations which he has made from time to time to the local departments of your Museum.

"From Mr. Tite and the Somerset County Council your Society has acquired almost a complete set of the *Western*

Flying Post newspaper from 1790 to 1841. The Rev. D. P. Alford has presented fifteen vols. of the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, 1891-1905 ; Dr. Oliver's *Monasticon Dioecesis Exoniensis*, etc. From the Public Record Office five volumes of Calendars of Patent Rolls, 1338-1350, have been received. Mrs. Strong of Somerton has presented a beautifully-illuminated and valuable Book of Hours of the first half of the XV Century. The English Dialect Dictionary was completed this year, and is now bound in six vols. A further endeavour has been made to complete "Archæologia" and "Notes and Queries"; of the former only Vols. II to X are now required.

"Several duplicate books which have been found during the re-arrangement of your Library have been presented to the Taunton Free Public Library, the governing body of which invited your Committee to present any duplicates that could be spared.

"It was reported last year that a considerable amount of cataloguing in the Society's Library had been done by the Rev. E. H. Bates. Even fuller thanks are now due to him for having completed the Catalogue (with the exception of Mr. Tite's books recently received.) Mr. Bates and the Curator have given a new position to nearly every book in the Library, and having introduced shelf-numbers for the whole Library the difficulty of finding small books and books seldom used is now a thing of the past. Two large book-cases were made last autumn to contain the Calendars and Memorials published by Government.

"Owing to the lamented death of Mr. R. P. Brereton, an enthusiastic student of the Somerset Church Towers, his book on that subject will not be published, but, through the kindness of his sister, your Society has been presented with the whole of the beautiful collotypes of the Church Towers (several hundreds of each) which had been prepared from Mr. Brereton's photographs. Your Committee has decided to sell

these collotypes to members in sets of sixty at the nominal price of 5s. a set (postage and packing extra.) Non-members and members requiring extra sets will be charged 7s. 6d. The receipts from this source will be devoted to Museum cases inscribed 'In memory of R. P. Brereton, Esq.'

"As the Chancellor of the Diocese of Exeter would not grant a faculty for the sale of the Churchstanton silver chalice inscribed 'CHURCH TAUNTON, 1660,' and having the hall-mark for 1613-4, the Churchwardens have placed this and a silver paten of the end of the XVII Century on deposit in Taunton Castle, on condition that the objects are covered by insurance from all risks by your Society. This has accordingly been done.

"During May your Curator continued the excavations at the Glastonbury Lake Village jointly with Mr. A. Bulleid, F.S.A. At the present time not more than one-ninth of the Village remains to be explored. A second grant of duplicate specimens from the Lake Village will shortly be made by the Excavation Committee, both to your Museum and to the British Museum. On December 14th last, Mr. Gray gave a lantern lecture on the Lake Village in the Great Hall of the Castle, which was attended by 200 members and friends. Further excavations were conducted by the Bath Branch of your Society at Lansdown near Bath early in May.

"In September last your Committee passed a resolution expressing sympathy with the National Trust in their efforts to preserve Barrington Court from further decay.

"Your Society has now no less than eight Branch and Affiliated Societies, the Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society having become affiliated last autumn.

"Your Museum was visited by 7623 persons during 1905, including 1386 visits from members. This is the largest total that has been reached and 2½ per cent more than in 1904 when the total was 7421. Since your Curator was appointed five years ago the total increase in visitors to the Museum has been

51 per cent, and the members of the Society have increased just 100.

“Your Society has sustained the following losses by death since the last annual meeting :—

“Dr. W. M. Kelly and the Rev. J. P. Scott, two original members of the Society. The only original members who now survive are Mr. Wyndham Slade and Mr. A. A. Clarke. Dr. Kelly was for thirty-three years (1866-1899) Local Secretary for Taunton.

“Dr. J. H. Bryant, who was since Mr. Sloper's death one of the Local Secretaries for London, died on May 23rd, 1906, aged thirty-eight. He was born at Ilminster, was House-Surgeon at Guy's Hospital and was for some time Chairman of the Somerset Men in London.

“Mr. Alfred Capper Pass, of Clifton and Wootton Fitzpaine, Dorset, a member since 1884, died on Oct. 4th, 1905. He presented to the Society's Museum many archæological remains of the Roman period from Charterhouse-on-Mendip, including a portion of an inscribed pig-of-lead.

“Mr. R. P. Brereton and Mr. Reginald Barnicott (see obituaries at the end of the last vol. of *Proceedings*); Professor Montagu Burrows, F.S.A. an Hon. Member of the Society; Mr. Sylvanus Fox, of Wellington, a member since 1857, died Oct. 10th, 1905; the Rev. S. J. Heathcote, Vicar of Williton, also a member since 1857; Mr. Frank George, a member for eleven years; Mr. H. O'Brien O'Donoghue, a member since 1876; Mr. Thomas Sheldon, of Clevedon, a good friend to the Society and a member since 1877; and the Rev. A. R. Cartwright, Vicar of St. John's, Clevedon, and later Rector of Alford and Hornblotton, a member since 1882, who died suddenly at Blackwater on May 29th, 1906.”

The REV. C. H. HEALE, in moving the adoption of the report, said they wished to make greater improvements in the Museum at Taunton, but could not do so without more money. It was now generally recognised in the county that their

Museum was a place of deposit for objects of antiquity and natural history, and the donations they received were yearly increasing. He could not help referring to Mr. Tite's collection of books, which would be very valuable for reference in the years to come for those engaged in research relating to Somerset. Their thanks were also due to Mr. Bates for the part he had taken in cataloguing the library. In the excellent manuscript catalogue that had been prepared they now knew where to find any book in the library. They had all been looking forward to the volume Mr. Brereton was going to publish on the Somerset Church Towers, but unfortunately his death occurred whilst he was engaged upon the work, and his sister had generously given the collotypes of the towers to the Society. He wished to make one remark referring to the President's address. Mr. Luttrell had said he did not understand why Watchet should be called that name. The old word was a Saxon one, *Wacet*, meaning pale blue, and his (Mr. Heale's) explanation of it was that Watchet derived its name from the blue lias on which it stood.

Mr. W. S. CLARK seconded, observing that the Society was most fortunate in having such energetic officials.

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

finances.

Mr. H. J. BADCOCK, Hon. Treasurer, presented the Annual Statement of Accounts.

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1905.

[illegible]

ALEX. HAMMETT,
HOWARD MAYNARD. } Hon. Auditors

Balance Sheet of Income and Expenditure for the year 1905.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1905.		To Balance of former Account...	8 17 1
By Rent of Premises	49 5 2	„ Repairs to Castle & Property	38 4 2
„ Rent of 3 lights (Harrison's Hotels) 1905-6	0 4 6	„ Rates and Taxes	9 1 9
„ the Donations to "Taunton Castle Restoration and Deficit Fund," recorded in the "Proceedings," Vol. 51, pt. 1, p. 105	63 9 0	„ Fire Insurance	3 6 0
Balance	19 6 7	„ Fire-Main and Appliances ...	50 0 0
		„ New Coll and Repairs, Stoke Hole	21 0 0
		„ Wayleave for Fire-main ...	0 1 0
		„ Miscellaneous	0 13 0
		„ Interest on Overdrawn Ac- count	1 2 3
	<u>£192 5 3</u>		<u>£192 5 3</u>
		„ Balance brought down	£19 6 7

ALEX. HAMMETT,
HOWARD MAYNARD, } **Hon. Auditors.**

MR. J. BROOKING-ROWE, F.S.A., proposed the adoption of the accounts, observing that it was very creditable to the Society to be able to do so good work with such limited funds. Their poverty was a stimulus to obtain new members.

THE REV. J. WORTHINGTON seconded, pointing out two ways in which, in his opinion, the Society might do better concerning the accounts next year, and those two modes seemed closely associated with what Mr. Hobhouse had said when he reminded them of the delightful meeting the Society had held at Minehead seventeen years ago. During those years they had lost a large number of their old and valued members, and their places ought to be filled. He thought by a little effort on the part of each, the membership might be greatly increased. The other thing Mr. Hobhouse had referred to was in regard to the immense improvements that had been made in their fine old Castle at Taunton, in connection with which the Society still wanted £150 to pay off the deficit on the Castle fund. He hoped that this, their second visit to Minehead, might result in reducing this debt, which would place the treasurer in a better position next year.

The accounts were adopted.

The Election of Officers.

THE REV. PREB. HANCOCK proposed the re-election of the officers of the Society, with the additions of Lieut-Col. J. R. Bramble as a Vice-president, and the Revs. C. S. Taylor and J. Hamlet as Local Secretaries for Banwell and Barrington. They all knew the good work the officers had done in their respective spheres of duty. They knew, too, what an admirable President Col. Bramble made last year; he not only took a great interest in all archæological matters, but was the best authority in the county on certain subjects, especially those relating to costume and armour. They were most fortunate in securing such a Curator as Mr. Gray, who had

maintained in yeoman fashion the reputation he brought with him to Taunton. He could not close without expressing their gratitude to Mr. Tite for the large donation he had made to the library, it being a gift of considerable value and interest. With regard to their President, he had a unique claim to be their President on that occasion. They had heard of the long connection of the Luttrell family with the district from some period before the Conquest, and through the female line he claimed descent from the great family of De Mohun, to whom the honour of Dunster was given by William the Conqueror; therefore, they might say that the honour of Dunster had never passed from those to whom it was presented at the Conquest.

MR. E. A. FRY seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously carried.

On the proposition of the Rev. E. H. BATES, seconded by the Rev. J. E. W. COLLINS, the election of fifty new members by the Council was confirmed.

Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. E. H. BATES, Hon. Secretary of the Society, made a statement as to its position and future work. The County Council, having already provided funds for cleaning, sorting and arranging the records in the Shire Hall at Taunton, had now made a grant to the Society, to enable them to issue a volume, and thereby to make known what a mine of local history was hid in the cellars of the Shire Hall. The volume would contain the Orders made by the Court of Quarter Sessions in the reign of James I, for so far back are the records extant. Part of the grant had been expended in binding the papers, which were done up in rolls, and, therefore, practically impossible to read, and the remainder would be spent in transcribing and indexing. Whilst going through the papers it was interesting to notice the extraordinary permanence of the

problems of Local Government. Three centuries ago the authorities were engaged in putting down unnecessary and ill-conducted public-houses, in providing homes for those who had none, and in procuring work for the unemployed.

Unfortunately, however, he would not be able to bring out the volume dealing with those records this year, and he must ask the Society to be content at present with another volume of "Pedes Finium," which was one of those works which were the outcome of what he might call the "underground work" of the Society.

With regard to the book now on the table, it was the first volume of the Victoria County History of Somersetshire, and one of a series relating to all England, the materials of which were jointly put together by the co-operation of people living in London and the country. There had been some difficulty in getting it out, for it was a large volume. He thought the General Editors had adopted the right principles, for they took first the geology, then natural history, and came on to man. The present volume contained geological and natural history articles, and then it went on to the history of man, which it brought down to the Conquest and the Domesday Survey.

The RIGHT HON. HENRY HOBHOUSE said the County Record Society was doing good work which did not appeal to everybody, though it ought to do so. The work depended upon what Mr. Bates had called the underground work of the Society, and was little known, but unless it was supported it could not be continued. One special point in which he was interested was the co-operation of the County Council, through whose help they were about to produce most interesting records connected with Somersetshire, and they would agree with him that the county money could not be spent better than in showing them how their ancestors had lived and what the men were like. The records would not only be of historical interest but of great county value; as,

for instance, some light had been thrown by them on how the county bridges were managed, and it was possible that some saving might result to the county ratepayers as a result of search through those records.

This concluded the business meeting.

Copies of a new pocket guide to Minehead were distributed amongst the members of the Society by the Committee of the Minehead Improvement and Publicity Association.

The company then adjourned to the "Plume of Feathers" Hotel, where luncheon was partaken of, the President presiding.

Minehead Parish Church.

After luncheon the Society paid a visit to the Parish Church of St. Michael and All Angels.

The Rev. Preb. HANCOCK, F.S.A., described the Church, observing that he would like first, before proceeding with the Church, to allude to the very interesting ruin called Burgundy Chapel, which lay about a mile north-west of the Parish Church. The building was a tiny place, and measured about thirty-five feet by sixteen. Very little was known about it, but it seemed by its position on the side of a cliff overhanging the sea, to have been a votive chapel erected in thanksgiving for the escape of some pious inhabitant of the district, possibly when returning from one of those disastrous expeditions to Burgundy which drained the English coffers in the time of the Edwards. It was a most romantic spot and very well worth visiting. In the Dunster Castle household accounts for the year 1405, it was mentioned that a sum of money was paid for the lord of Dunster going on a pilgrimage to the Chapel of Bircombe, and a few years later a sum of money was paid to the chaplain of the lord for conducting service in the Chapel of Bircombe. He could not help thinking that that chapel of Burgundy was the same as Bircombe Chapel, and was very

probably built by one of the Mohuns, who was shipwrecked on that part of the coast and escaped.

Going on to describe the Church of St. Michael, Preb. Hancock remarked that the Church was approached on the east through a lych-gate, and on the south-west by a flight of several steps. The two south doors were very ancient, and on the larger were the letters "N.B.," carved in XVII Century characters. The nave of the Church was sixty feet long and twenty-four feet wide, with a chancel of the same width and thirty-one feet long. On each side of the east window was a table of the Commandments. At the end of the right-hand table were inscribed the words, "Robert Quirck, the younger, mariner, sonne of James Quirck, gave these to the Church, Anno Dome, 1634." There was an aisle on the north side of the nave sixty feet long and fifteen feet wide, and a north aisle to the chancel about thirty feet long, and fifteen feet wide. This north aisle seemed to have been used as a chapel to Our Lady. When viewed from outside it was well worth looking at. On either side of the window could be seen an angel bearing a shield, and above the window was the touching inscription, so suitable for a church the congregation of which were largely seafaring: "We pray Jesu and Marie sende oure neygboures safetie." To the north of the chancel aisle was a chantry chapel, twenty feet long and nine feet wide, which was used as a vestry, and was separated from the aisle by a curious wooden arch, supported on a stone base, four feet one-and-a-half inches high. In the base there was an early piscina, with credence-shelf above, in an excellent state of preservation. The roof of the chantry chapel was the original waggon-roof, nicely moulded and possessing the original bosses. The nave was separated from the chancel by a screen of very elaborate workmanship. The loft, which formerly carried the rood, was for a long time used as a gallery, from whence the boys of the Sunday school on the north side, and a ladies' school on the south side, serenely contemplated the congregation assembled

below. The girl members of the Sunday school in those days used to sit within the sacarium on the north side of the altar. Before the restoration, the gates of the screen had gone, and the tracery and mullions of the arched divisions, but the tracery and mullions had been replaced, and by great luck one pair of gates was found and restored to the Church. Going westward towards the tower they would see that the nave and chancel were divided from their aisles by an arcade of eight arches. The tower was at the west end of the nave, and measured, externally, eighty-seven feet in height. At the angles were buttresses which rose nearly to the summit. The parapet was battlemented, and had pinnacles at the angles, but the pinnacles were considered by the late Mr. H. St. Aubyn, the architect, under whose direction the Church was restored, not to be original. The tower arch was boldly moulded, and was twenty-five feet high. There was a very deeply recessed doorway at the west end, with niches for figures on either side of it, and a holy-water stoup on the left side. The tower was of three stages besides the parapet, and was fitted with very bold plinth courses. The architectural style of the tower was Tudor. Mr. St. Aubyn, when he inspected the tower, remarked in his report that it contained a fine peal of five bells and a dilapidated chiming apparatus, and a clock of some antiquity. Since then three more bells, given by the late Mr. H. A. Bosanquet, had been added, and a new clock, also the gift of Mr. Bosanquet, had been placed in the tower. Outside, on the south side of the tower, in a triple niche, was a carving of God the Father, holding before Him the figure of Christ crucified,¹ and on the east side was depicted St. Michael weighing souls with his scales, with Satan standing in the background. At the south-east angle of the tower rose a turret-staircase, battlemented, and a little higher than the tower itself. Mr. St. Aubyn considered that the Church belonged to the Decor-

1. This is a usual emblem of the Trinity ; often the Holy Ghost is represented in the form of a dove over the head of the Son.—Ed.

ated period, but had considerable insertions of Tudor work, in the shape of windows, and other details. The rood staircase and the south parapet were fine examples of the latter period. The original roofs of the nave and the chancel were waggon-shaped, and were constructed probably about 1450. The nave and chancel had an unusual span, owing to which the weight of the roof was found to have thrust the arcade wall out of position, it being eighteen inches out of the perpendicular, and this had to be remedied. A great gallery projected over the western arch more than twenty feet into the Church. The restoration of the Church was effected, with the expenditure of about £4,000, and it was re-opened in 1886.

Preb. Hancock went on to describe in detail what he had gleaned from Mr. Weaver's "*Mediæval Wills*," and the unique collection of documents at Dunster Castle, to which Mr. Luttrell had kindly allowed him access, as to church life in Minehead in mediæval times; and he remarked upon the number of lights which were kept burning in the Church day and night, of which there appeared to have been at least eight, indicative of the prayers of the faithful ever ascending, and perhaps making the Church at night a beacon to sailors. There were also, apparently, seven altars to various saints, besides the high altar, one of them being dedicated to St. Erasmus, the patron saint of sailors.

He described the beautiful vestment-chest, doubtless given to the Church by its famous vicar, Fitz-James, who was presented to the benefice of Minehead by the priors of Bruton, in 1485, the chest bearing the arms of Fitz-James and of his patron, Edward IV. He also referred to the chained books, the gift to the Church of one Alexander Ewens, in 1673, as the foundation of a church library, and went on to describe a strange spectacle which was seen in the Church in 1627, when a Minehead lad did penance for having abjured his religion while a prisoner among the Moors.

The Minehead plate was of considerable interest. He des-

cribed the font in the Church as being of an elaborate character and containing eight figures carved upon its stem, and eight more on the bowl, most of which were too much mutilated for their meaning to be conjectured, and he drew attention to brasses and monuments in the Church, one of which, a slab in the tower, had originally borne an effigy of a woman in XV Century costume, but had subsequently been used as a tombstone for four members of the Quirck family in the XVII Century.

Finally, he referred to a tomb in the chancel, containing a figure under an elaborate canopy. People were in the habit of saying that the tomb was that of Henry de Bracton, who died in 1268, but it was purely Perpendicular in character and the figure was that of a priest wearing his vestments and holding a chalice in his hands. In the churchyard, he added, were to be found some quaint and interesting epitaphs.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER added some particulars of Dr. Richard Fitz-James, afterwards Bishop of London (1506-1522), and how he came to be vicar of Minehead, the living being given him by the monastery of Bruton. The Fitz-James family lived at Redlynch, near Bruton. With reference to the so-called Bracton tomb, he reminded them that Bracton was buried in Exeter Cathedral.

Colonel BRAMBLE said Preb. Hancock was perfectly right in stating that the tomb was Perpendicular in character, but he was of opinion, for reasons he gave as to the form and disposition of the vestments which the priest was represented to be wearing, that the effigy was of the early part of the XIV Century, and at least a hundred years older than the canopy. He was in Eucharistic vestments, and the chasuble was of the gracefully flowing form, without embroidery, peculiar to that date, of which also the low position of the collar of the amice was typical.

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND gave some account of the screen, which, he said, belonged to a family of screens only found in

that part of Somerset, and were more of the character of Devonshire screens, the date probably being about 1499. He pointed out the fine character of the carving and the general work of the screen, judged by which it might be supposed to be of earlier origin. It had been well restored, but the cresting at the top was missing. Referring to the former gallery-front of the rood-loft, this feature, he said, was generally from four to five feet high, including the cresting. As to the tomb of the priest in the chancel he observed that it was the custom to bury a priest with his head to the east, but the head of this effigy was to the west.

Mr. H. St. G. GRAY read some notes on the Church tower, received from Dr. F. J. Allen, of Cambridge. The notes were as follows:—"This tower belongs to what may be called the West Somerset and Devon type, a type which is rather numerous represented in both those counties. In Somerset the principal instances are Norton Fitzwarren, Cannington, St. Decuman's, and Minehead; and in Devon they are Tiverton, South Molton, Bishop's Nympton, and Plymouth. Most towers of the type are good in outline, but plain in detail. The buttresses are rectangular and prominent, the parapets have battlements, pinnacles are sometimes present and sometimes omitted. A notable feature in all these towers is the scarcity of windows. There are only single windows in the top stage, the usual west window in the lower stage, while the middle stages are all bare wall, except a tiny window for the ringers' chamber, usually on the south side. In Devon the more ornamental towers of Cullompton, Broad Clyst, and Chittlehampton are related to this type. In Somerset the towers of Kingsdon and Wellington show something of its influence. The same type occurs also in Cornwall, *e.g.*, at Fowey and Stithians.

Old Cottages and the Manor Offices.

The company having spent some time in viewing the Church, returned to the town, inspecting by the way some of the old and quaint cottages in the Higher Town, particularly one on the right-hand side at the bottom of Church Steps, which Mr. Luttrell described as the old poorhouse. The Manor Offices at the top of The Avenue were also inspected, much interest being shown in the ancient architecture and other interesting features in the building.

Evening Meeting.

The Annual Dinner having taken place at the Plume of Feathers Hotel, an Evening Meeting was held in the Public Hall, Lieut.-Col. Bramble, F.S.A., vice-president, being in the chair.

The first paper was on "Cleeve Abbey," by the Rev. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A. This is printed *in extenso* in Part II, with an illustration.

Mr. C. H. SPENCER PERCEVAL, who said he was born at Chapel Cleeve, gave some particulars of what he had heard when a boy of the chapel on the cliff, and stated that a lane called "Wing-wong Lane" led across from Chapel Cleeve to the site of the chapel on the cliff, the foundations of which were then in existence, but had disappeared in a recent landslip. He spoke of human remains having been found when excavations were being made at Chapel Cleeve, and observed that the word "cleeve" was still in use in the West to indicate a steep place.

Lieut.-Col. BRAMBLE in thanking Mr. Weaver for his interesting paper, said the Cistercian Order of monks were of especial interest as being a purely English order, and as a community that taught agriculture, and England was much indebted to them on that score. He traced the corruption in the pronunciation and spelling of proper names, and said that

the paper had been very interesting because an attempt had been made to separate the histories of the abbey and the chapel.

Another paper read on this occasion was "The Norman Conquest of Somerset" by the Rev. W. H. P. GRESWELL, F.R.G.S. It is printed in Part II.

The Rev. E. H. BATES commented upon the miserable condition of the English people consequent upon the Conquest, the crushing down of all the free life of England and the thorough change that took place in twenty years, and said the story of "Hereward the Wake" was repeated all through England, but without effect, the condition of the Saxons under the Normans being of a terrible character; but they might recall with pride the fact that the national spirit revived before the close of the next century.

A third paper was read by Mr. F. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A., on "Screen-work in the Churches of West Somerset," which was illustrated by a fine and representative series of lantern slides prepared by the lecturer. Part I of a series of illustrated papers on the Screens and Screenwork in Somerset Churches by Mr. Bond, will be found in Part II of this volume.