

H. B. CARSLAKE, Esq., as Town Clerk, exhibited a very valuable and interesting series of Churchwardens' Accounts belonging to the Corporation of Bridgwater, some of which were as early as the time of Rich. II, and a Taxation Roll of the County temp. Edw. III.

The Rev. W. A. JONES stated that the Corporation had kindly permitted the Secretaries to examine the valuable collection of Documents in their muniment-room, which were of a most interesting character, not only supplying ample materials for the history of Bridgwater, but also many facts relating to the County. He trusted the Corporation would allow them to have access to the papers again, and allow a selection of them to be published by the Society.

SECOND DAY.

Wednesday, August 18th, 1858.

The Excursion.

NOTWITHSTANDING the threatening aspect of the heavens, a large party started from Bridgwater soon after 10 a.m., going first to the old Farm-house, Bower Farm, in the parish of Durleigh. The fine old window and various portions of architectural detail of great beauty were examined with much interest, and the line of the moat which at one time surrounded the building was distinctly traced. From hence the party proceeded by Charlinch and the Agapemone to the church of Spaxton, where the altar-tomb of the De la Hulle family, the curious bench-ends, and the ancient alms-chest, were especial objects of interest. The Fuller's-panel on one of the

bench-ends (a sketch of which is given in the present volume), is an indication of the extent to which cloth-manufactures were at one time carried on in the West, and the associated alms-chest (likewise given among the illustrations) would seem to indicate that the manufacturers were not unmindful of the obligation of Christian charity.

From this point the excursionists began to ascend the flanks of the Quantocks, passing by Plansfield, once the residence of the Blakes, and no doubt the favorite resort of the great Admiral of that name in his boyhood. Availing themselves of Mr. Labouchere's new drive, the party reached the heights of Quantock, enjoyed the varied and picturesque beauty of the richly wooded combes, in close proximity with the heather of the unenclosed grounds, and also the magnificent picture northwards, embracing the Bristol Channel with its islets dotted about, and the Welsh coast, with ranges of hills rising one above the other. The outlines of a Roman Camp lately discovered by the Secretaries were pointed out, but in consequence of the rain which had fallen, no attempt was made to examine it in detail. The party descended by Ely Green and proceeded to the site of Stowey Castle, where the Rev. F. Warre explained the plan of the ancient earthworks, which he pronounced to be of the aboriginal type. In later times the site had been selected for a Norman Castle, no remains of which now exist, except traces of the foundations.

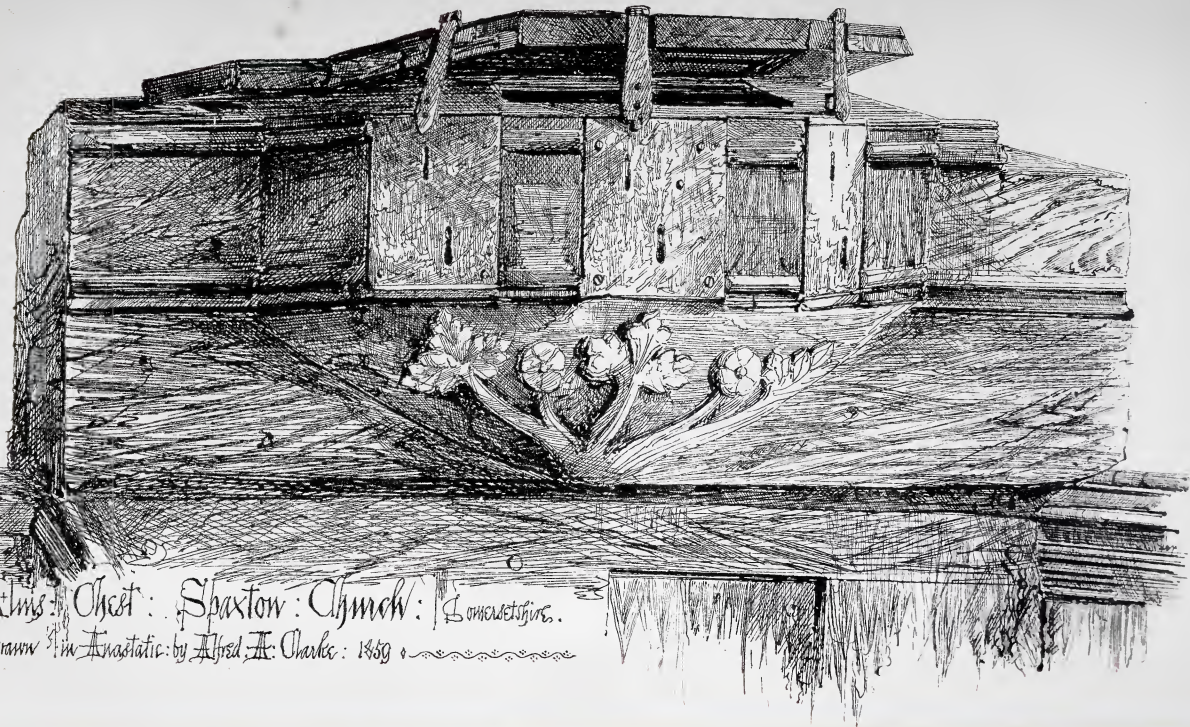
From Stowey the party proceeded, through pelting showers, to Stogursey, where the members were made to forget the inclemency of the weather by the genial hospitality of Sir Peregrine P. Acland, Bart., who had caused refreshments to be provided in a tent erected in the Castle Close, and, with Sir Alexander A. Hood, Bart., was there himself to welcome his guests. Excava-

tions had been made under the direction of Sir P. P. Acland in several places in and around the remains of the Castle of Stoke de Courcy, but very few characteristic portions of the original structure remain, with the exception of the ancient bridge across the moat, and parts of the main entrance. Its general plan corresponds with the Edwardian type. The Church was then visited, the interesting characteristic features of which will form, as they deserve, the subject of distinct and separate notice. In the meanwhile the Committee have given among the illustrations sketches of the examples the Church supplies of the early and later Norman capitals in close proximity.

In consequence of the weather, the Excursion planned for the following day was abandoned, and the proceedings closed with a cordial vote of thanks to Sir P. P. Acland, Bart., for his generous hospitality, and also to the Hon. P. P. Bouverie, M.P., as President.



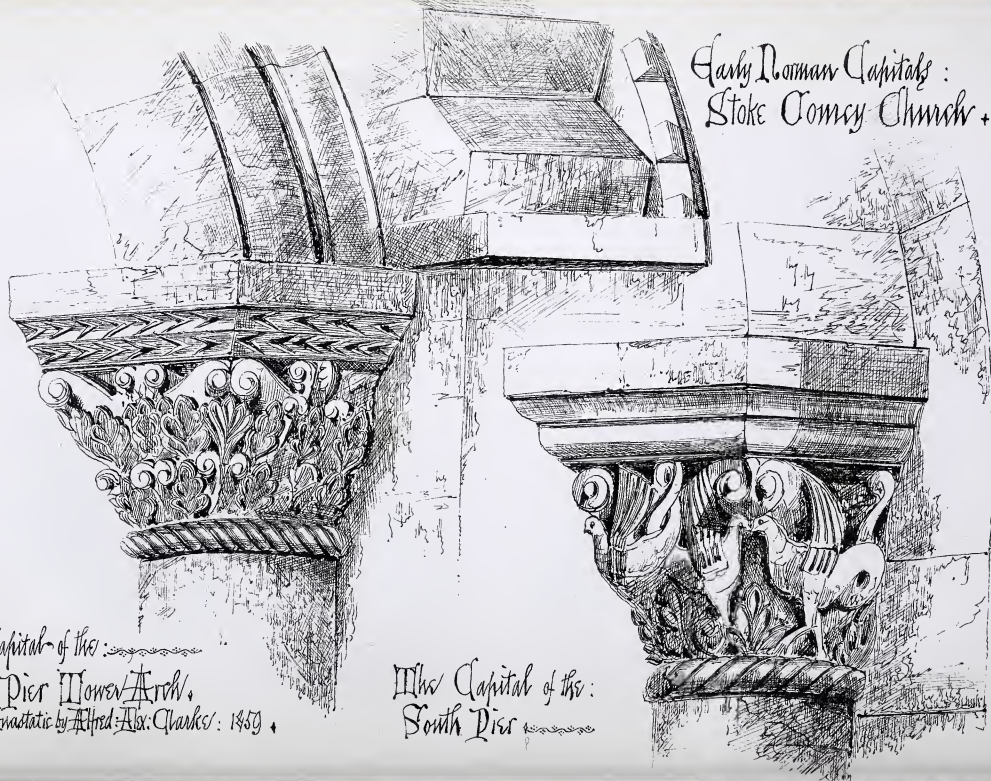
The Weaver's Panel: at Spaxton: Church.
Drawn in Anastatic by Alfred A. Clarke: April: 1859.



Alms Chest: Spaxton: Church: Somersetshire.

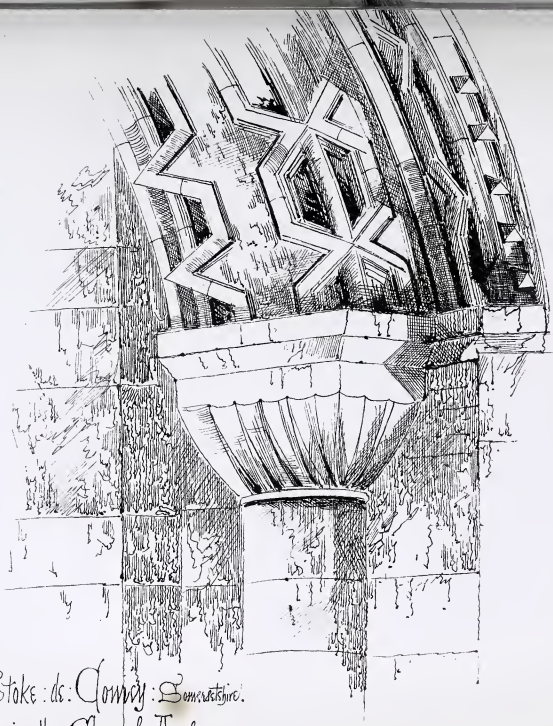
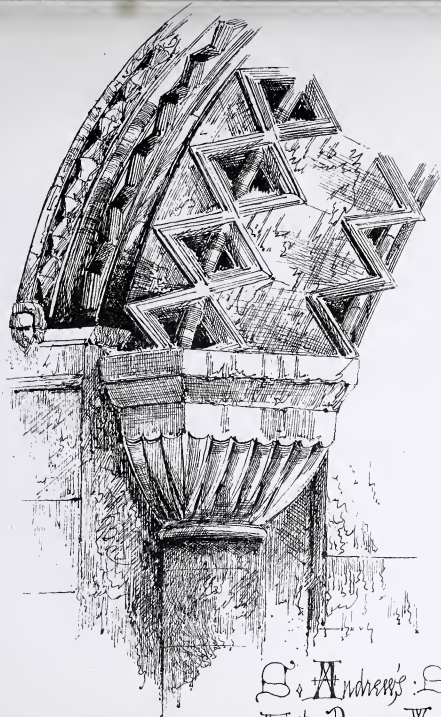
Drawn in Anagatic: by Alfred H. Charles: 1859

Early Norman Capitals:
Stoke Comsey Church.



South Capital of the:
Western Pier Tower Arch.
Drawn in Anastatic by Alfred Alex. Clarke: 1859.

The Capital of the:
South Pier



S. Andrew's: Stoke: ds: Comby: Somersetshire.
Later Norman Work in the Chancel Arches.
Drawn in Facsimile: by Alfred Clark: Worcester: 1859.