Second Day's Proceedings.

At 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, carriages and motor-cars left

Wellington for Burlescombe, proceeding there *viâ* the Exeter Road and Maiden Down.

Burlescombe Church.

At the Church of St. Mary the members were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. Ernest Bramwell, who gave every facility to the Society to see the building and its contents.

Mr. F. Bligh Bond was the chief speaker here. He said:

For the substance of the following notes, the members are indebted to the Rev. E. Bramwell. They are extracted from a manuscript "History of the Manors, Church, Chapels, Families, etc., belonging to and connected with the parish of Burlescombe in the county of Devon," compiled and written by the Rev. Thomas Tanner in the year 1813, and revised in 1912 by Mr. Bramwell.

In all probability this Church was founded soon after the Norman Conquest. William I bestowed the Manor of Leigh upon Walter de Claville, whose descendant, William de Claville founded the Augustinian Priory of Leigh in the XII Century. Mr. Elworthy says that the Church at Burlescombe always from its foundation belonged to the Abbey of Canonleigh. Mr. Tanner does not say upon what evidence he bases his assertion as to the earlier foundation.

There is a deed of endowment of the Vicarage of Burlescombe dated 20 Nov. 1324, which mentions a grant of the dwelling-house which the "Chaplains of the said parish used to occupy and possess."

The present Church appears to have been erected during the XIV and XV Centuries, the oldest portion of the Church being, in Mr. Tanner's opinion, that section of the chancel wall in which there was visible a square window surmounted by a dripstone belonging to an earlier building. On March 29th, 1830, the piscina under this window was discovered.

The nave and south aisle were built probably a century

before the north aisle. The windows in the south aisle are of Beer stone and differ in their tracery and mouldings from those of the north aisle. They have also drip moulds. The windows of the north aisle, chancel, and tower, are composed of yellow or Somerset freestone.

There is no document, Mr. Tanner says, in the possession of the parish which can throw any light on the history of the Church. Mr. Elworthy's note in the *Proceedings*, XXXVIII, i, 39, gives the origin of the north or Ayshford aisle, and shows it to be a chantry founded by the last prioress of Canonleghe. This appears in a Chantry roll of 37 Hen. VIII (1546). The date of the aisle, whose erection may have preceded this endowment, could be computed with some degree of accuracy from the heraldry on the carved shields attached to the pillars. Among the families represented here as allied by marriage with Ayshford, are Frauncies of Combe Florey (on the eastern pillar), Wadham of Knap, Pawlett, and Ferrers.

Mr. Tanner continues, "A few of the massive oak seats remained up to a recent date, but have now disappeared. The outward ends of many were carved." In 1846 the Church was rebenched. On scraping the walls texts of scripture were discovered in old black letters apparently of the reign of James I, but on exposure they crumbled to dust. (He describes the nave roof as having a modern cornice of plaster, with roses of the same material at the intersections of the square compartments of the ceiling.)

The roof of the north aisle is ornamented with bosses of oak, having a beautiful cornice of vine and oak leaves also, with winged figures at regular intervals bearing shields with Ayshford arms and quarterings in the upper (? eastern) half of the aisle, which no doubt was once separated by a screen. The eastern half is distinguished by the name of the Ayshford aisle and it had a chantry at the upper end. The piscina still exists. In this part are two mural, and three flat, monuments. The brass plate on which was the inscription is removed from

one of these. Probably, Mr. Tanner says, it bore the name of Nicholas, the father of Roger Ayshford, and son, or grandson, of Nicholas Ayshford who was interred in the year 1563. Here some remains of stained glass decorate the windows, showing the arms of Pawlett, Ferrers, and Ayshford.

The roof of the south aisle was once similar to the roof last mentioned. The fastenings of the cornice remain, but the cornice itself and the other ornaments have disappeared.

In the upper part of this aisle were two doors long since closed; the one a chancel door communicating with the yard, and the other opening to the stairs of the rood-loft. An external abutment shows the situation of these stairs. The small door to the chancel is below the window and almost buried up.[1]

The porch on the north side of the nave shows a niche now empty, and three panels bearing arms of Ayshford and Frauncis within quatrefoils. These appear to have been part of a tomb.

There was a western gallery, removed in 1844, when the tower arch was opened up, and the ringing stage carried higher. The gallery dated from 1776. The pulpit with reading-desk and clerk's desk below, and a canopy or sounding board over, used to be on the south side of the nave. The pulpit was built in the year 1735, and is described as a hexagon of wainscot, surmounted by a handsome canopy.

The light screen between the nave and chancel was formerly painted white, but in 1845 it was scraped to the wood and emblazoned, the then vicar's son, William John Tanner, aged 18, doing the work of decoration. It must be admitted that the colour and ornament are exceedingly well chosen on the old part of the screen, but the modern frieze is flat and coarse and destroys the character of the whole.

1. The plain recesses in north and south walls indicate stairways at both ends of the loft. The turret on the south side is now used as a flue. The upper opening appears on the face of wall. The turret on the north is removed, and a modern buttress substituted.

Mr. Tanner thinks there can be no doubt that this screen was erected about the time that the north aisle was built and the chancel lengthened. The Royal Arms (one of the Georges) used to be over the centre.

The fine altar tomb under the arch on the north side of the chancel was erected about the year 1500 by Nicholas Ayshford for himself and his two wives, but no interment was made there. Mr. Tanner seems to think that Nicholas Ayshford made use of an existing arch at this point, and repaired it, as he thinks the arch was built integral with the earlier wall, and might have been a founder's tomb or Easter sepulchre.

In the vestry at the west end of the south aisle is the old communion table with massive embossed carved work, bearing date 1637. This was removed in 1844, when the vicar's two sons gave a new one. The reredos was placed there at the same time, and was the gift of Mr. F. Wanson, of Minehead, in memory of his wife.

The tower is a plain but substantial building, bearing a freestone tablet over the doorway which Mr. Tanner thought to have shown the names of the churchwardens responsible for the rebuilding, which is deemed to have taken place in the XVII Century. He gives the dates as 1637 and 1638, but Mr. Buckle in 1892 read them as 1638 and 1677.[1]

The west window, says Mr. Tanner, is of undoubted antiquity, and thought to be one of the spoils of Canonleigh Nunnery. It was much dilapidated in his day. The fine vane and scroll on the turret was fixed in 1799, and came from Pugham House. On the last visit to this Church in 1892, five bells were mentioned, but it appears there are now six, the last having been added in 1910 to the memory of the two Tanners who were vicars in the parish for nearly ninety years. This is the treble bell.

1. 1637-8 appears to be correct for the date of the tower re-construction, and I should make the south porch the same. The mouldings have the curious semi-Gothic character found in Carolean work ; the arches are semi-circular.

Under or near the fine old yew-tree in the south-west part of the churchyard are five old tombs, as follows:—

(1) Richard Culme of Canonsleigh, Esq. d. 1658, aged 23.

(2) Benjamin Culme „ „ d. 17 Sept. 1663, aged 23.

(3) John Browne, Esq. of the same, d. 14 Nov. 1793, aged 51.

(4) In obitum viri praeclarae famae Johannes Crosse qui vita excessit aet: suae 31, 28 die Feb: 1644.

(5) Peter Weare, d. 28 Dec. 1637, aet: suae 86.

Several vicars of this parish were buried within the chancel, but no monument marks their resting-place. The registers of burials, which date from 1587 alone testify to the fact. The baptismal registers date from 1579 to 1583, and from 1588 onwards; those of marriage from 1579 to 1581, and from 1588 onwards.

In the body of the Church are buried members of the Chave and Walker families.

In the Ayshford aisle are the tombs of Roger Ayshford (1610); Elizabeth, wife of Arthur Ayshford, and only dau: of Viscount Athlone (1635, aet. 23); a flat stone, believed to cover the remains of William, grandfather of Roger Ayshford; also, under an inscribed flat stone opposite the east window, the remains of Nicholas Ayshford[1] and his wives. This stone is inscribed "Here resteth in peace by the grace of God Nicholas Ayshforde, Esq., Elizabeth and Margarete hys wives." In the centre appear the initials H.A.E. and E.M.V. and between them "Christ Jesu have mercy on us. Amen," followed by the date 1563. Mr. Tanner suggests that these initials are abbreviated from "Hanc aram erexit" and "Egregiae Memoriae Vir" or "Esto Memor Vitae," because near this spot, to the east, was an altar in memory of William, the father of the said Nicholas.

1. Probably a grandson of the other Nicholas whose memorial is in the chancel, but the point requires investigation.

A few points not touched upon by Mr. Tanner remain to be mentioned. These are (1) A credence in the north aisle; (2) Recesses in the walls, north and south, showing the former position of the rood-loft stairs opposite the first pair of pillars.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER said that in mediæval times a testator often directed that his tomb should be erected on the north side of the high altar; at the same time expressing a wish that it should be used as an Easter sepulchre.

The Rev. J. F. CHANTER said the oldest piece of plate was an Elizabethan chalice, with cover parcel gilt. It was of the Exeter type; the distinguishing feature was the marked lip. It was the work of John Jones, goldsmith of Exeter, and might be dated as 1572, as the only marks were I and IOHS. After that date the Exeter town-mark also appeared on all Jones' plate. On the button of the cover was the inscription "The . parysh . of . Burscombe." The other chalice was of London make, *circa* 1638, and the gift of Philip Culme. The Culmes resided at Canonleigh. The flagons were all flat-lidded tankards of the XVII Century; the two largest were also the gift of Philip Culme and of the same date as his chalice; the smallest, which was of slightly later date, bore the arms of Ayshford.

(Nicolaus Aiſch'ford . armig . Iſab'lla Margar'ta uxores ȝ eius cor̃ qz liberi)

(*Nicolaus Aischeford . armiger . Isabella Margareta uxores . ejus eorumque liberi*)

Part of Inscription on slab of Altar Tomb in north wall of Sacrarium of Burlescombe Church.

Ayshford Chapel and Manor House.

It was a matter of regret to those responsible for the arrangement of the excursion programme that Ayshford Chapel and Manor House could not, from their distance and awkwardness

of approach, be included in the Burlescombe visit; but Mr. F. Bligh Bond has contributed the following notes on them :—

There is only a fragment left of the once stately manor-house of Ayshford, but that is sufficient in itself to command the interest and attention of antiquaries; whilst the little chapel which stands by its side is a charming example of a mediaeval domestic chapel. It is a small detached rectangular building, having a range of windows in north and south walls of Perpendicular type, and a somewhat larger east window. A curious feature of its exterior is the large number of minute perforated quatrefoils which are built into the walls. Over the west door (a modern work of XIII Century type) are some ancient stones built into the masonry. Some of these are Norman.

Among other features of interest are the oak screen of early XV Century date which still retains a good deal of colour decoration, possibly renovated, and the tiled floor of the sanctuary in which are apparently some old glazed tiles with an impressed design, and these have been carefully copied in the supplementary work added to complete the floor.

Under the communion table is a large vault, and on the floor within the rails is a plain stone bearing the inscription :—

"Hic jacet Henricus Ayshforde Armiger, qui obiit X°die Februarii anno domini 1649 anno aetatis suae 73.

"Hic etiam jacet Amia uxor ejus quae obiit ultimo die Octobris Anno Domini 1659, anno aetatis suae (?)." Here are sculptured the arms of Ayshford with Bluett—three spread-eagles.

Henry Ayshford was high sheriff of Devon in 1632. Amia, his wife, was the daughter of Richard Bluett Esq., who married the daughter and heiress of Chichester, and whose family seat was for many centuries at Holcombe Court.

The chapel contains a very handsome mural monument of marble gilt and carved. It is surmounted by a shield bearing



WESTLEIGH QUARRIES.
Contorted and Crumpled Strata.

From a Photograph by Mr. H. St. George Gra

twenty-eight quarterings of Ayshforde and their matches, with the crest above (a Saracen's head) emblazoned in proper colours. On the right of the monument is a male figure holding an hour-glass, and on the left a female figure holding a skull. Below the inscription are the arms of Ayshford and Sanford on each side, and between them are those of Ayshford and Knightley, and the inscription rùns as follows:—

"Near this place lies interred the body of John Ayshford of Ayshford in the county of Devon, who departed this life the 24th day of February 1689, in the 49th year of his age. As also the body of Susannah Ayshford, daughter of Lucy Knightley of London, merchant, the youngest son of Richard Knightley of Fausley in the county of Northampton, Esq., who departed this life 6th day of December 1688, in the 24th year of her age."

There is also a memorial to Henry, son of Arthur Ayshford, d: 17 Jan. 1666, an infant.

In the upper rooms of the house are still to be seen two very fine ceilings of Jacobean date, in ribbed ornamented plaster. They are excellent examples. There is one good three-light mullioned window of an older house incorporated, dating from about the time of Henry VIII.

The Westleigh Quarries.

By permission of Mr. G. P. Chamberlain, the manager, these famous quarries were visited, where the Rev. H. H. Winwood, F.G.S., addressed the members. He said:—

This is the third visit that the Society has made to these well-known quarries. The first was during the meeting at Langport in 1862, when Messrs. W. A. Sanford and Charles Moore described them; few, if any, of the present company, except myself, were present at that excursion.

The second visit was during the Wellington meeting in 1892, under the presidency of the late Mr. W. A. Sanford,

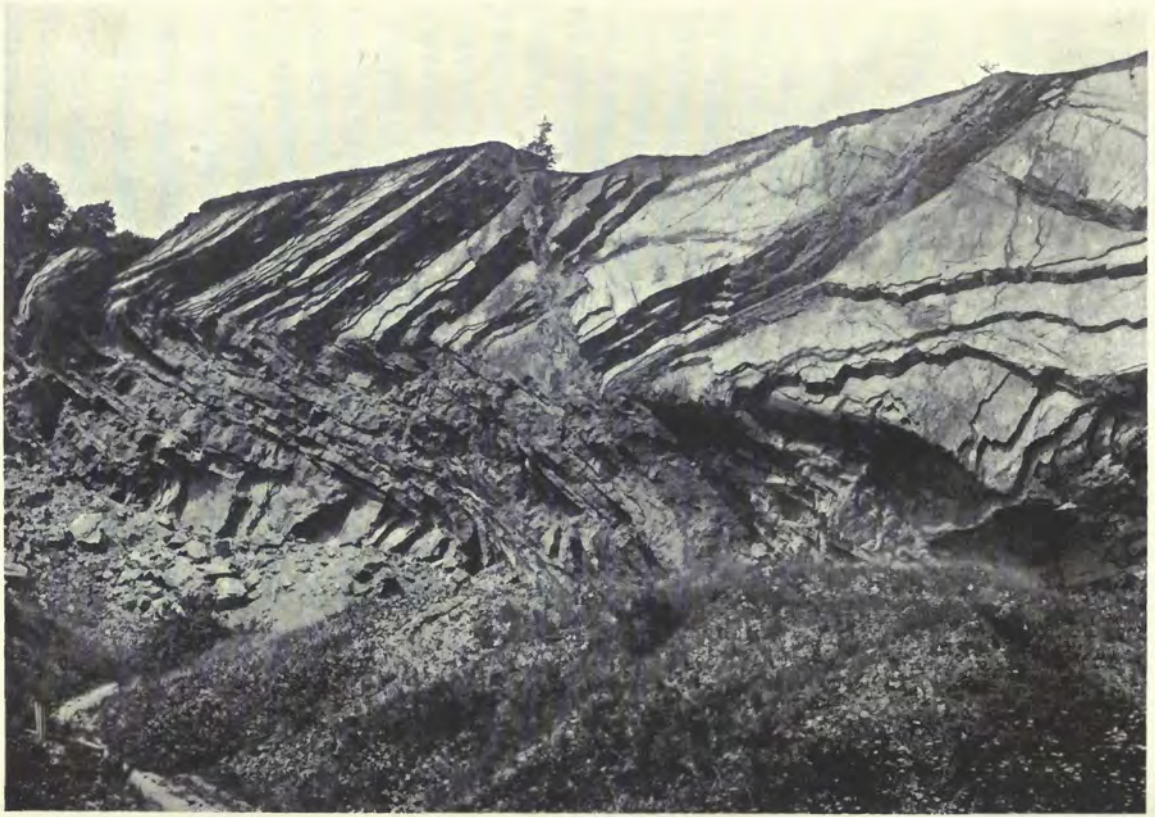
when the geologists, Prof. Boyd Dawkins, your distinguished President, and Mr. Ussher addressed the members. Several communications from the latter have appeared in the *Proceedings* relative to the Geology of the district. It remains for me to gather up the threads and present them to you in a connected form.

These quarries, as well as those of Greenham and Whipcoats, are of peculiar interest to geologists, and much has been written on their connection with the series of grits, slates and limestones ranging away to the north. The general conclusion that these rocks are the southerly extension of the great Devonian exposures on the north coast, and that they appear or crop up in their due order of succession may now be accepted. In other words they represent the lower portion of the Culm Measures, a term given to the Carbonaceous rocks of Devonshire running right through the country to Bideford, where they are worked for impure coal.

What is the meaning of the word "Culm"? The origin is doubtful—probably a local name for coal—a sort of stone coal allied to anthracite. So in this Culm series of Somerset and Devonshire we have the representatives of the lower Carboniferous strata.

These Culm Limestones forming the base of the Coal Measure series, of which you have a fine example before you, vary very much in thickness, passing in many places into thin bands of hard calcareous shale, used in the country for paving and coping stones.

When we consider the variety of the beds forming the Devonian series (that great mass of rocks the stoney record of hardened sands and muds of the ancient sea bottom), the red grey and purple Foreland grits on the north, the Lynton and Ilfracombe slaty shales, grits and limestones, the Pickwell Down sandstones, the calcareous arenaceous slates and grits of Baggy and Pilton passing upwards into the thick limestones of the lower Culm Measures, imagination fails to picture the



numerous changes in land and water that followed one another. Deep succeeding shallow water, the former depositing those sediments which subsequently formed the limestones, you see before you; the gradual shallowing of the water which laid down the more muddy deposits, now slates, graduating into sands, grits and coarser pebbles, and forming the littoral fringes of the neighbouring land.

Tracing the succession of the rocks from the sea-board of North Devon, with the exception of the fault between the Morte Slates and the sandstones of Pickwell Down, there is not apparently any unconformity between the Devonian Pilton beds and these lower Culm Measures. The northerly strata dipping at a more or less high angle south with many synclinal folds, follow each other in an orderly succession. A better example of these tilted and contorted strata cannot be found in the district. Those at the west end of the quarry are dipping at an angle of 45°, whilst those at the other are vertical. What, then, is the lesson we learn from this tilting and folding of rocks which were once horizontal? The result of natural forces acting through long periods of geological time. The force that crumpled them up was not sudden and catastrophic, but continuous and irresistible, so that "beds of hard limestone once horizontal were (in Mr. Downes' words) rolled over one another as a cook might roll up paste with comparatively few fractures." A beautiful example of such a fold, assuming a sigmoidal form, may be seen at the right-hand corner of Whipcoats quarry as you enter. Unfortunately time does not permit us to visit it.

As to the fossils whereby alone we are able to define the position of these beds, a good collection has long been a desideratum; but thanks to the labours of Mr. Harding, the Rev. W. Downes and others, sufficient number have in recent years been collected to decide what the mere lithology could not. The presence of two fossils, found by myself some years ago, alone suffices, *i.e.*, *Posidonomya Becheri*, and *Goniatites*;

the former an equivalve, concentrically ribbed shell characteristic of the Culm Measures of Nassau in Germany ; the latter a cephalopod found in the limestone and shale also characteristic of the Carboniferous limestones and the Coal Measures proper.

Besides the above, impressions of calamites, reeds, and traces of vegetation occur in the red and light coloured shales, indicative of the existence of neighbouring land, and also characterising Carboniferous times. If you ask for fossils the quarrymen will bring you what they consider "moss," which is merely dendritic markings of manganese, or else specimens of calcite and quartz crystals which are formed in the joints of the limestones.

It may occur to some, that the colour of these limestones is peculiar. This red colour is only superficial and comes from the Triassic rocks that once covered them up but which have since been cleared away by denudation, one of nature's powerful agents which has removed thousands of feet of strata and enabled man and the members of this Society to see and ponder over the result in these upturned and remarkable beds of Westleigh Quarry.

The PRESIDENT asked the manager of the quarries for what purpose the stone was used, and if it was a pure limestone.

Mr. G. P. CHAMBERLAIN replied that the stone was not a pure limestone, and a great deal of it could not be burnt into lime. They did a certain amount of lime-burning. The lime they produced was not such a good building lime as that made from the blue Lias, and it was used principally for agricultural purposes. The men who worked in the quarries knew the beds which were suitable for lime-burning and picked them out. There were running through a great many of the beds what he regarded as veins of black silex ; it was quite black and extremely hard, and no steel tool they used would touch it. Until five or six years ago the stone from the quarry was considered to be the best stone for making roads. Now granite

was imported from a long distance, with results disastrous to them from a commercial point of view. There was less sale for their stone and they had to pay rates to meet the cost of the stone purchased from their competitors ! They hoped that before long the question of the maintenance of the roads would be taken up by a great central body. Then perhaps, as they had gone in for tarring the stone they produced (and with marked success), they might be given a chance.

The PRESIDENT said the rocks before them were formed on the margin of a sea which was full of sandbanks and mud-banks, but with areas of comparatively clear water in which the limestone could be formed from the minute creatures and the calcareous seaweeds which existed in it. In the Mendip Hills they had something like 2,000 (?) feet of very nearly pure limestone, with very few traces of such mudbanks as were shown by the sections in the Westleigh Quarries. The reason for the difference was that during the time the Carboniferous limestone was being accumulated in the clearer and deeper waters further from the shore in the area of the Mendips, the spot whereon they were assembled was nearer the shore, and consequently they had more sandbanks and mudbanks. In the Mendips they had nothing of the nature of the Culm Measures, but above the Carboniferous limestone there was the important Bristol coalfield, in the same relation to the limestone as the great South Welsh field in South Wales, the Forest of Dean coalfield, and the various coalfields of Somerset and Gloucester.

The Culm Measures represented a portion of the time when the coal seams were being accumulated. The foldings and contortions which were to be seen in the rocks before them took place at the close of the period of the deposit of the Coal Measures. There appeared to have been at that time one of those periods of unrest in the structure of the earth similar to that in the political world, from which they were all suffering at the present time.

The great line of the smashing and folding of the rocks throughout southern England ran east and west. The Mendips marked the directions of that line and formed the southern boundary of the workable coalfield as they found it in this country. The same rocks as in the Mendips occur in Kent on both margins of the south-eastern coalfield. It was a very great pity that the boring for coal near Dunball was not carried deeper. The boring ended in red rocks, probably of Permian age.

Though the Mendips formed the southern boundary of the coalfields now being worked, a coal seam occurred in their southern flank about one mile to the north-west of Wookey Hole village near Ebbor overlaid by the Carboniferous limestone, in a line of smash, compared to which that seen in the Westleigh Quarries was a mere trifle. Along that great line of smash in that spot the heat had been developed to such an extent, that the limestone was converted into marble. They were still in an attitude of inquiry respecting the Coal Measures to the south of the Mendips. He wished he had a sufficiently large estate to be able to spend £4,000 or £5,000 in boring for coal somewhere in the neighbourhood of the Polden Hills.

In conclusion, he expressed to Mr. Chamberlain the thanks of the Society for allowing them to come there again, and said he felt particularly favoured in coming there for the third time with his old friend, the Rev. H. H. Winwood.

Canonleigh Nunnery.

A short walk brought the members to the remains of Canonleigh Nunnery, where the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin stated that the first religious house established on the site was a cell to Plympton, and that after the canons had been starved out because they displayed too great independence, a nunnery was established in 1284 with funds provided by Maud, daughter of John de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and widow of Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford and Gloucester, who is said to have

been the first abbess. A short history of the Abbey by the Rev. T. C. Tanner, with a sketch of the ruins existing on the east side of the enclosure, will be found in the *Proceedings*, XXXVIII, ii, 347.[1] On the west side is the gatehouse still standing, though in a lamentable and dangerous state of decay. It is a building of considerable height and dignity of outline. The area between these two groups of buildings is of considerable spaciousness ; it now contains a modern dwelling-house, built upon cellars which may have served the same purpose before the dissolution of the Abbey. The confused ruins beyond are very difficult to describe, and still more to allot to their original purpose, differing authorities having suggested the kitchen and scullery, the sanitary offices, and the water-mill.

Holcombe Rogus Church.

An excellent luncheon at the "Ayshford Arms," close to Burlescombe Station, was followed by a visit to All Saints' Church, Holcombe Rogus, where the party was welcomed by the Rev. L. T. Ward, the Vicar.

Mr. BLIGH BOND in his description of the Church said :

This place no doubt took its name from the ancient family of Roges, and the patronage of the Church belonged to the priory of Montacute in early days. The deed of this gift by Simon son of Rogo is within the period 1159-1189 ; and we may assume that the actual foundation of the Church or Chapelry was a good deal earlier still, though the visible fabric is now Perpendicular in its entirety, except, possibly, for some XIV Century masonry in the lower part of the tower.

The Church contains many features of interest, yet its general aspect is somewhat disappointing, as it has been so extremely renovated in recent years.

In the interior, the first object that strikes the eye is the

1.—See also an article by F. T. Elworthy, *Trans. Devonsh. Assoc.*, XXIV, 359-376 ; reprinted and bound up in the same writer's "Notes on Wellington," 4to edition.

presence of the two opposing schools of work in the arcades north and south of the nave, exhibiting respectively the methods and traditions of the Devon and Somerset craftsmen. Next we should notice the panelled enrichment in freestone on the flat spaces on the walls each side of the chancel threshold, where formerly the rood-screen stood. The panels on the west are the more elaborate.

The screen-work which occupies the arches on the north side of the chancel may possibly contain some remnants of the former rood-screen worked up into it, but in the main it consists of parts of the rood-screen of Tiverton Church, broken up and thrown out of that church at the so-called restoration in 1854 (when the most beautiful work was destroyed), and brought here by the Rev. W. Rayer, just after his purchase of the Holcombe property from the Bluetts. It was Mr. Rayer's son who had the screen re-constructed here. The work is of the XVI Century, dating probably from 1517 or thereabouts. This was the period at which Tiverton Church was beautified by the munificence of its wool and cloth merchants. The lights of the screen are wide and very low in proportion. In the tracery is inserted the badge of the Woolstaplers Guild; and below are some ribbon ornaments which are quite unusual and very effective.

Some remains of rich colour decoration are to be found on the oak panels. There is a small section of the lower part of a screen remaining near the chancel opening, but whether this is part of what was once the rood-screen of this Church, or whether it came from Tiverton, cannot perhaps be stated with confidence. The Tiverton work is known to have been coloured and gilt.

The Bluett manorial pew enclosure will very likely attract even more attention. There were at one time many of these manorial pews, and there are still a fair number left. One excellent specimen is at Alwington, near Barnstaple. Sometimes they were canopied.

The Bluett pew is Jacobean, in date about 1610, and the work of Dutch or Flemish carvers. The medallions containing scriptural subjects are of great interest.

On the Society's previous visit to this Church, note was made of some peculiarities in the window tracery, notably with respect to one of the windows in the north aisle. Attention should also be directed to the roofs, which are of the "barrel" or "waggon" form. That of the north aisle is the best. Following the Devonshire type of church, there is no structural demarcation in the form of a chancel arch, but the roof is uninterrupted throughout.

The rood-loft ran upon the screen from side to side of the Church, and was lit at the southern end by the window placed high in the wall.

The porch has some architectural detail in it worthy of investigation.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER stated that there were about twenty references to the name of Hobhouse in the registers, and he believed that family went from Holcombe to Minehead and Bristol.

Great interest centred in the elaborate Bluett monuments in the Church.

Holcombe Court.

HOLCOMBE COURT AND THE FAMILY OF ROGES.—Since the meeting the Rev. E. H. BATES HARBIN has contributed the following notes :—

Among the numerous Domesday tenants of Baldwin of Exeter, the Sheriff, in this county was Rogo, Rogus, or Rogro (as the name is varied in the Exeter and Exchequer copies), among his manors being Holcombe. In Somersetshire Baldwin's manors of Porlock and Appley (a part) were held by Drogo according to the Exchequer, but Rogo in the Exeter copy, which also adds his father's name Nigel; and evidence

of a later date shows that this is the correct reading. Porlock was settled on a younger branch of the family, to be held of the owner of Holcombe, and their descent may be traced in Sir C. E. H. Chadwyck-Healey's "History of Parts of West Somerset," under that parish. Succeeding generations adopted Rogo as their patronymic, with the addition of filius or Fitz-.

At a very early date the family began to make benefactions to Montacute Priory. William, son of Rogo, gave land at Culm and Culentone by an undated deed, and the grant was confirmed by Richard, son of Baldwin, in a deed *temp.* Henry I (Mont. chart., nos. 155, 159; *S.R.S.*, vol. viii). To him succeeded Simon, son of Rogo, who in 1166 held 5 knights fees in Devonshire of Robert, son of the King (*Lib. Niger*; Round, "Feudal England," pp. 472-3; Reichel, "Early descent of Honour of Okehampton," *Devonsh. Assoc.*, xxxviii, 352). By an undated deed (no. 138) he gave to Montacute the Church of St. Mary of Holcombe, among the witnesses being Stephen the first prior of Taunton (1159-1189); and by another undated deed (no. 139) he gave lands to the Church of St. Mary of Karswell (a cell to Montacute) "that monks may be procured on the day of the anniversary of Matilda the grantor's wife, one of whom on the same day shall celebrate the divine office for the soul of the aforesaid Matilda." In another charter done in full county (court) at Exeter in 1206, Simon, son of Rogo, expresses his great contrition for having unjustly detained a moiety of the Church of Holcombe from the monks of Montacute, and having obtained pardon he resigns the moiety to them for ever (no. 140).

It is quite probable that his second wife was Alice de Roges, who gave to Reginald, Bishop of Bath (1174-1191), the Church of Winsford in frankalmoin, as the family held lands there. In 1280, Simon Roges of Holcombe, was fined for sending a party of his villeins to Winsford, where in a fray with the men of the place, one of the latter was wounded to death by an arrow (Chadwyck-Healey, 241). The gift how-

ever did not take effect, and the advowson was given to Barlynch Priory *temp.* Hen. III, by William de Reigny of North Winsford.

The immediate successor of Simon, son of Rogo, does not appear to be known; but, in a charter dated 1257, Jordan, son of Rogo, confirmed the gifts mentioned above made by his ancestors William, son of Rogo, and Simon, son of Rogo, his grandfather (no. 157); and by another charter, dated 1256, he releases his claim to one pair of monkish boots, and one monkish gown to be received on the feast of St. Martin, for the land of Culump and Paddocksbroke (no. 159).

To him succeeded Sir Simon, son of Rogo, ob. 1306, Henry Fitzrogus, and finally Jordan Fitzroges, whose daughter, and eventually heir, Margaret, married about 1333, Richard de Chesilden. At this date there was a good deal of controversy concerning Holcombe; firstly a suit between Richard and Margaret and John de Roges to enforce a covenant relating to the manor, 1333; in the same year a claim by Edmund de Roges against John de Roges for the said manor; and lastly a petition by the said John against Richard de Chesilden his guardian in 1334. The "wicked" guardian was probably grandfather of the above-named Richard; and no more is heard of John or of any other male representative of Fitzroges of Holcombe.

The Chesildens were landowners in Wilts and Dorset; Nicholas, son of the 'guardian' who died in his father's lifetime, married Johanna, daughter and heir of Walter Tatifer or Tauntifer, a large landowner in Devon, who also held Penselwood in Somerset. John Chesilden, son of John Chesilden and Joan his wife, and grandson of Richard and Margaret, died in 1420, leaving by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Warre, several children, all unmarried. Eventually his property was divided between the two surviving daughters, Margaret, wife of William Wadham, and Matilda, wife of John Bluett of Greenham, who succeeded to Holcombe.

Some notes on the early history of Bluett will be found under Greenham; and it must suffice to say here that the long possession by the family came to an end on the death of Peter Bluett, Esq. in 1852, when Holcombe was sold to the Rev. W. Rayer, father of the late owner.

Holcombe Court.—The building is shortly described in Garner and Stratton's great work on English Architecture of the Tudor period. "The existing house dates from the early part of the XVI Century, when it was built by Sir Roger Bluett who married Jane, daughter of Sir John Rowe, serjeant at law . . . . In 1845 the north-west wing was taken down." The most striking feature of the building is the tower with its projecting stair-turret. The three upper floors are lighted by oriel windows which project over the main entrance on the ground floor. This arrangement is very suggestive of some college gateway at Oxford or Cambridge, or of some mansion in East Anglia, where these towers are more common than in the west. In 1590 there was a great reconstruction of the building, and while the hall which is lighted by two large windows was retained in its old position in the centre of the house, considerable additions were made in either wing. On the uppermost floor is a long gallery flanked by small rooms. This is reached by the original newel-stair with the treads set at a most slippery angle.

This beautiful specimen of English domestic architecture was visited by the kind permission of Mrs. Rayer, who unfortunately was too unwell to receive the members in person.

Before entering the house the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin and Mr. Bligh Bond gave short descriptive addresses, and Mr. Montague Cooper photographed the members in a group.

Greenham Barton.

By the kind permission of Mr. M. Hill, the occupier, the members were allowed to examine the interior of this house. The kitchen with its gigantic fireplace was much admired.

Over a doorway in the front garden was noticed a stone bearing the Bluett arms,—a chevron between three eagles.

The Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin has written the following notes on Greenham Barton:—

In Domesday Bretel St. Clare held of the Count of Mortain a compact property in this district, consisting of Ashbrittle, Appley, Wellisford, and Grindeham. In Devon he held Colebroca *rectius* Holebroca, and other manors. Some of these lands at an early date were in the possession of a family called de Grindeham after their dwelling-place. About 1235 William de Grindenham held of Walter de Esseleigh, the representative of St. Clare, Holebrooke Grindham in Honiton Clyst, co. Devon; to whom succeeded Simon de Grindeham, owner of Grindeham and Kydeford in 1284 ("Kirby's Quest"), and Henry and William Grindenham apparently joint-tenants in 1316. In the same year William de Grydenham and Juliana[1] his wife settled lands in Kydesford with the advowson of the Church there on themselves and the heirs of William. (*Ped. Fin.*, 10 Ed. II, no. 1; *S.R.S.*, xii, 59; a misprint gives "Trydenham"). Soon after the family failed in the male line; Gerard (*Particular Description*, p. 42) and Collinson state, but without giving their authority, that the heiress Christian de Grindeham became the wife of Walter Bluett.

A family of this name was settled in the county *temp.* Domesday, when Ralph Blowet held Yeovilton and Hinton (Blewitt) of William de Ow, but the name rarely occurs in the early records. Tradition says that Walter Bluett came from Ragland, co. Monmouth; and a list of the tenants of the Earl of March in Hereford and the Marches of Wales in 1425 includes Ralph and John Bluett.

Walter and Christian must both have died before 1341, for in that year Peter Scalleford, custodian of Walter Bluett the

1. Collinson, III, 29, describes her as the daughter of Jordan de Roges, and wife of Simon de Grindenham.

younger, presented to Kittisford Church (*S.R.S.*, x, 443). His son, or more probably grandson, John Bluett, married in 1404 Agnes, daughter and heiress of Thomas and Margaret Beaupyne of North Petherton, and his successor, also John, still further increased the fortunes of the family by marrying Matilda co-heiress of John Chesilden of Holcombe Rogus, and went over the border to his wife's home.

It is necessary to bear the dates of these marriages in mind when considering the age of the present buildings at Greenham Barton.

As in the case of several old manor-houses visited by the Society there are two distinct buildings of different ages close together. An illustration of Greenham is given in the Wellington volume of *Proceedings*, 1892, pt. i, p. 45. The conspicuous features are the fine porch with a room over, and the double range of windows formerly lighting the hall. Mr. Bligh Bond attributed these portions as well as a door and a window at the back to the reign of Richard II (1377-1399). But a very short space behind this house is another block of buildings, one part set at a right angle to the other. There has been no attempt to form a courtyard between the buildings, which at one point approach so closely as to leave only a narrow passage. The doorways and windows of the back block have a decidedly earlier appearance than the corresponding features in front. It seems very probable that this may have been the earlier house, while the building in front may be attributed to the access of fortune produced by the marriage in 1404 of John Bluett with Margaret Beaupyne.

Kittisford Church.

From Appley Cross, where tea was served in the School House Garden, the members proceeded to the Church of St. Nicholas, Kittisford, where the Rector, the Rev. P. W. P. Hancock, received the members.

Mr. Bligh Bond said : The Church, which has not hitherto been visited officially by the Society, will be found to repay in many respects the time given this year to its examination.

The edifice is of ancient foundation, the tower arch being decidedly early in character, and similar to that of Bradford, Holcombe, and Buckland. It is in red sandstone. The body of the Church, and the upper part of the western tower with the west window, are of the late XV Century, there being a very notable and rare feature on the south side of the nave, where the arcade is constructed of timber. These oak arches have good bold mouldings characteristic of their period, and the natural camber of the wood has enabled the artificers of them to construct a very fair curve.[1] The font is quite a good one, though finished only on five sides out of the eight.

The south aisle wall with its low square-headed, deep-set windows, is also of unusual proportions, the wall-plate of its lean-to roof being of very slight elevation, giving a rustic effect. As at Burlescombe, the porch is placed at the extreme west end of the south aisle. The chancel was restored in 1864, and now presents no features of special interest. The chancel arch and side arch are good modern Perpendicular work in white freestone. Some of the original oak benches are still preserved. These are plain, but solid and well-moulded. The pulpit, which Jeboult in 1873 described as abominable, proves to be rather an ornament to the Church than otherwise, inasmuch as it is Jacobean, rather ornate, if somewhat rough and flat in treatment, and bears its date 1610, twice repeated. The final '0' on the south side is worked into the running pattern of the upright member.

There are also some interesting brasses of the Bluetts, and by means of the heraldry on the shield (Bluett impaling Verney) it appears that the figures represent Richard, younger

1. Similar arcading occurs at Nymet Rowland, near Lapford, Devon, and at Ribbesford, near Bewdley, Worcs.

son of Walter Bluett, of Holcombe Rogus, and his wife Agnes Verney. He died 1524.

A valuable collection of old helmets, or parts of helmets, lies in the church chest. One fine damascened piece is probably *temp.* Henry VIII.

But *the* feature of unique interest in this Church is the little annexe on the north side of the nave built in the year 1659, during the Commonwealth, in the debased style of the period, showing a quaint mixture of "Gothic" and "Renaissance" forms in its windows and other architectural features. Additions of this date to our churches are so rare that they can perhaps be counted on one's fingers. It was built by the direction of Roger Wood, of Overtown in Kiddesford, who in his will dated 3 Sept., 1657,—administration granted 18 Feb., 1657-8,—left £200 for building a new aisle at Kiddesford Church (Brown, Som. Wills, II, 80).

Jeboult says that there was formerly a screen in this Church. He also calls attention to a curious old stoup.

The Church contains monuments of the Escott and Webber families.

Outside the north aisle are several tombstones to the memory of the Wood family, owners of the manor in the XVII Century, which were formerly in the floor of the north aisle.

That to the memory of Tristram Wood, father of Roger, who died in 1638, contains the following punning epitaph :[1]

> "As the tree falls, here he lyes—
> So doth rest till he arise
> To glory, who the whiles he stood,
> Was the glory of the Wood."

Cothay Barton.

This ancient manor house in Kittisford parish was afterwards visited, by the kind permission of Mrs. Cape, the tenant.

1. Communicated by the Rev. F. E. W. Langdon, Membury Vicarage.



FIREPLACE WITH CARVED OVERMANTEL AT COTHAY MANOR,

TEMP. CHARLES II.

The following account of Cothay has been written by the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin since the meeting :—

Although Collinson gives the ownership of Kittisford and Cothay to the family of Sydenham from a very early date, the records quoted under the account of Holcombe Rogus prove that the manor and advowson came from the family of de Grindeham to that of Bluett about 1330. The inquisition *post mortem* of Walter Bluett, taken 1481, enumerates among his other possessions the manor and advowson of Kittisford and lands, etc., in North and South Cothay. These became the portion of his younger son Richard, who married Agnes Verney ; and from the architecture of the older portion of the buildings, it is very probable that they were erected by the said Richard after his father's death. A stone, not *in situ*, but preserved in the house bears a shield with four quarters: 1, Bluett ; 2, a lion rampant ; 3, doubtful ; 4, Verney. By 1600 the property was divided and sold. Kittisford was purchased by Richard Weekes of Nynehead Florey, who parted with it to Tristram Wood ; and Cothay became the residence of William Every.

The Wellington volume of *Proceedings* for 1892 contains two illustrations of the house and surroundings. Originally the courtyard was surrounded by a high wall or by buildings as at Bratton Court, near Minehead, and Poyntington Manor. This was entered by a lofty gateway, of which only one arch remains, flanked by a gatehouse still surmounted by a bell-turret. On the opposite side is the main building consisting of a central portion with wings at either end. Passing through the porch the hall is entered on the right hand. It is a fine room, lighted by two lofty windows, with a capacious fireplace. Beyond, on the ground floor, are two rooms, perhaps a dining-room as at Holcombe, and a cellar behind. Unfortunately this portion is in a very neglected condition. Beyond the hall is a pleasant room now used as a drawing-room. Over the fireplace are three shields bearing the arms

of Every and alliances of the family (*see* the accompanying illustration).[1]

Mr. RICHARD EVERY gave a short account of the house and its successive owners.

Wellington was not reached till 7.35 p.m.

Third Day's Proceedings.

Nynehead Church.

On Thursday morning the members started on their excursion at 9.30 a.m. and made their first stop at All Saints' Church, Nynehead, where they were received by the Rev. H. C. Launder, Vicar.

Mr. BLIGH BOND said it was always a pleasure to come to such a beautiful church as that. Of course it had undergone very large modifications within recent times, but they had there the remains of an Early English Church, with extensive Perpendicular additions. The remains of the old Church included the tower arch, which was of the early pointed style, and the piscina on the south side of the chancel, which dated from about 1220.

There was in the tower a nice little Perpendicular window of a simple type, and the date of the south aisle could be fixed by a note which Mr. Weaver had given him of the will of a

1. Communicated by Mr. R. Every:—

No. 1. Every, Or, four chevronels gu., imp. Arg. 3 bars gemelles az., on a chief gu. a fesse dancettée or, Haydon.

William Every of Cothay, married, *c.* 1601, Margaret dau. of Robert Haydon of Cadhay, Ottery St. Mary.

No. 2. Every, imp. Per pale arg. and az., in the first 3 pallets sa, Trenchard.

John Every, M.P. for Bridport, *ob.* 1679, grandson of the above William, married Elizabeth dau. of Thomas Trenchard of Wolveton, Dorset.

No. 3. Arg. on a chief embattled gu. three plates, Leigh, imp. Every.

John Leigh of North Court, Isle of Wight, married Ann sister and co-heiress of the above John Every.

certain John Wyke who in 1410 left money for an aisle to Nynehead Church. He (Mr. Bond) judged that the date of the aisle would be a little after that.

In the additions made by the late Mr. Sanford to the Church, nothing of importance was sacrificed except a three-light window in the former short transeptal chapel and two small windows in the north wall of the chancel. Mr. Sanford was a very able amateur architect and personally designed the additions to the Church. There were two very pretty rose windows, and altogether the additions showed a refinement of taste which put this work quite above what any amateur architect was supposed to be capable of.

Until quite recently the north side of the nave had two ugly domestic windows, brought from a neighbouring house. Under his (Mr. Bond's) superintendence they were taken out, and two windows similar to that in the tower were put in instead. The nave roof was old, and he had no doubt that if the plaster were set back the moulded ribs would be shown full size.

One little bit of old glass existed in the charming figure of St. Catherine in one of the top lights of the window at the end of the south aisle. Another of the series looked so good that he fancied it was partly old.

There was a beautiful screen of the kind customary in West Somerset and Devon. It was very much of the pattern they found down the east side of the Exe Valley. It was on record that the arch above it was built in the time of Henry IV (about 1412), and that the son or grandson of the donor of it put in the screen. He put the date of it at about 1480, and he thought that in the old days it stood a little more forward, but that after the Reformation it was treated like so many other screens—set back and mutilated. He believed it to be the original screen of the Church. A screen which had been described in almost identical terms to that one was turned out from Hill-farrence Church about 1840 or 1850, and was represented by

some carved wood at the top of that screen, facing the chancel, and some on the front of the organ.

Mr. Bond gave a few interesting extracts from the churchwardens' accounts which had been handed him by Mr. W. de C. Prideaux, including a reference to the rough-casting of the Church in 1681, and he remarked that rough-cast was a very useful thing where the stone was apt to be porous and to allow the wet to come into a building. He also read the following document relating to the burial of a felon which had been found in the parish chest by Mr. Prideaux :—

" The above Certificate being signed I do according to mine office condemn ye Corps of the felon to be buried at a Crossway a stake struck through him and so forth *in terorem*, &c. Your humble servant, John Clarke, Jan. 8, 1734."[1]

The VICAR repeated the information given to him by the late Mr. W. A. Sanford as to the figures by Luca della Robbia and other works of art placed in the Church in modern times by members of the Sanford family. He also mentioned that Mr. Sanford in restoring the Church used as far as possible the work of persons living in the parish or in the immediate neighbourhood.

The PRESIDENT remarked that Mr. W. A. Sanford was a very excellent artist himself and could turn himself to almost any department of knowledge and master it. He (the President) was very intimate with that Church from about 1860 to 1890, and remembered during those years coming there to worship in the most comfortable Sanford pew. It was a great pleasure to them to see all that old system done away with and to notice the admirable manner in which the Church was now seated. It was a place of beauty where everybody could worship on equal terms. Other great families who had churches which were more or less of the nature of domestic chapels might follow the example of the Sanfords in enriching

1. This Certificate is figured in *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.*, xxiv (1912), 94.

those churches with works of art, as in such places they would do more to elevate the artistic taste of the people than if placed in picture galleries.

Mr. W. de C. PRIDEAUX quoted a few other extracts from the churchwardens' accounts (see Part II).

Bradford-on-Tone Church.

From Nynehead the members of the party were driven *viâ* "The Hollow Way" to Bradford-on-Tone, where the Church of St. Giles[1] was described by Mr. F. BLIGH BOND. He said:

This Church is characterised by simplicity. It contains features of XIII Century work in the nave arcades, and traces of an early form of chancel opening, probably of narrow dimensions, now removed and roughly widened in order to open up the full width of the chancel in agreement with the West-country type of church. It is most probable that the older arrangement provided a small archway set between two hagioscopes. This was evidently so in the neighbouring Church of Buckland, where the change was not quite so completely effected, and where sufficient remains of the old squint on the south side to determine the earlier type.

The arch on the south side of the chancel at Bradford was designed after the fashion of the Devonshire builders, in contrast with that on the north which is of the Somerset type. This seems a local compromise arranged amicably between the two schools of masons, and we find the same rule carried

1. This modern dedication, first given in Ecton's *Valor*, 1754 edition, has been allowed to supersede the original dedication to the Blessed Virgin. The will of Thomas Asshecombe, a London lawyer, made 6th Oct. 1466, runs thus: "I bequethe to the chirch of our Lady of Bradford in the shire of Somerset, wherin I took my cristendome, 6*s.* 8*d.*" (*S.R.S.*, xvi, 210). The family of Asshecombe are mentioned in the will of Sir John Halsanger, probably vicar, who left directions to be buried in the churchyard of Bradford juxta Taunton (*S.R.S.*, xvi, 130); and the surname occurs in the parish register, 1596-1607.—E. H. Bates Harbin.

out to a more marked extent in other places on the fringe of the two counties, as at Burlescombe and Holcombe Rogus.

Under the arched recess in the south aisle is the figure of a knight in armour, for which Mr. Buckle gave the conjectural date 1380. This is stated by Jeboult to be that of the founder of the Church, *i.e.* the mediæval re-builder (*see* note).

This Church underwent restoration in the sixties of the last century, prior to which a part of the roodloft stairs were said to be visible. The upper doorway to the loft is now seen in the north wall of the nave. There is a piscina in the chancel and another in the chapel on its north side. Jeboult mentions two holy-water stoups. The font is new, but the old one is preserved in the Church.

The pulpit is a very fine work of the late XVII or early XVIII Century, and is said to have been brought here from St. Mary's, Taunton, at the restoration, being judged then unsuitable for a " Gothic " church. The old benches have disappeared, but a good specimen of a XV Century book-chest, with desk-top and high square ends, remains in the Church. This is now behind the organ in the north chapel. One of the ends has a good sunk tracery-panel.

The chancel stalls are quite new, and were placed in the Church as a memorial to the late Mr. Edgar Watson.

The tower of the Church reflects the character of that of Wellington, but is much plainer. In the churchyard are preserved the village stocks. There are five ancient bells, some of which are of the time of Henry VI. These have already been described in *Proceedings*, XXXVIII, i, 23.

Since the meeting the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin has contributed the following note :—

" The style of the armour on the figure belongs to the latter part of the XIV Century, 1370-1400. In the absence of any inscription or heraldry the identity of the person represented can only be surmised. Sir Simon de Meryet, owner of Bradford, the last member of the Hestercombe branch of that

family, died shortly before 1372. He lived at Hestercombe where the bishop had granted a licence for a private chapel; there are no monuments of the family in the parish church of Kingston, and he may have desired to be commemorated at Bradford. His widow remarried in 1372 Thomas de Welyngton, who died in 1382, and this monument may have been placed to his memory. She survived till 1393, having outlived William de Percehay of Kitton in Holcombe Rogus, who owned the reversion of the manor. It seems most probable that the figure is intended to represent Sir Simon de Meryet."

Bishop's Hull Church.

The Rev. R. C. W. RABAN, the Vicar, after welcoming the party, read a paper in which he said :—

The oldest part of the present Church dates from about King John's time, but there was an older Church, as in Henry I's time the great tithes of the parish were conveyed by the then Bishop of Winchester to Taunton Priory, on condition that a payment of £6 13s. 4d. should be annually made to the Parish Priest of Hill Bishoppes—as the parish was then called. This payment is still made to the Vicar, as on the dissolution of the Priory it was settled on certain lands in the parish now known as the Milligan Hall estate. From time to time various alterations have taken place.

Early in Henry VIII's reign the chancel was partly rebuilt. In 1826 the parish, having increased at the Taunton end, the building was enlarged, but unfortunately much to the detriment of its appearance. The windows of the south aisle were replaced in the new wall, but a new west front was erected. The old Church up to then consisted of nave, with north and south aisles, chancel, side chapels and tower. The vestry was probably then erected and the window was taken from the north wall of the Church.

Four of the old benches remain in the pews. There are two

faculty pews—one the Upcott pew and the other pew belonging to Oldbury Lodge. There were several other faculty pews, but they were given up about fifty years ago, when the organ was placed in the Lady Chapel. Previously a barrel-organ was used in the west gallery, but it was sold when the organ was obtained. At the same time the pulpit seems to have been moved to its present position. The panels of the pulpit were taken from the rood-screen and some pieces have been made up into kneeling-stools for the sanctuary. The fine monument of Mr. George Farwell has lately been repaired by Sir George Farwell and Mr. E. J. Blake, the lay rector. On the south chancel wall are monuments to Sir George and Lady Farewell, also to Mrs. Brune, their daughter, to a granddaughter, Mrs. Fowell, and a memorial to three children who died in infancy. This memorial was for many years beneath the chancel east window, but was moved to its present position when the reredos was erected about thirty years ago. The heiress of the Farewells married a Mr. Jarman, and from the Jarmans the rights of lay rector passed to the Blake family, who still hold them. The registers go back to 1562.

The font in use came from St. Mary's, Taunton. The old one belonging to the Church is now in the porch. It was at first placed in the churchyard, but as it was getting injured by the drip of the trees it was removed to its present position. The church plate was chiefly contributed by members of the Farwell family, but there is a curious spoon which seems to have been the gift of one of the Parsons family, who lived at what is now known as Haydon Farm, but was in the XVII Century a manor house.

There is a tablet in the Lady Chapel to Dr. Crotch, the celebrated musician, and the Royal College of Music has erected a tombstone to his memory by the church tower in recognition of his being their first president. It is due to Mr. H. A. Jeboult to say that this was carried through by his energy and tact.

Mr. Bligh Bond then made the following remarks:—

Before the year 1828, this must have been a beautiful little church. But perhaps through its being a fashionable resort of Taunton churchgoers, and its pulpit occupied by an attractive preacher, its limits of accommodation were outgrown, and it was remodelled in the dreadful manner of that period, without the smallest regard for proportion or veneration for old features.

The arcade between the nave and south aisle was pulled down, the aisle wall raised, and the old roofs swept away to be replaced by a modern ceiling and flat-pitched roof in a single span. All this was done, apparently, in order that the galleries might be inserted, and a clear view had from all the new seats.

At the same time, it can hardly be doubted, the greater part of the glorious old benches were swept away, to make room for dreary deal boxes, and the roodscreen, which, like the beautiful one at Bishop's Lydeard, carried on its cornice a creed carved in raised gold letters, was destroyed, and nothing is now known of its fragments.

One is disposed to agree with Jeboult, who, writing in 1873, says with regard to this nave, "all we have to say is, that the quicker it is taken down and the original building restored, the sooner an eyesore will be removed from a wealthy and populous parish."

The original work in the east part of the Church is, however, of much interest. It includes a dated chancel, with chapels on each side, that on the south being of course a continuation of the old south aisle.

A valuable note in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, VII, 264, records a dispute concerning the building of a chancel in Hill Bishop's Church in 1523. We have also, incised upon the scroll held by a small stone angel in the east wall of the chapel on the north side, the date 1530, so we may assume that in the course of the seven years elapsing between

these two dates, the whole of the eastern part of this Church came into being. The work is a good specimen of late Perpendicular. For example, the piers and arches on the north side are bold and well-moulded, without being coarse. The corbels which support the two arches are a strong feature, and recall a somewhat similar type of design in St. Mary's, Taunton, where the date of the work is 1503.

Among the features of particular interest in this north chapel are the brackets on the east wall, of which there are four. The two lower ones are angels bearing scrolls, and one can understand their purpose as being for the support of statuettes. But above these, high on the wall, appear two others in the form of clumsily cut grotesque heads, very debased in expression and in execution. These cannot be considered as contemporaneous work, and I venture to think that they occupied some position on the exterior wall of the older fabric, and were kept in a conservative spirit by the later builders.

In the same chapel, there remains also a small credence. The oak roof is original and unaltered, and is a good specimen of its kind. Note the carved pateræ in the cornice.

In this chapel also is a series of fine carved bench-ends, the best remaining in the Church. There are others in the nave, but not many, still left on the north side. Perhaps the most remarkable of the chapel series is that which represents, in the conventional manner of the XVI Century, the ascent of Our Lord from the tomb, a cross in his left hand, the sleeping soldiers lying by. Below is seen the pelican, emblem of the Mother Church. In the east window of this chapel is a scanty remnant of old glass, in which appears the symbol of St. Luke. The chancel shows, on its south wall, evidences of a stopped-up window of three lights, and a priest's doorway, also closed up. The altar screen, which stood in 1873, was described by Jeboult as being panelled with the remains of some of the bench-ends. The pulpit incorporates others.

The font in the Church is XV Century, and came from St. Mary's, Taunton. Another font in the western porch is the font properly belonging to the Church. The chapel on the south side of the chancel is the pew of the Cowan family. It is an interesting survival of the old-fashioned private box. Here you see an interior fitted in the manner which pleased our great-grandparents, with fireplace, Turkey carpet, and other little comforts, allowing them to support in complacent humour the tedium of the long sermons then in vogue. In this chapel is an old oak chest which should be inspected.

The roodscreen is gone, but traces of its ancient beauty linger in the small fragments of carved panels and canopy-work embodied in the pulpit. The kneelers in the sanctuary are also made of it.

Externally the principal object of interest is the tower, which is octagonal, on a square base. The lower part is Early English, but the top stage is of XV Century work, and it is probably this part which, according to local tradition, was the gift of the weavers who were formerly numerous in the parish.

There is one little early window,—quite a gem in its way,—of the Geometric Early English period, *circa* 1260. This must have come from the tower, but now appears in the west wall of the modern vestry which is built against it. The window is the best remaining bit of architectural evidence of the antiquity of this little Church, which was in very old days a chapelry under the Priory of Taunton. On the dissolution of the abbeys it fell to the Crown, and it seems to have been granted to the Farwells, who remained patrons until 23 Elizabeth, when the Queen granted it with other advowsons, to Edmund Downynge and Peter Assheton.

There are numerous monuments of later date in the Church, among which are some to members of the Seymour, Collis, Dance, Darch, Kerstman, Snowden, Shapland, Shelley, Codrington, Gunston, and Maclean families.

The Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin remarked that the Society

was then visiting its parish church for the first time, as until quite recently Taunton Castle was in the parish of Bishop's Hull.

Bishop's Hull Manor House.

From Bishop's Hull Church the members walked to the Manor House, where they were welcomed by Mrs. Rawlins, who was thanked by the President for allowing them to visit her beautiful residence.

Mr. T. L. Walsh (Mrs. Rawlins' brother) said the house was supposed to be built by George Farwell in 1586, that date with his paternal coat of arms being placed over the doorway, though some thought that some of the upper windows showed it to be older.

Mr. Bligh Bond pointed out that there was no trace of Gothic character in the building except in the mullions and the steep pitched roof. There were Ionic columns at the sides of the door. The two earlier windows on the east side above those of Elizabethan date were probably parts of an older house which had been built into that one; their mouldings appeared to be about the time of Henry VIII.

After passing through the beautiful gardens, with sub-tropical plants growing in the open air, the party inspected the interior of the house. An alabaster crucifix, found in the house, was exhibited.

The following notes have been contributed by Mr. J. Houghton Spencer:—

Bishops Hull Manor House, or, perhaps, more correctly speaking, Court House,[1] stands on the eastern slope of the hill which gives its name to the village in which it is situated;

1. Since the above was written it has been noticed that in a document in the Exchequer of Taunton Castle dated 22nd Dec., 1761, the house is referred to as the "Mansion House commonly called the Great House within the parish of Hullbishops otherwise Bishops hull heretofore in the tenure of Richard Farwell since of George Farwell."

Bishops Hull being formerly written Hill Bishop. It faces southward about 14° west of south, and is substantially built in the form of the letter E of local grey sandstone, such as was used for the old towers of Taunton St. Mary Magdalene's and St. James' Churches, the outer walls being 2½ft. thick. The porch,—which bears the date 1586 and a shield with the arms of Farwell, a chevron between three escallops quartered with Rilleston a saltire, impaling Dyer, a chief indented,—is of Ham stone in its lower part and may have been an addition to the house at that date, for the stones of its walls are not bonded into the front wall of the house as was seen, when recently examined, in the room over the porch.

Simon Farwell the younger married Dorothy Dyer, sister of the Lord Chief Justice James Dyer. On his death, which happened before 1586, his eldest son John sold the estate here to his younger brother George. He seems to have added the porch, but replaced the paternal shield instead of adding his own. The evidence of his connection with the Dyer family is repeated, as on his monument in the Church the paternal shield again appears without the Rilleston coat.

In dealing with and to some extent restoring the house, by its late owner, Col. Rawlins, in 1901, some interesting features which were hidden by plaster have been opened up, including several blocked windows and doorways, so that it would now be easy to make a plan showing all the original openings in the external walls of the house. With regard to the original internal arrangements there is a doubt as to the positions of some of the partitions and the staircases. If there were two circular staircases the present attic staircase probably marks the place of one leading to the ground floor in the eastern wing, but there is nothing to show the position of the other which possibly was in the western wing. Only one room retains the original oak panelling, which has in the upper part the outlines of a series of forty-five shields from which the armorial bearings appear to have been taken. This room, now a bedroom, may have been

the original muniment room, and the following extract from a paper by Wm. Arthur Jones, on Chief Justice Dyer (*Proc.*, XVI, ii, 55), seems to show what became of the super-imposed shields with armorial bearings :—

"In the series of shields with armorial bearings (about fifty in number) removed from the old mansion of the Farwells at Hills Bishop, and now in the possession of the writer, there are several which note the alliance with the Dyers ; and among other families may be named : Ewerne, Hannam, Stawel of Cothelstone, and Rodney of Rodney Stoke."

The drawing-room, with its plastered and moulded ceiling, although the ceiling is of a later date than the house, refers no doubt by means of the shell ornaments at the four corners to the escallops on the shield of the Farwells.

At the north-east angle of the eastern wing two narrow loops or windows, with internal broad splays, were hidden by the plaster, and, just under the floor, between the windows, was found a square perpendicular shaft or flue, leading from the bedroom to the ground floor, with which flue an arched channel was connected, making an angle of 45° with the building ; leading in one direction to the exterior of the main north wall, and in the other to the exterior of the east wall. A disused brick drain, of a later date, was connected with it, and there was found fixed at the bottom of the shaft a piece of Ham stone, 14ins. by 12ins. and 8ins. thick, hollowed out to the depth of 5ins.

These loops, shaft, etc., were probably used in connection with a garderobe, or privy chamber, on the bedroom floor, and may have been both for the purpose of defence, when necessary, and for convenience only at other times, as was the case with projecting closets in castles of an earlier period. Shafts with arched openings connected with garderobes at Langley Castle, Northumberland, are illustrated in "Domestic Architecture of the Middle Ages," XIV Century (Parker). In reference to the idea that the loops in this chamber were at times used for

the purpose of defence, it is interesting to notice what prominent and important points can be seen from them. The eastern loop looks directly towards the Mount, Taunton, in a line with Holway and Thorn Hill, and the splay of the jamb guides the eye to Haines Hill. This line, if continued, would connect Bickenhall, Ashhill and Ilminster. It may be noticed in connection with Haines Hill that the old main road from Taunton to Exeter was that which now passes by Wheatleigh and through Galmington. It is so shown in "Britannia Depicta, or Ogilby improved," dated 1731, and probably continued to be a main road to a later date than that.

The northern loop looks towards Kingston and a straight line drawn from it connects Dodhill, Broomfield, Cannington, and Worle Hill, Weston-super-Mare, while the splayed jamb points to Norton in a line with Cothelstone, Danesborough, and Little Stoke on the Bristol Channel. It would thus appear that these loops were designedly arranged, for anyone keeping an outlook, to obtain signals, passed from point to point, on well known important and clearly defined ancient lines of communication. In the western wing a third and very similar loop was re-opened on the staircase landing. In connection with the room over the porch it was found that the original floor existed about 2ft. below the present floor, and that the ceiling, as indicated by holes in the walls for joists, was much lower than it is now, so that if the original floors were restored, and the upper blocked window re-opened, there would be two rooms about 7½ft. high, each with its own window, where now only one lofty room, with one window, exists. There are indications that the upper room was approached from the lower one by means of a trap-door in the ceiling of the latter, so that it was in some respects a concealed chamber.

The dining-room, as it now stands, is not of its original form, the partition and sideboard recess at its northern end being modern. There is a window of five lights on the east side of

this room, one of which is blocked on the inside. It seems probable that one, or perhaps two, of the five divisions of this window originally lighted an adjoining room, part of which room has since been included in the dining-room; and as an original fire-place has been found in the wall of the adjoining cellar stairs, which stairs are a later addition to the house, here may have been the site of the original buttery adjoining the eastern entrance of the house.

It is a curious fact that the western wing is not parallel with the eastern wing, but is inclined about 5° more towards the south than the other. Whether this was done—for there can be no doubt that it was the result of deliberate design and not of accident—to throw its windows more away from the higher part of the hill, and so to obtain more light from the south, or from some deeper reason connected with the adjacent parish church and orientation, is not apparent; but it is reasonable to suppose that those rules of orientation in connection with architecture, which so greatly influenced earlier buildings, both ecclesiastic and domestic, were not entirely lost sight of in the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth, when probably both the house and porch were respectively built.

In this connection it may be noted that the splayed jamb of the east loop, before referred to, would guide the eye towards that point in the horizon where the sun rises on the shortest day; while the splay of the western loop, on the staircase in the western wing, would similarly guide to the point where it sets on the longest day of the year.

Norton Fitzwarren.

VOTES OF THANKS.

From Bishop's Hull the members drove to the Village Institute at Norton where luncheon was served, after which the PRESIDENT said that there was one thing he should like to

do before leaving them, and that was to give the thanks of the Society to those who had done so much work in making that annual meeting a success. First, he would like to mention Mr. Bligh Bond for his explanation of the churches and manor-houses. Then they had to thank the officials of the Society—more particularly Mr. Bates Harbin, the excursion Secretary,—for all the trouble they had taken. They must not forget to acknowledge the energy of Mr. Gray. The Society was most fortunate in getting a man of his parts to do the work he was doing in the county. He wished also to express the thanks of the Society to the clergy and the owners and occupiers of ancient houses for so kindly and courteously throwing open the buildings of which they had charge.

The Rev. Preb. H. G. Hellier said they all most heartily agreed with every word which had fallen from the lips of the President, but he had omitted the name which ought to stand first of all when they were giving honour and thanks, and that was his own.

Mr. F. F. Tuckett said he never rose with so much pleasure as he did to second that expression of thanks to their President. In addition to his wide knowledge and his time-keeping powers, they had had the advantage of his good judgment to say the right thing in the right words.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and acknowledged by the President.

Mr. Bates Harbin acknowledged on behalf of the workers the kind way in which their efforts had been appreciated. He said that Mr. Gray, Mr. Bond, and himself went over the ground twice beforehand, and what one did not see the others did, and he thought the result had been very satisfactory.

Dr. J. Meredith begged to be permitted to say a word on behalf of the people of Wellington, and to assure the members of the Society that their visit had given pleasure and added to the interest felt by many in the neighbourhood in

the work of the Society. He hoped the visit would leave a pleasant impression on the minds of those who had favoured the locality with their presence.

Norton Fitzwarren Church.

Luncheon was followed by a visit to All Saints' Church, where the members were received by the Rector, the Rev. W. P. Hewett.

Mr. Bligh Bond remarked that there was little to say about the Church as in the process of "restoration" it had been largely rebuilt, and nothing was left of the old building but the tower and nave arcade, and the woodwork. The base of the tower dated from the end of the XIII or beginning of the XIV Century. The west door was clearly of the same date, while the arcade on the north side of the nave was an early XIII Century piece of work. The rector had told him that to the best of his knowledge the new work was carried out on the lines of the old, but as there was nothing left of the old windows that was doubtful. The glory of the Church was certainly its roodscreen, which was of a character quite different to any other he had met with in Somerset, and he did not quite know what school it represented. There were some special features about it, the framing of the doorway being more after French style than English. Other charming features were the peculiar depth of the vaulting and the singular cornices. At one end they found the name of Raphe Harris, churchwarden (*see* accompanying plate). The screen was a late piece of work, dating about the year 1500, and was all of the same period. The restored ornaments, the Rood and figures of St. Mary and St. John, occupied the traditional place for these figures. Reference was also made to the parclose screen dividing the chancel from the north chapel.

The Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin remarked that when every church in England had such splendid carving as that before



SOUTHERN HALF.



CORNICE OF THE ROODSCREEN, NORTON FITZWARREN CHURCH. The Centre of the Screen is included in both Photographs.
From Photographs by Dr. F. J. Allen.

them they could imagine how very instructive it must have been to the congregation of those days. With regard to what the President had said respecting the restoration of artistic ornaments in the churches some parishioners might consider their admission to be straying from the paths of true religion, and it was quite likely that chancellors would refuse faculties for them. Until the parishioners could believe that those things were not inconsistent with the doctrine of the Church of England, it was rather dangerous to have them placed in the churches.

Dr. F. J. ALLEN made some observations on the tower, which he described as an excellent specimen of the Devon type. Besides the form, another characteristic of Devon was the profusion of grotesques on the exterior. So far as he could judge from the tracery in the windows it was one of the earliest towers in the neighbourhood. Towers rather similar, but of later character, were to be found at St. Decuman's, Minehead, and Cannington. (For illustration of the tower, see Part II of the volume, Paper I, Fig. 7).

Milverton Church.

At St. Michael's Church, Milverton, which was the next place visited, the members were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. E. F. Felton, and Mrs. Felton.

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND described the Church. He said :—

The foundation of this Church goes back to the Norman conquest. There was then a chaplain, and land was attached to the building. The existing edifice appears to be of at least three dates, (1) the lower part of the tower, together with the wall adjoining to the east, which is transitional work of the end of the XII Century, (2) the nave arcade, upper part of tower, and the west porch of the south aisle, which are XIV Century, and (3) the south aisle and the chancel, which are Perpendicular of various dates.

The fact that the tower is inclined at a considerable angle to the wall adjoining may indicate that its core contains masonry of a yet older date, and its narrow proportions would tend to confirm this view. The upper part of the tower is inferior in proportion and detail to the work in the body of the Church, and is of the XIV Century. The general proportions of the Church are spacious, and give it a certain distinction not possessed by others in the neighbourhood.

The arcade on the north side of the nave is original, dating from about 1320, but that on the south is a modern copy of it. The spacing of the two arcades does not agree, but the discrepancy has been got over with some ingenuity. It has also been stated that considerable alterations were effected in the XVI Century. The arches at the east of the nave are modern insertions. There are traces of a former roodloft turret on the exterior face of the south wall, where this point is now marked by a large buttress, substituted for the turret in the modern rebuilding.

The porch or lobby which has been constructed at the west end of the south aisle recalls those at Kittisford and Burlescombe. The Archdeacons of Taunton used to hold their Court here. The Church was in past times intimately connected with the archdeacons, and the old house, now the Vicarage, was until 1883 the archidiaconal residence, but at that date was restored and handed back, with the glebe, to the Church.

The plinth of the old font is missing, but the bowl, which is late Norman, has been restored.

The chief glory of the Church is in the wonderful set of carved benches which adorn it, and which, for fine and imaginative variety, as well as for their completeness, seem unsurpassed in the county. Those of Wiveliscombe Church, before its ruin in the early years of the XIX Century, would have rivalled, perhaps even outshone them, but that Church is a sorry wreck.

The date of the Milverton benches is probably given on the panel now incorporated with the modern screen. This is inscribed "The Yere of Oure Lorde God MDXL." Like the rest of the old work fitted into the screen, this was probably a bench-end. Among the remainder are several grotesques, deeply cut, occupying the upper part of the panels, the lower sections being filled with Gothic tracery, but these have lost about a third of their length. The same designs preponderate in the nave, and there is a fair number remaining in the aisles, in a perfect state.

In the bench-fronts to the gangways is an excellent series of figures in high relief set in the panels, and there is an even better series in the chancel stalls, which portray the apostles for the most part, but among the figures on the north side is one of St. John the Evangelist with his symbol, the eagle, very finely cut. The figure holds a book in the right hand, and in the left a cup, from which rises a dragon's or serpent's head.

The choir-stalls, with their poppy-heads, have a fine appearance, but much of their framework is modern.

Some of the ends in the Church have heads on them which may be intended for portraits. One in the north aisle is very like Henry VIII; the figure facing it is said to represent one of his wives. Of the kneeling figures in the gangway one was supposed to be Queen Mary, another Cardinal Pole, and a third, Bishop Gardiner; Mr. Buckle, on the last visit of the Society, considered this all pure fancy.

In the vestry are the old panels of the pulpit,—very fine work of about 1625. One of the best bench-ends exhibits the royal Arms (in garter), of Henry VIII, with the badges of the Houses of England and Arragon,— the rose and pomegranate. One of the modern series in the south chapel has a carved end adapted from this, with the Victorian arms, dated 1850.

There seems little doubt that most of the carvings are the work of members of a local, or travelling guild, and there is always room for the opinion that the foreign influence shown is

the result of the use of imported specimen books, which were then getting into common use. There is variety in the quality of execution, pointing to the presence of many hands.

The screen is modern, and does not altogether carry out old principles. It would appear as though constructed for a loft, but is flat on the back, so that this is an appearance only. It seems a pity that so much old work has been incorporated in a fragmentary manner, as it is obviously unsuited to the position.

Jeboult says that the Church was enlarged at the restoration in 1849-50, and that previous to this there was a staircase on the south wall leading to the rood-loft. The north aisle seems to have been partly rebuilt at both ends, but the extent of the alteration involved has not been exactly determined.

Mr. Bates Harbin said the Society had seen abominable modern glass in nearly every church they had visited, and Milverton Church was no exception.

Mr. Bligh Bond mentioned that in that Church men sat on one side of the nave and women on the other, but in the aisles they could sit together.

Milverton Vicarage.

The ancient dwelling-house, figured in *Proc.*, xxxviii, i, 56, formerly known as the Archdeaconry and now Milverton Vicarage, was visited by the kindness of the Rev. E. F. Felton and Mrs. Felton. Speaking in the hall, Mr. Bates Harbin said the date of the building was about 1480. It was the last of the domestic buildings they were visiting, and he thought they had had a very interesting series. In every one of them they noticed that the hall was the central point of the house. The great idea in Elizabeth's time was symmetry, but there they had a hall still in existence and use as originally intended. It was at the present time a very nice drawing-room. The panelling reminded him very much of that to be seen at Sherborne. The oriel was now the doorway leading to other

parts of the house, which had in course of time been considerably altered. The house was said to be connected with Cardinal Wolsey, who was believed to have been Archdeacon of Taunton. There is no authority for this, although Wolsey was a great pluralist; and the pluralist of the XVIII Century was a very poor specimen compared with that of the pre-Reformation period. It was unlikely that Wolsey ever had anything to do with that house, which must have been built before his time.

The visitors were then conducted over the house and shown its various interesting features. Subsequently Mr. Bates Harbin thanked Mr. and Mrs. Felton for their kindness in allowing the party to see their residence; and remarked that members had had considerable experience of the great kindness of West Country residents in the last three days.

It had been announced that Mr. and Mrs. E. Swanwick would entertain the members to tea at their residence, "The Fort." As they were away from home, that was not practicable, but they provided tea at St. Michael's Parish Room. Mr. and Mrs. Felton acted as host and hostess in their absence and were asked to give them the hearty thanks of the members.

Thomas Young's Birth-Place.

After tea, Mr. Charles Tite took the members to the Old Bank House, where Thomas Young, one of Somerset's most famous sons, was born on June 13th, 1773. Outside the building, Mr. Tite gave a brief outline of the life and work of this remarkable man, who was one of the first scholars of the age in which he lived, and one of the most eminent scientists England has yet produced. He said the Youngs were a good old Quaker family who had long been connected with Milverton and Taunton as traders and bankers.

The wonderful abilities of Thomas Young became apparent in his early childhood: when he was two years old he could read fluently, and at four he had read the Bible twice through.

At school his teachers were too slow for him, and when he was fourteen he had mastered Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and several other languages. It was recorded that, on being asked for a specimen of his writing, he wrote a sentence in his neatest hand in fourteen different languages. When he went to Cambridge, the master of his college introduced him to his tutors with the remark, "I have brought you a pupil qualified to read lectures to his tutors." At the age of twenty-one he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and became Professor of Natural Philosophy at the Royal Institution, as a colleague of Sir Humphrey Davy. He also qualified as a medical man, and was appointed a physician at St. George's Hospital. He was a voluminous writer on all sorts of subjects connected with literature, science, and art. But his fame to-day rested principally upon the fact that he first established the undulatory theory of light, and that he discovered the key to the hieroglyphics of Egypt.

Mr. Tite mentioned that it was not a little remarkable that Edwin Norris, the great Orientalist, who was born at Taunton in 1795, and who assisted so largely in deciphering the cuneiform inscriptions of Persia and Assyria, and Thomas Young should have been born only about seven miles apart, and within a quarter of a century in point of time.

Langford Budville Church.

The last place to be visited was the Church of St. Peter, Langford Budville.

Speaking in the churchyard, Dr. F. J. Allen said that it was the first time he had seen the Church, but he recognized the tower at once as belonging to the Devon group, by the form and position of the buttresses and the great scarcity of windows. Even such windows as were present were very small. This tower and that of West Buckland represented the two chief forms of the smaller Devon towers, Langford

having rectangular buttresses and a corner turret, while Buckland had diagonal buttresses and a turret in the middle of the south side. He called attention to the fact that in 1509, John Peryn, of Wellington, left 3s. 4d. towards the building of Langford tower, and a similar amount towards the tower at West Buckland.

In the Church the Rev. F. W. WEAVER pointed out the representation of a needle and thread carved in stone on the capital of one of the pillars of the south arcade of the nave, upon which the late Mr. F. T. Elworthy wrote a paper in the *Proceedings*, XLVII, ii, 138. He said the building was a daughter church of Milverton and like it was in the gift of the Archdeacon of Taunton. The east end of the nave roof was more ornamented than the other part, because it was over the former position of the rood.

Dr. ALLEN said the north aisle appeared to have been rebuilt. It bore the date 1866.

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND has contributed the following notes:

The body of the Church, together with the chancel and south aisle, are ancient, but the north aisle, and the arcade on that side of the nave are modern. The nave roof is of the West-country type, and contains that feature of peculiar interest—the canopy of honour over the former rood-loft—the whole surface of the eastern compartment being decorated with enriched panels. Behind the modern chancel arch are still to be seen the brackets which supported the beam. The architectural detail of the south aisle and south porch are curious, and have the appearance of debased style, being quite possibly Marian in date. The font appears to have the same character. Apart from these features, and the curious detail of the capitals on this side (which are well worthy of note), the Church presents little to call for special mention.

Wellington was approached by way of Tonedale and North Street, and the sixty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Society was brought to a close.