

Second Day's Proceedings.

Alford Church.

Soon after 10 a.m. on Wednesday, the large party was welcomed at Alford Church by Admiral Tillard and Lady Francis Cecil of Alford House, and by the Rev. P. H. Milne,



down, stood near the Church, and was formerly the home of the family of Thring, distinguished for their good service to Church and State.

Keinton Mandeville Quarries.

In the absence of the Rev. H. H. WINWOOD, F.G.S., who was to have described these quarries, Professor W. BOYD DAWKINS, F.R.S., kindly consented to give an address on the geology of the district, and his interesting remarks were listened to by a large gathering of the members. Since the meeting Mr. Winwood has sent the following notes for publication:—

The Lias formation extends over a large tract of land in Somerset, and is of great interest, both for the fossils which characterize it, and for the various uses, both domestic and economic, to which the beds are applied. The strata vary very much in thickness on the north and south of the Mendips—these hills in past geological time acting as a barrier—so that the deposits of the Liassic seas are only a few feet in thickness on the north side, whereas on the south they are more fully developed to some 300ft. In geological sequence they come below the Oolites crowning the rising ground in this district, and form the valleys, and are divided into Upper, Middle and Lower Lias. It is the lower division that we have represented in the celebrated quarries of Keinton Mandeville. As you will see from the section exposed on the right side of the road leading north from the village, and called the Stepstone, or Stipstone, Quarry—so named from the field in which it is worked—there is a series of limestone rock, clays and shales, about 20ft. These show how varied were the conditions of deposits—changes from deeper to shallower waters—the rock indicating deeper and clearer, the clays shallower, seas. The even-bedded and horizontal limestones similar to those at Street (whence came the fine specimens of

the large saurians in the Bath Museum) have a like but not so rich a fauna. They are principally used for buildings and paving-stones; hence some of the beds better adapted for that purpose are called "Paviours." Others are used for making lime. The workmen have curious names for each bed, such as "Posts," "Corner or Corn stone," "Clog," "Cream," and "Red liver," indicative of their appearance or the use to which they were applied. The usual Lower Lias fossils, *e.g.* Belemnites, Corals, Crinoids and Ammonites characterize the different beds. A shallower quarry south of the village, called "Westfield Quarry," not visited by the members, exhibits a section of the lower beds of the Stepstone Quarry and is only about half the depth, the upper ten or eleven beds of the former quarry having been denuded. The White Lias which succeeds the lower workable beds in these sections have not as yet been exposed.

Queen Camel Church.

The members were welcomed by the Rev. G. D'Angibau, Vicar of the parish.

Before entering the Church, which is dedicated to St. Barnabas, Dr. F. J. ALLEN gave a short address on the tower. He pointed out that though tall and conspicuous, it was not of very distinguished design. It did not appear to be the work of either of the schools of masons who built the great towers of the county. The window tracery was of the Mendip type, the buttresses and pinnacles somewhat like those in the South Somerset group; while in general outline the tower resembled those of the West Somerset or Devon group. He attributed the building of the tower to village masons, who had produced the design by combining details from various towers which they knew. The influence of West Somerset was explained by the fact that the Church formerly belonged to Cleve Abbey.

The following description was drawn up by Mr. F. BLIGH BOND: There is a problem in connection with this Church which needs solution, as the indications are at first sight contradictory. The nave arcades are obviously quite a century older than the tower and clerestory, and appear to be XIV Century in date. Similarly the aisle walls must be of that period as they contain early work. The south aisle has a recessed canopy for an effigy with the large open cusps of the middle of the XIV Century, and there is a good Decorated window in this aisle. Also there is evidence of a high-pitched roof of this period on the inner face of the tower wall towards the nave.

On the other hand the tower plinths and buttresses are visible inside both the aisles, and it is clear that the aisle walls must have been built up to them. This apparent contradiction can only be reconciled by supposing the west portions of the early nave and aisles to have been taken down when the later tower was built; and after its construction the walls rebuilt to meet the new work. This theory receives support from the fact that in the south aisle wall are clear evidences of a reconstruction of the upper part, as the relieving arch over the recess has been partly cut away for the formation of the sill of a later window over it.

The clerestory is probably the latest work of all, as the stone drip-mould to the older roof is visible on the tower wall inside the west end of the nave. The whole arcade may then have been taken down and reconstructed at a lower level. The narrow arches at the west end would be an attempt to accommodate matters to the shortened space.

The nave roof is a very fine one, very like that at North Cadbury. Perhaps the most interesting features of this Church are the Rood screen, a glorious work of the latter part of the XV Century, and the carved wooden pulpit, which appears co-eval with it, and is remarkable for its beautiful canopy-work. The style of the design of the screen is re-

markable, and belongs to a peculiar school whose origin it would be interesting to discover. It bears considerable similarity to the screen at High Ham which belonged to Glastonbury; and the design, if not the screen, may have been furnished by workmen attached to the Abbey.

The chancel arch is larger than the chancel, and this gives an odd appearance. It must have been the intention of the builders of this arch to enlarge the chancel, instead of which we see a makeshift piece of work to reconcile the gap between the ceiling level of the chancel roof and the arch over it; this is of a curious nature, and merits close inspection.

The chancel roof is very good, and the carved bosses with animals, mermaid, camel with howdah, ship, etc., worthy of note. The sedilia and piscina are of striking and rich design. The canopied heads are unusually fine, and the treatment of the foliage free and original in character.

Particular attention should be paid to the font, which even in its present state of mutilation, is a work of much interest. There are similar fonts, in a perfect state, still existing at Bradford Abbas and Winterbourne Whitchurch in Dorsetshire. The design is that of an octagonal bowl flanked by four piers united with and projecting from four alternate faces, the whole being built upon a square base or foot. It belongs to the late XV Century.

The party then proceeded to

West Camel Church,

where they were received by the Rev. G. E. K. French, B.D., Rector.

Mr. E. Buckle, in 1890, pointed out that this small country Church, dedicated to All Saints, contains an admirable epitome of the ecclesiastical history of the country. It boasts a Saxon cross, a Norman font, Early English walls, a Decorated chancel, a Perpendicular nave, a Jacobean pulpit light, and a modern porch and chancel arch.

The remains of the cross, a portion of the shaft, formed the subject of a valuable paper by the Bishop of Bristol in the *Proceedings* for 1890 (Vol. XXXVI, ii, 70, illustration).

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND'S notes are subjoined ;—

The font, the bowl of which is Romanesque, is probably XI Century in date.

The Church is cruciform in design with the tower built on the south transept. This plan of placing the tower on the north or south side of the church, as opposed to the older central or the more general western position, is found in thirty churches in the county ; eighteen are in the south-east, eight in the west, and only four in the northern portion. The tower here is surmounted with a small lead spire, of which few now remain.

Portions of the north transept and the chancel are Early English, and the sedilia, crude in design, and the double piscina, are also of this period. The windows belong to the Decorated period, when it would appear that the nave walls were rebuilt. The windows and roof are, however, Perpendicular. The chancel arch was rebuilt in an Early English design about 1847, when the stone pulpit was supplied. It would be interesting to learn what they replaced. **1400957**

The chancel contains a hagioscope from the north transept, an aumbry in the north wall, and shallow recesses on either side of the east window, meant apparently for painted figures. Below this window is a stone beaded frame making a rectangular enclosure in the wall which appears to be old. It is quite possible that in some churches a simple frame of this sort did duty as a reredos. But of course this may be merely an assemblage of old stones made up into a frame. The stone corbel-head in the south wall is remarkable as it has a hole pierced through the face of the head to admit a cord for suspending the Lenten veil.

There is a little good old glass in the window behind the pulpit. In the north aisle is a miniature window, a great

rarity, and from its delicacy of construction an object of much beauty.

Afterwards the party, at the invitation of the Rector, visited the ancient pigeon-house near the Rectory.

Hazlegrove House.

The next stop was at Hazlegrove House, where Mr. G. ST. JOHN MILD MAY gave a hearty welcome to the visitors, and apologized for the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Vesey, the tenants, who had kindly given permission for the house and grounds to be shown. Mr. Mildmay's interesting address is incorporated in the following notes.

The manor of East or Queen Camel is entered in Domesday as in the King's hand by forfeiture of the late owner, Gytha, the widow of Earl Godwin and mother of King Harold. Many years after, a jury returned that the manor was reckoned to be ancient demesne of the Crown; and the tenants were thereby entitled to certain privileges, including exemption from serving on juries except on those of the manor courts. Until the reign of Queen Mary, who granted it to Sir Walter Mildmay, the manor had been a part of the dowry of successive queens; and the manor or court house would be occupied by a series of tenants. This house stood a little east of the church as "tradition tells us, which the footings in some places appearing, and the foundations in more digged out, seeme to affirme. This was accommodated with two parkes, the one not farr from the house retayning yet the name of Camell parke, the other at Haselgrove."¹

The park of Hazlegrove would appear to be of great antiquity, to judge by the size of some oak trees still standing, one being thirty-two feet in girth, and several others not much less. To this park Sir Walter Mildmay transferred his residence and built a house, a portion of which still remains. His descendant, Carew Harvey Mildmay,—born 1690, died 1784,

1. Gerard, Particular Description, 1633 *S.R.S.*, XV, 197.

—took down the front part of the old house, and erected (about 1730) a handsome edifice built of hewn freestone, after a design of an Italian architect.

The interior of the house, including a beautifully panelled dining-room, the gardens, and the old oaks were all inspected.

Tea was partaken of at the Sparkford Inn, and Castle Cary was reached in good time.

Conversazione at Castle Cary.

In the evening the members of the Society were entertained to a *Conversazione* and Concert in the Town Hall, when about 130 people were present. No pains had been spared by the Local Committee to make the evening an enjoyable one, and the complete success of their efforts was evidenced by the warm expressions of thanks afterwards received by Miss Macmillan and those associated with her. The proceedings began with selections by the Orchestral Society, followed by a lecture on "The Later Norman Castles in England," by Mr. C. H. Bothamley, M.Sc., of Weston-super-Mare, illustrated by lantern slides made from photographs taken by the lecturer. After refreshments, there was a musical programme, which included Somerset folk-songs, dialect and other songs, by Miss Margaret Barber, and Messrs. D. J. Gass, A. W. Gomme, and R. T. A. Hughes, and gave great pleasure.

The following were the members of the Local Committee :—
Dr. Carey Coombs (*Chairman*), Admiral Tillard, Major Rawlins, the Rev. H. E. Wake, Messrs. T. S. Donne, R. B. Drewett, J. H. Mackie, W. W. Macmillan, F. S. Moore, and John Pither, and Miss C. J. Macmillan (*Hon. Secretary*).

The Council of the Society take this opportunity of recording their thanks to all those who, owing to the lack of sufficient hotel accommodation, came forward and extended hospitality to some of the members of the Society attending the meeting. The necessary arrangements were kindly made by Miss Macmillan.

Third Day's Proceedings.

Sutton Montis Church.

The first stopping-place was Sutton Montis, which had never been visited before by the Society. The small Church contains some interesting features, and the route taken gave magnificent views of "Cadbury Castle" from the west and south. On arriving at Holy Trinity Church the Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin expressed the regret of the Rev. S. C. Spreat, Rector of the parish, at his unavoidable absence, and then read the following notes provided by Mr. BLIGH BOND.

The chancel and the lower portion of the tower are the oldest parts. The most noticeable feature is the chancel arch, a work of the Romanesque period, possibly dating from about 1100. The abacus of one jamb, and also the dripstone, have been cut away, but the former has been lately replaced. On the tower floor are two old semi-annular stones, which were found recently. These may be internal soffits or heads of early Norman windows.

The early Decorated windows of the chancel are a fine feature. The internal arch to the east window is interesting, but the window itself is modern. The nave was rebuilt in 1805, according to Phelps, and there are two debased windows of the XVII Century on the south side. There is a fairly good Perpendicular window in the west wall of the tower with a fragment of old glass.

The pulpit is Jacobean. Until recently it was on the south side of the chancel arch, hiding the hagioscope, and very much damaged. It has now been repaired and placed on the north side, some panelling of the same type being arranged as a pulpit-back, and the Hanoverian tester refixed above.

The font is modern. In the chancel is a brass, dated 1590, to the memory of James Duport, lord of the manor, Emma

his wife, and Thomas their son, with a long train of funereal verses in Latin verse translated from the Bible. The tablet with the Royal Arms bears the date 1805.

On the south side is a small porch of classical design, evidently copied from the similar example at Queen Camel.¹

On leaving the edifice some of the party visited the old manor house standing on the north-west side of the Church, which still retains some architectural features of the XVI and XVII Centuries.

Cadbury Castle, or Camelot.

Afterwards the party, now much increased by the arrival of many visitors, ascended Cadbury Camp by the best means of approach from the N.E. side. Having assembled on the southern slope just below the highest part of the interior of the Camp, where a fine view of Sutton Montis, Paddock Hill, and the country beyond was obtained, the members listened intently to an interesting address by Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY on the Camp and its immediate surroundings. At the end he described the results of the trial-excavations which he had recently conducted on behalf of the Society, the cost of which had been borne by Mr. A. L. Langman and Mr. Henry Hobhouse, and by small amounts contributed by several members of the Society. The substance of Mr. Gray's remarks, with illustrations, will appear as a paper in Part II of this volume.

Professor Boyd Dawkins and Canon Church made a few remarks at the conclusion, and thanked Mr. Gray for his description of this remarkable fortress. The members having viewed the excavations (the two most important cuttings having been left open and railed round), they walked round

1. Sutton Montis Church has recently been restored by Mr. Bond with great care. A paper on the descent of the manor from the family of Montacute will be found in the ninth report of the *Wincanton Field Club* for 1897.

the earthworks from s.w. to n.e., stopping at Queen Anne's Wishing Well and King Arthur's Well *en route*.

Luncheon and Notes of Thanks.

By the kind permission of the Rev. O. T. B. and Mrs. CROFT the tent for the luncheon was pitched in the Rectory garden. After lunch Mr. Harbin moved a hearty vote of thanks to the President, who in spite of all his public duties had found time to fill again the chair with so much success, and with Mrs. Hobhouse to give the Society an hospitable welcome at Hadspen on the first day of the meeting; to the clergy and the owners of the houses visited for their kindness in showing the buildings and giving information on many points of interest; to Mr. Bligh Bond for his notes on the architecture of the churches; and to Mr. H. St. G. Gray for his labours in arranging all the business part of the programme. Mr. Hobhouse added the name of Mr. Harbin, the assiduous excursion secretary, and the votes of thanks were unanimously passed with much applause.

South Cadbury Church.

The members then visited South Cadbury Church. Mr. BLIGH BOND's notes provide the following description:—

This Church is chiefly of the XV Century, and shows evidence of careful design and finish. The arrangement of the plinths externally, the ornate panelled chancel arch, and the well-moulded nave roof, are indications of superior effort. The tower is a graceful composition, very good of its kind, but not ambitious. On the north side is a turret which no doubt contained the stair to the rood-loft. This is now cleared out and used as a pulpit recess. On the chancel wall close behind the pulpit are the remains of a very pretty little niche for a figure, and on the south side of the arch is a hagnioscope, small and plain. The tower arch is a good piece of XV Cen-

tury work, very bold in design. The south aisle contains some earlier work. The arcade separating it from the nave appears to be late XIII Century. The banded shafts to the responds are a very unusual feature. Phelps records that this aisle was taken down and rebuilt in 1835, and extended behind the chancel. Part of the south wall was however not touched, for when the plaster was removed from the wall during a restoration in 1874, portions of an early window and a mutilated piscina were discovered. In 1876, the Rev. J. A. Bennett had the new plaster removed, and on making a larger opening it was discovered that one jamb of a window was still in position, and that it was covered with a fresco painting of a bishop drawn in red and black on the plaster. This may fairly be assumed to represent St. Thomas à Becket, to whom the Church is dedicated. Mr. Bennett wrote: "Some fifty years ago, when the Church was restored in great measure, I have understood that the whole of the south wall was found to be covered with paintings, and that there was found in a niche in the wall, near where this figure is, a pewter cup, with a lock of hair in it." (*Proceedings*, XXXIII, ii, 165.)

Compton Pauncefoot.

The date of this beautiful little church may be inferred from the terms of the will of Sir Walter Paunssefote knt., made 15 June, 1485,—“I bequethe to the said chirche, to the making thereof, 10 marks; and 20 *li.* to the making of myne ile there, with that that the parishons there will endever themselves to full fynysh yt after thadvice of myne executours.” (*S.R.S.*, XVI, 253.)

Dr. F. J. ALLEN sent the following notes on the stone spire:—There is a mistaken impression that spires are rare in Somerset. As a matter of fact there are seventeen or eighteen ancient stone spires in the county, a number which is only exceeded in the great spire counties of the Midlands. How-

ever the Somerset spires are mostly of small size, the only grand one being that of St. Mary Redcliffe. The most beautiful of the smaller spires is that of Croscombe, and it is interesting to note that the band of ornament on this spire is similar to that on the spires of East Brent and Compton Pauncefoot. The evidence brought forward by Mr. Somerville (*Proc.* LIII, i, 47) would date the Croscombe spire about 1440; and it is quite possible that the Compton tower and spire were of earlier date than the rest of the Church, as the details are of quite early Perpendicular character.

The font is the only relic of the earlier building, and may be dated about 1200. Built up in the wall of the south or Pauncefoot aisle is a stone panel with six shields bearing the arms of the Pauncefoot family, of Anne, daughter and coheir of Sir Walter Pauncefoot, the wife of William Whityng, and of two of their daughters and coheirs, Mary the wife of Humphrey Keynes, and Agnes the wife of Henry Walrond of Bradfield (*Wincanton Field Club*, 9th report, 1897).

North Cadbury Church.

The party was welcomed by the Rev. H. A. BOYS, Rector of the parish, who gave an interesting address on this magnificent building.

From this address and the notes of Mr. BLIGH BOND, together with the account by Mr. Buckle in *Proceedings*, Vol. xxx, the following account has been drawn up.

Visitors cannot fail to be impressed by the fine proportions of this Church (dedicated to St. Michael). There is a quality about its design which differentiates it from other parish churches in the district, and places it in a superior rank. This peculiarity arises from its history. It appears that in 1423 Elizabeth Lady de Botreaux the elder and William Lord de Botreaux obtained leave to found and endow in the parish church here *per ipsam de nova edificata et constructa a*

college for seven secular chaplains, one of whom to be rector, and for four clerks.¹ The only relics of the older building are the font (late Decorated, according to Pridham), and portions of the piers and capitals of the nave arcades. These are all alike, and all have the same Decorated mouldings, but it is not probable that the earlier church can have supplied them all; the presumption is that the old stones were re-used as far as they would go, and the rest made to match. All the piers have Perpendicular bases.

One of the most striking features about the Church is its excessive symmetry; there is even a two-storey porch on the north side to match that on the south, and the only difference in the two elevations arise from the presence of the tower stair-turret on the south side and the vestry on the north.

The great size of the chancel is due to the fact that the Church was designed to be collegiate; and the high blank walls on either side were originally hidden by the canopy work of the stalls, part of which survived until recently, but all has now unfortunately been destroyed. Gerard, supposing that the college was founded by the Lord Botreaux and his wife, writes: "In this church they both lye interred under an auncient tombe adjoyning to the High Altar while it stood, where you may see their effigies on the topp, and on the bulke of it amongst other Armes 3 severall Coates borne by this family."² This tomb has been removed to the tower and deprived of all the heraldry emblazoned on it. The armour of the male figure and the dress of the female are of the period of the licence, 1423. If, as is most probable, they were intended for the foundress and her husband, the sculptor preferred to portray the lady as she appeared at the time of her husband's death, the faces of the figures, illustrated in *Som. & Dors. N. & Q.*, VI, 289, being decidedly youthful. In consequence they have been assigned to William the second Lord

1. Patent Roll, 2 Hen. VI; 18 Dec., 1423.

2. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, XV, 190.

Botreaux and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John de St. Lo, who predeceased his mother, and even to William third Lord Botreaux and his first wife Elizabeth Beaumont.

The bench-ends are a notable feature, and rather similar in design to those at Alford. (Three of them are illustrated in Part i of this Volume.) One near the west end of the nave gangway has the rebus of Richard Beere, Abbot of Glastonbury (two jugs and cross).

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER in a few remarks pointed out that on Feb. 23, 1417 (P.R., 4 Hen. V), Elizabeth, late the wife of Wm. Botreaux the elder, obtained leave to found a college in North Cadbury Church. A similar licence was granted on Dec. 18, 1423 (P.R., 2 Hen. VI); neither licence ever took any effect. Lady Elizabeth died in 1432.

Mr. Weaver read an abstract of the will of William Lord Botreaux, grandson of the said Lady Elizabeth, which is printed in "Dugdale's Baronage," I, 630. This will was made in 1415, when he was about to accompany Henry V on his expedition into France; it was made more than forty years before his death, and it was suggested that his absence from England, and possibly a loss of income from his estate, may have been the cause why the licence was never put into force.

North Cadbury Manor House.

By the kind invitation of Mr. A. L. Langman, C.M.G., and Mrs. Langman, the party were able to examine the manor-house, which was undergoing an extensive restoration, with a considerable re-arrangement of the interior. Gerard, writing c. 1630, says:—"It was lately the possession of Sir Francis Hastings, a younger branch of that family, who adorned it with a faire beautiful house, and after sold it unto Matthew Ewens one of the Barons of the Exchequer" (*S.R.S.*, xv, 191). The original house was of the usual Elizabethan type, a hall with porch and bay window balancing each other on the north side, and advancing wings on the south side forming

three sides of a courtyard. This has been swept away, and the south front rebuilt in a plain Italian style, and a similar fate has befallen the imposing gatehouse, which formerly guarded the entrance to the fore-court on the north side.

Afterwards the party were entertained to tea, and when the President had thanked Mr. and Mrs. Langman for their kind hospitality, the Castle Cary meeting of 1913 came to an end.