

## Second Day's Proceedings.

The members left Taunton Castle in motor cars and char-à-bancs at 10 a.m., and proceeded to Hembury Fort, *viâ* Wellington, Willand, and the Honiton Road.

# 1400963

### Hembury Fort.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY described the earthwork and regretted that the members did not see this ancient site under the most favourable conditions that day, owing to the growth of bracken. Early spring would be a better time to study this great work in detail.

Hembury Fort was situated  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles in a bee line w.n.w. of Honiton, and Ottery St. Mary was 5 miles to the south. Cullompton was  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the w.n.w., and Exeter 14 miles to the s.w. The "fort," which was 880 feet above mean sea-level, had been spoken of as "the grandest monument of military skill and strategy of the Britons in the County of Devon." In length it measured 360 yards, and the maximum width, which was at the north end, was 110 yards.

Entrenchments surrounded Hembury, at varying distances, in all directions. Castle Neroche was on the n.e., Membury and Pillsdon on the e., Musbury on the s.e., Sidbury on the s., Woodbury on the s.w., and Cadbury<sup>2</sup> on the w.

Hembury was a contour fort, with earthworks following the natural outline of the hill. There were triple ramparts on all

1. There is another Hembury in this county—Hembury Castle, near Buckfastleigh, which has been described as being of Norman origin.

2. This "Camp" must not be confused with the three Somerset Cadburys. We refer to (1) the well-preserved entrenchment near Clevedon, (2) the smaller earthwork near Yatton, and (3) Cadbury Castle, or Camelot, where some trial excavations were conducted in 1913 (*Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LIX, ii. 1-24)

sides but the east, where there were two, and on the N.W.—the weakest point—where there were four. The chief or western entrance was that by which the members entered the enclosure. In the position of the N.E. entrance the inner vallum was recurved and a small mound could be traced between the ramparts. At the south end there was a smaller “hidden” entrance with an ogee curve. Other structural features were the double traverses dividing the enclosed area, a central mound to the south of this with a slight encircling fosse, and the enclosure at the extreme south end which appeared to be of comparatively late date. Such cross-earthworks as we had here, and at Musbury and Pillsdon and many other “camps,” had sometimes been regarded as indicating the limits of a smaller and earlier stronghold before enlargement to present dimensions. It would, however, be safer to entrench the whole of the hilltop at one time. If only half the “camp” was formed at first it would have imperilled the besieged by giving the attacking force as good a position as they themselves held. It had been suggested that the division caused by such cross-earthworks might perhaps have served as successive defences should the other and greater works be carried; they might at least confuse an intruding invader and divide his forces. On the other hand these internal banks might possibly define that portion of the “camp” allotted to cattle and horses. Caesar and Strabo recorded that the Britons collected their animals and kept them within their strongholds.

Mounds, which often proved to be burial-mounds, were not infrequently met with in such entrenchments as Hembury. Small Down Camp, near Evercreech, contained no less than eleven barrows; Scratchley Camp, near Warminster, had seven; Hollingbury, near Brighton, had four.<sup>1</sup> The presence of burial-mounds in no way suggested the occupation of a “camp” as a constant habitation for the living, but rather the contrary.

Although Hembury has been ploughed, there were records of little having been found, beyond an iron figure illustrated

1. For additional notes on this subject see “Excavations at Small Down Camp,” *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, L, ii, 46.



in *Archæologia*.<sup>1</sup> Roman coins were said to have been found at Hembury, but there appeared to be no definite record.

### Payhembury Church.

A short drive from Hembury Fort brought the members to Payhembury, where they were welcomed by the vicar, the Rev. H. L. Parry.

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND said the rood-screen to the nave and north aisle was of the usual Devonshire type with fan-vaulting, in ten bays. The cornice contained some good carved enrichments, but the effect was heavy owing to the addition of several mouldings of a relatively large section along the top, including a strawberry-leaf cornice not very refined in execution as compared with the old work. The whole was brightly coloured and gilt, and had a striking effect when seen with the ceiling over, which was also illuminated and gilt. The screen was said to date from 1450, and showed the Bourchier knot and the arms of Courtenay, Ferrers and Malherbe. On the whole the Church impressed one as having been well cared for and the object of much munificence, though it contained no objects of special interest from the antiquarian point of view.

### Cadhay House.

The members continued their drive *viâ* Sidmouth Junction Station to Cadhay House, where they were welcomed by Mrs. W. C. Dampier Whetham. Before viewing the interior of the house, the members partook of their luncheon in the beautiful garden, and Mrs. Whetham kindly provided light refreshments in the dining-hall, for which she was cordially thanked.

The first records of Cadhay appear in the reign of Edward I, when it was in possession of a family of the same name. This courtyard house was built chiefly by John Haydon (1545-87), but it contains traces of an earlier structure, and alterations were made in Georgian times, especially to the entrance-front on the north. The courtyard, which is faced with an irregular chequer-work of flint and sandstone, has an elaborately carved

1. Vol. XIV, 279.

niche on each side containing nearly contemporary figures of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth. The rooms facing to the east and the long gallery on the south retain their Tudor character. The great hall, of the end of the XIV Century, has been divided horizontally, but the remains of the original moulded oak roof are visible. Several stone Tudor chimney-pieces have recently been uncovered. That in the dining-hall, above a quatrefoil design, has a row of alternate shields and lozenges, containing arms of the families of Poulett, Grenville, Harvey, Southcott, Haydon and Every; while in the bedroom to the south-west is another chimney-piece showing Poulett and Poulett impaling Kenn. John Haydon was succeeded by his great-nephew Robert, whose initials and the date 1617 can be seen under the statue of Elizabeth. The estate eventually passed into the hands of William Peere Williams in 1737. The present owners undertook some restoration in 1910, when as little interference as possible was made with good workmanship, whether Tudor or Georgian.

### **Ottery St. Mary.**

A short drive brought the party to Ottery St. Mary. After seeing a fine Tudor chimney-piece in the kitchen of the Vicar's house (the Rev. J. W. Metcalfe), a short visit was paid to the Chanter's House, the residence of the Rt. Hon. Lord Coleridge, where the members were received by Lady Coleridge. Lord Coleridge, being on circuit, was unable to be present. The room in which Oliver Cromwell once held a conference with local residents and the handsome modern library were seen, after which the members left for the Church, the exterior of which was viewed first.

### **The Church of St. Mary, Ottery.**

The Church was described by the Rev. J. F. CHANTER, F.S.A., and Mr. F. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A., the former of whom dealt chiefly with the history of the building and the latter mainly with the architecture. The following are summaries of their remarks:—



*The Rev. J. F. Chanter.*

The minster, built by Bishop Grandisson, in honour of our Lord Jesus Christ, the blessed Virgin Mary his glorious mother, St. Edward the Confessor, and All Saints, at Ottery St. Mary is one of the most remarkable of the Devonshire Churches. Ottery was formerly divided into three districts, Ottery St. Mary, Ottery St. Budock and Ottery St. Saviour, and the first part evidently took its name from the Church of St. Mary the Virgin at Rouen, to which the manor was granted in A.D. 1061. There was undoubtedly a Norman church here in the XII Century, and the names of two of its vicars are preserved in documents belonging to the Church of Rouen ; but its real history commences with the note that Bishop Bronescombe on December 4th, 1259, dedicated the Church of St. Mary Ottery. It was probably a very poor and small affair, for there is plenty of evidence that the Church at Rouen did not want to spend money on this place, but rather to make money out of it ; and what you see to-day is not Bronescombe's work—though at first sight the lancet windows and the simplicity of design give some colour to a theory that was formerly held, though now exploded, that parts of it date from his time,—but the work of Bishop Grandisson and those that came after him. In 1335 the Church and Manor were transferred from the Dean and Chapter of Rouen to Grandisson ; in 1337 the licence of Edward III was granted to establish a Collegiate Church for secular canons, and on Christmas Eve of the same year it was conveyed to the warden and ministers of the new college. It was a foundation for the benefit of the souls of the Bishop's family and friends, for forty clerks and ministers governed by a warden, a chanter, a minister and a sacrist, and when completed consisted of a great quadrangle with the Church in the centre. The buildings that formed the quadrangle were the warden and chanter's houses, with the canons' houses between forming the west side ; the sacrist's and manor houses on the north ; the cloisters (54 feet long by 18 feet broad), the library (48 feet long, with six windows), the chapter house and the great gate on the south ; and then the great Church itself, which in ground plan was a reduced copy of the Cathedral of Exeter.

The planning is exactly similar, but the completion of Exeter had been a heavy drain on the bishop's fund, and Ottery had to be built "on the cheap;" hence its marked absence of ornamental features. One great later addition there was to Grandisson's church; Cecily Bonville, the great heiress of the west, was the owner of Knightstone in this parish; she had married the Marquis of Dorset in 1501, and secondly Lord Stafford in 1503, and in her second husband's life built for the parishioners the Dorset Aisle with its beautiful fan-vaulting. The College was dissolved in 1545, and its possessions shared the fate that befell so many of our noblest foundations in the great pillage, but the Church, granted to a corporation of four governors, was fortunately preserved, and though it suffered severely from the puritan fanatics, and afterwards from the bad taste of the XVII and XVIII Centuries, was magnificently restored in 1850, suffering however drastic treatment in which many of its characteristic features were ruthlessly destroyed.

*Mr. F. Bligh Bond.*

The existing fabric is principally the work of Bishop Grandisson (1338-1342) and has been thought to embody some parts of an older church erected by Bishop Bronescombe. The aisle walls of the quire have been cited as evidence of the incorporation of older work, since the detail of their window openings have seemed to give colour to the theory. But there is a sense of unity in the interior aspect of the Church, which would suggest a complete scheme rather than an adjustment, and there is an integral connection between the walls of aisles and quire, since the roofing of these very narrow aisles is effected by a continuous vaulting of plain barrel section with an angular inclination against the quire walls, thus acting as a continuous 'flying buttress.'

Grandisson's work probably began with the transeptal parts of the Church, next following with the quire, and subsequently adding the Lady Chapel. Possibly some of Bronescombe's work may survive in the lower parts of the transeptal towers. The two lower stages of the transepts are claimed to be genuine Early English. Whatever our judgment of the



date of the quire-aisles, the south aisle of the nave would appear to be later, for the quasi-Early English lights seem a poorer copy of those in the east part, and have one rear-arch instead of two.

Bishop Grandisson would normally have worked in the Decorated style of his period, or even in the simple early type of Perpendicular, as at Edington or at Gloucester, where it was perhaps initiated. But whether by choice or by constraint he chose the simpler and undoubtedly less expensive method of copying the Early English. This fact has led antiquaries to suppose that the building was an adaptation to older work prompted by a desire for symmetry or unity.

But the question of economy must have due weight. The many parallels with Exeter have often been discussed and need but little comment here. It is of interest to note that a leaden spire surmounts the north tower, as was the case at Exeter till 1752.

Several letters preserved in the Bishop's Registry confirm the developments of Grandisson's plan. One of his latest works was the thickening of the east and west walls for the addition of ornamental niches, which he designed to hold statuary conveying a special teaching.

The south porch is among the later additions. Over the inner door is a panel with the Royal Arms, quarterly France (modern) and England, within the Garter; the supporters a dragon sinister, and a lion dexter, with date 1571 and initials I. H. This porch covers the door which would originally have led to the cloisters. The "Dorset" Aisle on the north side of nave is of about the time of Bishop Oldham (1505-1519). His rebus (Owl-Dom) is seen on the s.w. pier-cap. The chapel also exhibits the Stafford knot, and the bull-heads of the Hastings family.

The shallow portico at the west end of the nave offers us an instance of the use in the XIV Century of the four-centred arch so generally associated with a much later period.

Allusion must be made to the unique series of Consecration Crosses set in the masonry of this Church. Of these there are thirteen altogether. One now set in the western part of the south nave aisle is a later insertion, having probably been

removed from the north side when the Dorset Aisle was added. Each cross is set within a quatrefoil surrounded by a circle and a square outside, and each of the panels holds a three-quarter length figure of an angel, upon whose breast appears a plain Greek cross.

The north porch is a fine piece of masonry with a two-storied parvise. A shield over the entrance is said to bear the merchant's mark of Thos. Goodwyn of Plymtree, lord of the manor at this date. The arms (now obliterated) in the niche itself are probably those of Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire (d. 1523), impaling those of his wife Cecily, dowager Marchioness of Dorset.

The Dorset Aisle seems to have been devised for the better accommodation of the parishioners. Its carved bench-ends are co-eval.

The interior of the Church has been much altered and spoilt, the levels altered by the reduction of the height of the floor at the crossing, bringing the transepts to the nave level. This was done in 1850, and much old work was then destroyed. The vaulting of the quire recalls that of Wells in the largeness of the area of barrelled surface unbroken by groins.

The quire screen, with its gallery, was standing until the beginning of the XIX Century. On its west face it carried paintings in niches like those at Exeter on a smaller scale. Twenty of the old oak stalls remain, some re-arranged in the quire, others set in the Lady Chapel. On the s. side of the presbytery are three canopied sedilia, and on the north the remains of an Easter Sepulchre, now worked into an Elizabethan tomb.

The reredos is defaced and painfully modernised, but the cornice remains, and shows a row of ten emblazoned coats of arms replacing older ones of which they are replicas in stone. In the entrance to the Lady Chapel is a minstrels' gallery; the arcades of the screen beneath are old, but the balcony is modern and coarse in design.

After Tea, at the Church Institute, the vehicles left Ottery at 5.15 p.m., proceeding to Taunton *via* Honiton, Upottery and Blagdon Hill.





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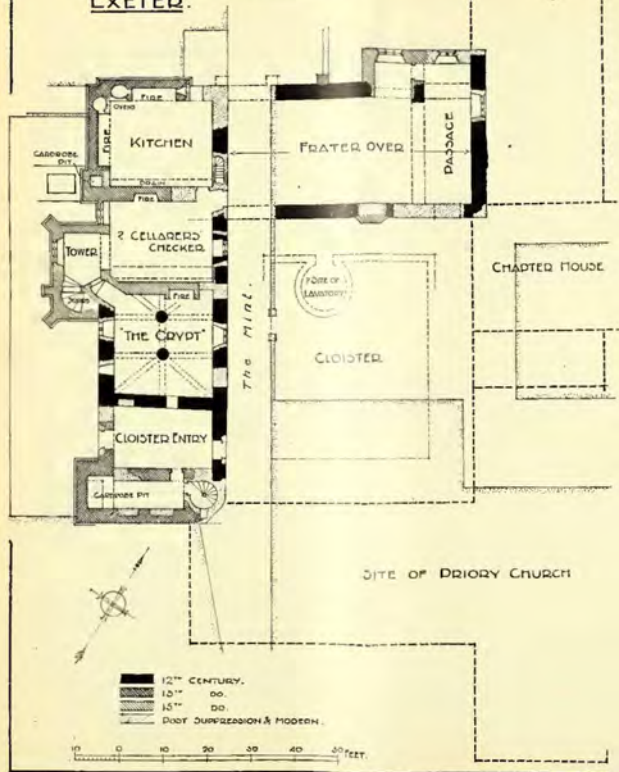
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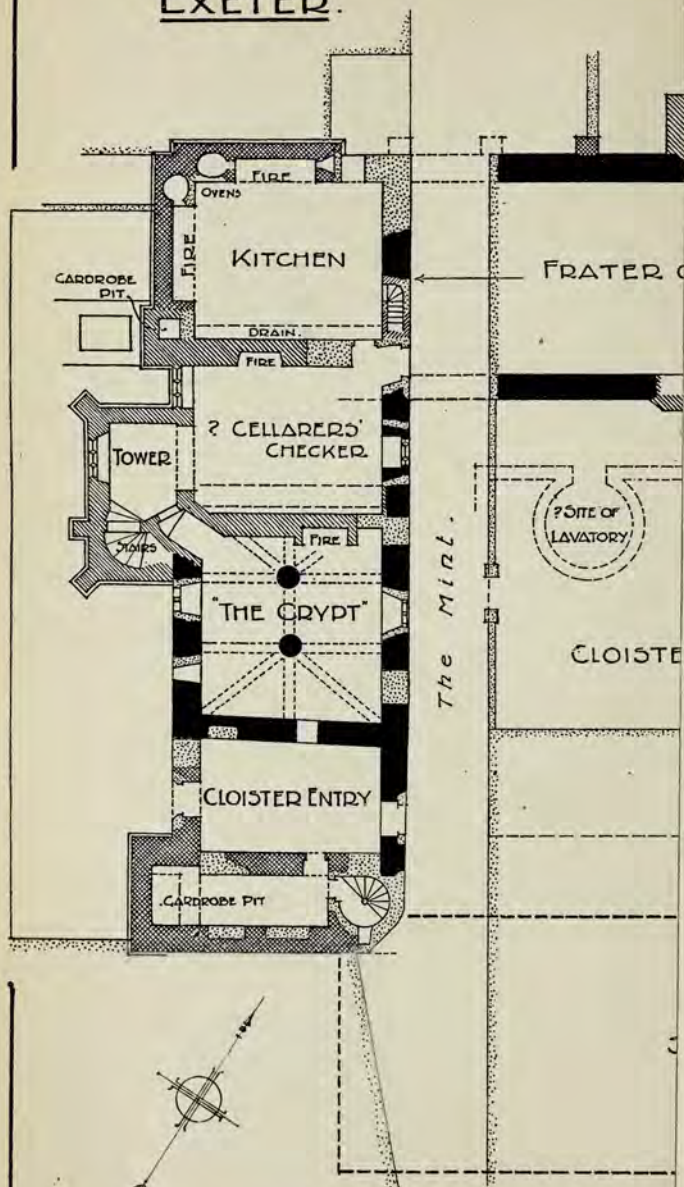
# ST NICHOLAS' PRIORY.

EXETER.

Plan measured and plotted by  
HAROLD BRANSPEAR, F.S.A., and LEWIS F. TONAR.



# ST NICHOLAS' PRIORY EXETER.



- 12<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.
- 13<sup>TH</sup> DO.
- 15<sup>TH</sup> DO.
- POST SUPPRESSION & MODERN.

10    0    10    20    30    40    50 FEET



## Third Day's Proceedings.

### City of Exeter.

The majority of the members attending the meeting this day left Taunton by the 10.2 a.m. train to St. David's Station, Exeter; a special tram-car was in waiting and conveyed the party to Queen Street, where they were met by other members of the Society and Mr. HARBOTTLE REED, F.R.I.B.A., who kindly acted as guide until noon. The perambulation included the Rougemont Gardens, the City Walls and the Castle which was formed by Baldwin, at the Conqueror's command. To that period belonged the so-called "Athelstane Tower" which was the chief gatehouse to the inner bailey. The great ditch remains upon the west and south sides. Before reaching the Cathedral Close a richly decorated XVI Century room in a business house was viewed. In the Close the Elizabethan house at the eastern end occupies the site of the town residence of the abbots of Buckfastleigh. The Law Library possesses a fine hammer-beam roof and the trusses have angels bearing shields.

The members were met at noon at the northern door of the nave of the Cathedral by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Exeter, the Rev. F. A. SANDERS, who ably described the edifice, both from a historical and architectural point of view. The Cathedral plate was set out in the vestry, and some of the members remained to see the Exon Domesday and the "Exeter Book" of Anglo-Saxon poems in the Library.

After luncheon the members placed themselves under the guidance of Mr. LEWIS F. TONAR and met at the Hall of the Vicars Choral in South Street, which was founded by Bishop Brantyngham in 1388 upon a site known as Calenderhay, and of this date is the present hall with its open timber roof.

St. Nicholas Priory (Plan, Plate I) was the next place visited, a copy of the new guide book to which, written by Mr. H. Lloyd Parry, Town Clerk, and Mr. Harold Brakspear, was presented by the City to each of the members. The main work of restoration was completed and the building formally

opened to the public on November 1st, 1916. This Benedictine priory was an ancient foundation given by the Conqueror to Battle Abbey. It now consists of the remains of the western range and the frater. The former contains two bays of an early subvault, and has an entrance tower of the XV Century, with a room of the same date having a post-suppression plaster ceiling. The Saxon cross-shaft was greatly admired; after having passed through interesting vicissitudes, extending over a period of 375 years, this stone has now been restored to its ancient home at the priory.

After leaving the Priory a short perambulation of the southern part of the City was made, including a visit to the Hall of the Guild of Tuckers, Weavers and Shearmen, the walls of which are finely panelled in oak in 1634. The armour and weapons hanging on the walls belonged to the Merchant Venturers' Company. The ancient corporation still administers its own charities.

Continuing the walk down Fore Street the visitors were shown the position of the West Gate, and then spent a few minutes in St. Mary Steps Church (with its curious XVI Century clock), before proceeding up the Clovelly-like street known as Stepcote Hill, near the top of which a halt was made at the corner of King Street and Preston Street to see an ancient house, parts of which dated from the XII Century.

At the Guildhall the members were received by the Mayor (Sir James Owen), the Deputy-Mayoress (Mrs. Bradley Rowe), and the Town Clerk, Mr. H. Lloyd Parry, B.S.C., LL.D., and were kindly entertained to tea by the Mayor and Mayoress; the latter, however, was unable to attend through illness.

Mr. LLOYD PARRY described the Guildhall in a most interesting and able manner, and assigned the present building to 1330, but considerable restorations were carried out within the period 1464-86. He also described the City regalia and seals, which were exhibited, and the most important of the muniments. His address was based on that which he gave on the occasion of the visit of the Royal Archæological Institute in 1913, and a concise account of the Guildhall, etc., will be found in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. LXX, 1913, pp. 514-517, 519-521.



The President, Mr. HENRY BALFOUR, cordially thanked the Mayor, the Town Clerk and all the others who had helped to make the day so interesting and entertaining.

The majority of the members returned to Taunton by the 5.31 p.m. train, but several remained in Exeter until the next train in order that they might see the public Museum, which forms part of the Royal Albert Memorial, in Queen Street.

## Glastonbury Abbey Excavations.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, Oct. 1, 1918, to Dec. 31, 1919.

### GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION FUND.

| RECEIPTS.                                 | £   | s. | d. | PAYMENTS.                                               | £   | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| By Balance of Former Account .. ..        | 46  | 1  | 9  | To Labour, Aug.-Oct., 1919                              | 42  | 1  | 3  |
| „ Donations—                              |     |    |    | „ Workmen's Insurance, one year to 26 Sept., 1920 .. .. | 4   | 5  | 9  |
| Mrs. Harcastle ..                         | 5   | 0  | 0  | „ Cheque Books, Taunton and Glastonbury                 | 0   | 6  | 2  |
| Mrs. Knowlson ...                         | 5   | 0  | 0  | „ Postages .. ..                                        | 0   | 4  | 0  |
| Taunton Field Club                        | 2   | 2  | 0  | „ Sundries .. ..                                        | 0   | 7  | 0  |
| „ Box Collections at Glastonbury Abbey .. | 8   | 16 | 5  | „ Balance in hand—                                      |     |    |    |
| „ Proceeds of Lecture by F. Bligh Bond .. | 3   | 14 | 8  | At Taunton £19 1 3                                      |     |    |    |
| „ Interest on Deposit Account, 1918 ..    | 0   | 19 | 5  | At Glastonbury                                          | £6  | 5  | 8  |
| „ Ditto, 1919 .. ..                       | 0   | 16 | 10 | 25                                                      | 6   | 11 |    |
|                                           | £72 | 11 | 1  |                                                         | £72 | 11 | 1  |

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Hon. Treasurer.*