

## Third Day's Proceedings.

### Priddy Church.

Fortunately for Wednesday's programme which entailed a long drive over the Mendip Hills, the weather was everything that could be desired, and the party was a large one.

The first stop was at Priddy, where the Rev. W. H. Creaton welcomed the Society, and the Rev. E. H. BATES, one of the Hon. Secs., gave a short description of the building. They had, he said, probably noticed that this Church was very plain, as they might expect for a building in a high and exposed position; and it seemed to have weathered the storms remarkably well. As to the date of the Church he might remind them of what Professor Freeman once said "that the longer he lived in Somerset the less he was inclined to give any date to a Perpendicular piece of architecture in the county." It was so early and continued so long that it was a very difficult thing to give an exact date unless they had some documentary evidence to support it.

In the arcade of the north aisle he saw Perpendicular pillars and capitals, and above them arches with Decorated mouldings; so that the builders appear to have worked in both styles at the same time. The oldest thing in the Church was undoubtedly the font, which might very well be of the XI Century. The pulpit was of stone; and it was difficult to see how the preacher could avoid falling out of it, owing to its peculiar construction.

Mr. Bligh Bond had commented on the screenwork in Vol. LIII, ii, 97, of the *Proceedings*. The rood-screen and the screen on the north side were ancient, but the south aisle section had been added of late years, being the gift of a local family. The old work was probably late XV Century construction (*Proc.* LIII, ii, 86).

The ornaments of the Church included a beautiful piece of medieval needlework now used as an altar-cloth. The seventeenth volume of the *Proceedings* contained an article on the medieval altar frontals of Chedzoy and Chapel Allerton; and the Rev. F. W. Weaver referred to others at Bruton and Glastonbury. There were also an Elizabethan cup and cover by 'I.P.,' dated 1573.

The Vicar drew attention to an inscription in the belfry referring to the restoration of the tower after the great storm of 1703.

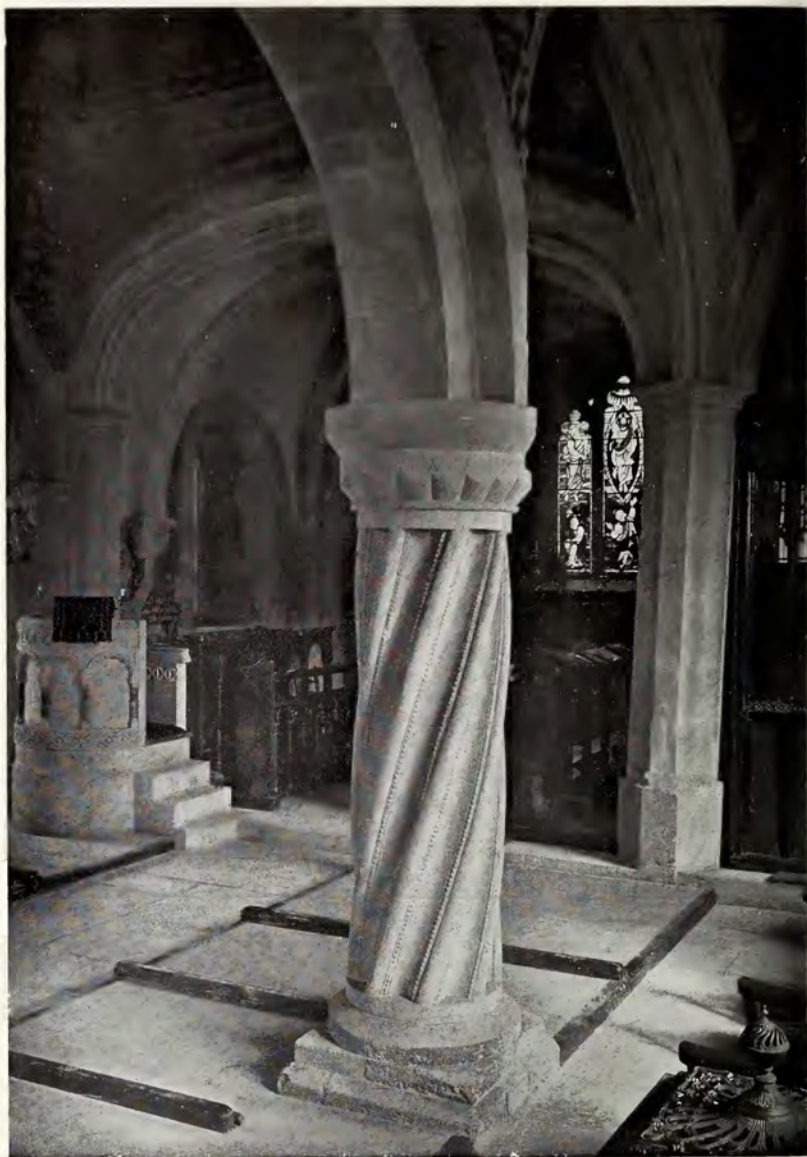
### **"Amphitheatre" at Charterhouse.**

The drive was then resumed until Charterhouse was reached, and the "Amphitheatre" was described by Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY with special reference to the excavations he had recently conducted there on behalf of the Society, the funds for the purpose being provided by the kindness of several of their members. Mr. Gray's paper is printed, with illustrations, in Part II.

### **Compton Martin Church.**

Compton Martin was the next place visited, the drive being varied by a walk through a beautiful wood between "Whitegate" and the village. Luncheon was provided at the Ring of Bells Inn.

Subsequently the members ascended the hill to St. Michael's Church, where the Rector, the Rev. J. CAIRNS, was in waiting.



COMPTON MARTIN CHURCH.  
PILLAR ON SOUTH SIDE OF NAVE.

*From a Photograph by J. R. H. Weaver*



The Society paid a visit to this Church in 1873 when it was described by Professor Freeman (*Proc.* XIX, i, 26).<sup>1</sup> In the absence of the Diocesan Architect, the Rector gave a careful account of the different portions of the building; but Mr. Bligh Bond's notes are also utilized in the following description.

The Church is one of quite unusual interest and contains work of at least three different periods.

(i). Romanesque of the XII Century. This portion includes the nave, arcade and clerestory, the latter a unique feature in this county, the chancel with the exception of the arch, which is a late Perpendicular substitute, and the font. The vaulting of the chancel is especially noteworthy; the bold cross-rib, with its fine chevron moulding, and the well-developed diagonal ribs are a good instance of the advance which the English masons had made in the art of vaulting over their Continental brethren. The vaulting here is something like that in Durham Cathedral which dates about 1130. The ancient proportions of the chancel are spoilt by later alterations. The original arch would have been narrower, and there may have been an apse at the east end. The east window of 'Norman type' dates from the middle of the XIX Century when the original Perpendicular one was removed. The side windows are Decorated and later insertions, while the Norman jambs and sills remain. The nave arcade shows a remarkable pillar on the south-east with fluted shaft, recalling the character of the work at Durham. It will be noted that this feature corresponds in position with the enriched "Prentice pillar" of later date at Rosslyn Chapel. Of this period is the corbel-table outside the clerestory wall; it bears a rich zigzag moulding with perles, recalling a similar feature in St. Mary's Chapel at Glastonbury.

(ii). The windows of the north aisle are Perpendicular, rather of the earlier sort, but they have been much restored. Of the same date is the tomb recess in the north wall, in which

1. An illustration of the interior will be found in *Proc.* LIII, i, 89.

has been placed a recumbent effigy of an earlier date. The inscription in Lombardic letters has not yet been deciphered. The dress would indicate an individual of the yeoman class; and it may commemorate a member of the Bykefold family, who held the manor of that name down to the latter end of the XIV Century. The local tradition that there was a nunnery at Bykefold manor, which is described in *Proceedings* XIX, i, 29, seems to be based on the fact that the Abbot of St. Mary Graces had some interest in the land, but whether by way of rent charge or mortgage is not clear. (*Cal. Anc. Deeds*, B. 843).

(iii). The south aisle is of the later Perpendicular period, and when this was built, the last arch of the nave on the south side with the first bay of the chancel and the whole of the east wall of the nave were rebuilt, so that now there is a Perpendicular column at the south-west angle of the chancel, in place of the old wall and responds of Norman date.

The tower is of graceful design, but is distinctly a very late work; perhaps about 1530. William Saunders in his will, 1539, left two shillings 'to the reparacion of the parish church of Compton Martyn'; and William Reynes left, in 1543, one hundred of lead (*S.R.S.*, XXI, 56, 79.)

Above the chancel vault is a chamber under the roof, approached by a doorway high up in the north wall. It seems to have been intended for a columbarium with opening over the east window through a pierced quatrefoil.

There was until the middle of the last century a rood-screen which has now vanished. (*Proc.*, LIII, ii, 89). At present there are screens enclosing a chapel at the east end of the south aisle. That portion which is a continuation of the rood-screen is good vigorous work of the best Perpendicular period. The portion on the south side of the chancel is, to judge from the date 1639 carved on it, a reconstruction of older work such as we see at Pilton, where the doors and lower panels are of the later period.



## **Chewton Mendip Church.**

Arriving at Chewton Mendip, the members visited the Church of St. Mary, where the Rev. E. H. BATES said he must first of all begin by expressing his regret, in which they would all join, at the absence of the Vicar, the Rev. C. Young, who was too ill to be present that afternoon. In the second place he had to regret the absence of Mr. BLIGH BOND, who had compiled most of the following notes on the architecture of the building.

The Church was remarkable in many ways. It contained work of many periods showing a great variety of styles. The font and the arcade on the south side of the chancel were Early English (XIII Century). The style of the south chancel arcade would suggest a date about 1220.

In the chancel arch they had the remains of a yet older church,—Romanesque of the early XII Century. The arched recess in the wall on the north side was the reredos arch of a former altar, and the original arrangement would probably have shown a similar one on the south side and between them a chancel arch about nine feet wide; yet it looked as if the chancel had been added to about a century later, and, as frequently happened, the arch was widened. The jamb on the north side appeared to belong to the original Norman arch. They should note the XIII Century fresco scroll-work on the south side of the arch just above the Norman capital.

The nave arcade in the eastern portion was also XIII Century. There was a distinction between the first capitals and the western one and the western respond. The western half was of the XIV Century, and probably took the place of a solid wall, as there was no evidence that the aisle was existing at an earlier date. This part of the arcade was apparently built at the same time as the west part of the aisle. The characters were intermediate between Decorated and Perpendicular.

The window in the south wall, west of the porch, was Decorated, and the inner doorway of the south porch was the same, probably not later than 1340. Over the doorway was a niche and a very interesting tabling with remains of colour. In the porch was a bench-table of old stone, with the remains of a curious incised cross. The members should note the whorls at the ends of the arms.

The porch was rebuilt in the worst possible taste, and the eastern part of the aisle externally had been much spoilt by restoration. They should note one gargoyle head retained in the parapet, and a panel with the date incised showing a former restoration,—R.H. 1636. I.A.

C.W. . . . (*i.e.* Churchwardens.)

The old north doorway of the nave survived and was good Norman work. The windows in the north wall were of the period intermediate between Decorated and Perpendicular, and probably dated from about 1340 or 1350, but the three-light window just east of the north door might be a little later. The cusping was of the XV Century type. Externally this wall showed some remarkable gargoyles and a flat buttress at the north-east corner of early date.

The north wall of the chancel was good early XIV Century work with a remarkable cornice and corbel-table externally. Its east window was modern and false to the period.

The east window of the south chancel chapel was of good early Perpendicular type, but had cusping of a pattern which denoted XIV Century work. Mr. Bond was inclined for various reasons to consider this as a work of the XIV Century, —say about 1380. There were remains of a XIII Century double piscina in the chancel and another of later date (XV Century) adjoining. The sedilia had heads of XV Century type.

The Church had suffered from ignorant and too expensive restorations. The arch to the south chancel chapel from the aisle was very poor and the chancel roof of nondescript style.



The bench-ends were excellent XV Century work (about 1480).

The tower was, of its kind, the finest work in Somerset, perfect in proportion, in finish and in general conception. It was indeed a poem in stone. He did not wish to draw comparisons between it and others of rather different type, as they had their own excellencies. For instance, St. Cuthbert's, Wells, was equally fine of its kind, but the conception was different. Also towers like Huish Episcopi could not be brought into comparison with Chewton. St. John's, Glastonbury, was akin in design, but not so well proportioned as the tower before them.

The churchyard cross retained its original head with crucifixion groups, and was very valuable as an indication of the probable character of many others of which only the bases or shafts remained. It was of the XV Century.

They should note the stairs to the rood-loft in the north wall of the nave (now blocked), also the steps going westward for a pulpit on the north wall. This feature was visible in other churches of the district; St. Catherine's, and Cold Ashton, near Bath, might be cited.

In Vol. X of *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, p. 97, will be found an illustration of a recess in the sill of a window on the north side of the chancel. Such seats are not uncommon, but in this case a claim had been made that it was a frith-stool or place of sanctuary (*Proc.* XIX, i, 34). The authority cited for this claim was Parker's *Glossary*, which however only mentioned those at Hexham and Beverley. Every church was a sanctuary, but some places had greater privileges. The original position of the Hexham frith-stool is not known; but it was very improbable that a fugitive would be allowed to seat himself on a window-sill in the chancel, where moreover he ran a great risk of being shot in the back.

Tea was afterwards served at the "Waldegrave Arms," Chewton, after which the return journey to Wells was made.



## Conversazione and Local Exhibition.

In the evening the MAYOR OF WELLS (Alderman A. G. RUSS) and the MAYORESS kindly entertained the members of the Society to a Conversazione at the Guildhall. The company included also members of the Corporation and their wives, and members of the Wells Natural History and Archæological Society.

Mr. H. E. BALCH described some of the relics found by Mr. Troup and himself in Wookey Hole Cavern (see pp. 6-8), all of which were exhibited as part of the Loan Collection of Antiquities and Objects of Art, got together for the benefit of the Society under the auspices of the Wells Natural History and Archæological Society.

Mr. BALCH also gave an inspiring lantern lecture on some of the Mendip Caves which he had explored, with special reference to Eastwater Cavern, Swildon's Hole and Wookey Hole (new section).

A short musical programme was contributed and refreshments were served.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE on behalf of the Society, and in the absence of the President, at the close cordially thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for their kind reception, and also Mr. Balch, Mr. Troup, the Rev. H. J. Green and others, who had done the main part of the work in connection with the Loan Exhibition. He wished also to acknowledge the great pleasure it had been to the company to hear Mr. Balch's thrilling lecture on some of the Mendip caverns which he had explored.

The MAYOR OF WELLS briefly replied.

Among the loan exhibits were :—

Romano-British finds from top layer of deposit in Wookey Hole Cavern, including coins from Marcia (B.C. 119) to Gratian, pottery, glass, etc.

Late-Celtic finds from lower levels of same excavation, including pins, needles, articles of bronze, etc.

Bones and teeth from the Hyæna Den, Wookey. Flints and bones from the Neolithic cave at Ebbor. Local photographs and drawings. All exhibited by Messrs. H. E. Balch and R. D. R. Troup.

Series of coins and tokens, chiefly Somerset. Exhibited by Mr. M. Vonberg.

Valuable XVI Century silver, and Illuminated Psalter. Exhibited by the Vicars Choral of Wells Cathedral.

Early charters of the city; Corporation maces and cups; early carved chairs. Exhibited by the Corporation of Wells.

About a dozen late-Celtic and Roman ornaments from excavations near Gloucester. Exhibited by Mr. A. E. Hudd.

Early illuminated MSS.; carved oak matrix of early seal of Dean and Chapter; etc. Exhibited by the Dean and Chapter of Wells.

Early engravings of local interest. Exhibited by Mr. Squire.

Church cross of massive brass, of unknown origin; original sluice discovered in the Palace moat, Wells. Exhibited by Mr. F. Sheldon.

### **Fourth Day's Proceedings.**

### **St. Cuthbert's Church, Wells.**

St. Cuthbert's Church was described by the Vicar, the Rev. Preb. J. BERESFORD, who first of all extended a hearty welcome to the members. He then pointed out how very extensive the parish was for which the Church was intended. The date of the first church was unknown; it was probably a Saxon church, dedicated to St. Cuthbert, perhaps out of a feeling of regard for the memory and the influence of King Alfred, who they knew had a very great affection and reverence for that saint. The dedication had remained unaltered. Chancellor Scott Holmes told them in his recent book of a dedication



by Bishop Godfrey of a restored Saxon church, and perhaps they would have another surprise in the shape of a suggested site for the Saxon church, as they had the other day for the cathedral.

Now it was quite certain that there was a Norman church there erected in Bishop Robert's time. They had only one fragment of the Norman church to show, and it was a very small fragment. He was afraid it must have been made smaller on the visit of some archæological society. Part of the piscina was all they possessed at the present time, but there was a piece of moulding on the western exterior of St. Cuthbert's Chapel, by the south porch, which must be as old as that. He thought Mr. Irving, well known in connection with the restoration of the west front of the cathedral, had an idea that that piece of moulding was as old as anything they could show.

This Church was given by Bishop Robert, 1136-66, to the Dean and Chapter, and probably the first Norman church was rather smaller than this. The present church dated from about 1240, when the charter granted by Robert to the Dean and Chapter was reaffirmed by Bishop Joscelyn, and it was Joscelyn's church, he supposed, in its main features that they were in to-day. He thought probably the Early English church constructed at that period occupied very nearly the same space and the same area as the present church.

There was a very interesting chapel called "St. Cuthbert's Chapel" just west of the south transept, and Mr. Irving thought that chapel was quite as old, if not older, than the rest of the Church. That was a very interesting point. It was probably quite outside the Church; in any case the separated chapel preceded in order of building just like the chantry they had at the end of the north chancel aisle, which was also built on to the Church and had no original connection or opening into the interior. But of course this church had been very much altered from time to time.

The only Early English portions of the Church remaining were the upper portions of the pillars and the capitals—the bases of the pillars were original except where renewed after damage through erection of the old high pews—an Early English window in the south transept and an Early English window on the north side of the Church in the building generally called the Exchequer. The transept had been very much altered; the roofs to them had been heightened since those Early English days, and a large and stately choir had also been built. This was the first part of the great reconstruction which took place in the latter part of the XIV Century.

After quoting what he described as the very excellent summary given by Canon Holmes, in his *History of Wells and Glastonbury*, of the wonderful changes that then took place, Preb. Beresford said in the centre of the Church stood a tower and at that time its four arches must have been much lower than the remaining ones were now. This tower fell, or was so greatly damaged that it had to be taken down; and the damage was repaired in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, 1561. There was a collection made by the Mayor of the town “for the newe making and setting uppe in church wher the styple did stand.” But in the meantime, in 1430, the magnificent west tower of St. Cuthbert’s was completed, and the tower was described by Professor Freeman as one of the noblest towers in Somerset, and therefore one of the noblest towers in England. Mr. Freeman used to put Wrington and St. Cuthbert’s in the first class of Somerset towers.

Those wonderful reredoses in the two transepts specially demanded their attention. Both these altars were dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, one each in the north and south transept; that in the north erected in the early part of the XV Century. That on the other side is also a very interesting reredos which was constructed to illustrate the genealogy of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the prophecy of Isaiah *xi, i*; it must have



been a very beautiful object. They would ask how it came into its present state. When did this destruction take place? He should say in the reign of Edward VI, when the order was given for the destruction of stone altars. It might have taken place even earlier than that, but he was not disposed to reckon it as having taken place in the XVII Century. What became of all this? Well the images were broken to pieces and thrust away in different recesses in the Church.

The Trinity Chapel was the special care of the Corporation of Wells who appointed a warden for the Chapel, and he supposed it was on this account that the Corporation continued to appoint one of the wardens of the Church. The warden for the in-parish was appointed by the Town Council. The same thing prevailed in Chard; he did not know of any other case.

There was also a very interesting point in the south transept; it was also called "Tanner" Chapel; many of the Tanner family were buried in the chapel. There were a great many altars in this Church. There were no less, according to Chancellor Holmes, than sixteen dedications of altars. But there were certainly not sixteen altars; some of the altars must have had two dedications, but they could trace a good many of them. Of course there was the high altar, an altar at each end of the chancel aisles, another in each of the transepts; there was an altar at the east end of St. Cuthbert's Chapel, and no doubt there were two altars just on the west of the rood-screen. Then, to his surprise, he learnt there was an altar just west of the south transept and outside the Trinity Chapel.

Going eastward they would notice the very dignified aspect and arrangement of the chancel in regard to the number of steps leading up to the high altar. In some churches they had too many steps leading up to a very great height, where the ministers were very far above the people; in other churches,



THE PULPIT, ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, WELLS.

*From a Photograph by J. Reginald H. Weaver.*



like the Abbey of Bath, they had not enough elevation to give dignity to it.

He could not say very much for the east window ; that was fifty or sixty years old. He was told that the firm who supplied it would probably be glad for a reasonable sum to provide a better one more in accordance with their work of to-day.

Going out through the west door they would notice a monument to Llewellyn, the founder of one of their almshouses, and it was a very beautiful work of art. The pulpit dated from the early part of the XVII Century, Canon Holmes giving us the date 1636, but he did not know whence he derived his information (*see accompanying illustration*).

Canon SCOTT HOLMES said that first of all they had got to realise that this was not St. Cuthbert's Church ; he did not know what it was, but it was not St. Cuthbert's Church. The pre-Norman building was a Chapel of St. Cuthbert, which stood just east of the south porch, and it was that chapel which was endowed by Bishop Robert in the XII Century, and was intended to be the parish church of the parishioners of Wells. But it was probably Joscelin who built a great Early English cruciform church with a central tower. There was very little of that now standing. What they saw was largely reconstruction and enlargement produced at the end of the XIV Century and during the XV Century. It was an extremely interesting as well as beautiful church, because of its close connection with the people. It was distinctly the people's church as compared with the great church, the church of the bishops and canons.

The burghers of Wells were not formed into a corporation till the XV Century, and the chapel that they built to the west of the north transept was distinctly the Merchants' Chapel, the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Then they found two chapels to the Blessed Virgin.

They knew very little of the building of the beautiful reredos in the north transept which he considered to be an

offering to God by the women of Wells. But the reredos of the altar of the Virgin in the south transept was built in 1471, and a record of the payment for the Jesse canopy and statues is to be found in the corporation minutes of that year.

The building of the grand west tower began about 1410 and was completed about 1430. There was a great deal of enlarging, raising up, and probably rebuilding during the XV Century. He did not think there were two dedications of one altar, but certain documents and wills relating to ancient families of Wells clearly defined where these sixteen altars he had mentioned in his book stood. He had some authority for stating that there was a tablet dated 1636 attached to the pulpit; it is given us in Phelps' "Somerset," but what had become of that tablet he did not know.

The Rev. Preb. J. BERESFORD referred to the earliest register of the Church, dating from the year 1611, and one of the most interesting entries it contained was that of the christening of one of the greatest pillars the English Church had produced, Bishop Bull, the son of a Wells citizen, baptised in that Church on March 31, 1634.

Moving into the churchyard the members were addressed by Dr. F. J. ALLEN with respect to the tower. He stated that so much had been said and written about this tower, that it might be supposed that nothing more could be said worth mentioning. His excuse for speaking about it was, that he had endeavoured to apply the scientific method to the study of our towers. Other observers had classified them according to resemblances which were in some cases accidental; but he had tried to classify them according to their origin. In the Middle Ages, he said, no building was started with an original design; the builders always adapted and modified the designs of buildings already existing, and therefore we could often trace the evolution of forms through a succession of buildings. St. Cuthbert's tower was developed mainly from a combination of the designs of the three cathedral towers; but it showed also



the influence of another design, which was to be seen in the earlier towers of the neighbourhood. The parent form of this latter design was apparently lost, but it *might* have been that of the former tower (central) of St. Cuthbert's Church.

Looking at the cathedral towers in the distance, one could see that each face of those towers was divided completely into tall compartments by pilasters which were continued through the parapet. The upper part of each compartment contained a window or windows<sup>1</sup>; the lower part contained blind panels which continued the lines of the windows. The windows prolonged downwards as panels were seen also at St. Cuthbert's, but the faces of the tower were not completely divided into compartments, for the pilasters ended as pinnacles below the parapet. This was one of the features borrowed from the "other design" previously mentioned. It might be seen that several details of the buttresses and turrets at the cathedral were adopted in the corresponding parts of St. Cuthbert's.

He called attention to a defect in St. Cuthbert's tower, namely that the windows were almost filled up with flat stones, so that their architectural effect was lost, and the tower looked blind. This could hardly be the original arrangement. The windows had probably been filled in the first instance with louver-boards or stone fret-work, as in our other Somerset towers, and the proper effect of St. Cuthbert's would not be realized until the original arrangement was restored.

## **The Deanery.**

Then came a visit to the Deanery, where the DEAN extended a warm welcome to the visitors. Conducted by Dr. Jex-Blake a pleasant hour was spent in investigating the architectural features of the building erected by Dean Gunthorpe, whose work and memory are perpetuated by a number of miniature guns peeping out through the walls, some ready

1. With later alterations in the central tower.

for discharge, a fact which caused the Dean, in the course of a short historical sketch, to observe that they might be fired by one of his people to scatter his approaching visitors. The magnificent north façade of the Deanery excited admiration, accentuated by the charming view of the cathedral to be obtained from the top of the lawn, the three towers standing out clearly—a fact generally commented upon. Then came a stroll in the beautiful garden, looking, with the rest of the grounds, at its best; and subsequently the party was photographed in front of the Deanery.

### **The Vicars' Close.**

A move was then made to the Vicars' Close, where Canon HOLMES, who gave the descriptive narrative, said when Bishop Joscelyn had finished his Church it had already a constitution which had been drawn up by Bishop Robert and developed by Bishop Reginald. There were the canons and a certain class of priests to assist them called the canons' vicars. These men were organised to a certain extent by Bishop Joscelyn, but there was no evidence that he housed them. They had to lodge where they could in the town until the middle of the XIV Century, when Bishop Ralph, of Shrewsbury (1329-63) built the Close, in which he lodged the canons' vicars. As there were fifty canons so there were fifty vicars, and these houses belonged to the latter. The houses now had been very much altered, two being made into one, but they could see by looking at the roofs and chimneys, which were of that date, the form of the original houses. So then they had the Vicars' Close built before the year 1363. What was originally at the north end they could not say exactly, but it was Bishop Bubwith (1422) who undertook the building of the Vicars' Chapel as a Chantry Chapel for the College of Vicars. It was in this century also, during the episcopate of Bishop Beckington, probably about 1460, that there was a great amount of repairing work done. Bishop Beckington's executors also built a chamber



over the Bubwith Chapel for a library. Up to the time of Bishop Beckington there was no connection between the Vicars' Close and the Cathedral Church, and the arch, with passage over the road and staircase down towards the Chapter House, was built in 1459.

A visit was then made to the Vicars' Hall with its eastern extension over the south entrance of the Close. The hall is now used by the Freemasons, and the eastern portion was made in the first two decades of the XVI Century. The beautiful panel-work and stained glass, mainly of the XIV Century, with other distinctive features, were pointed out, including a picture representing Bishop Ralph giving the houses to the vicars. The morning's work concluded with a visit to the Vicars' Chapel.

### Cheddar.

After luncheon at the Swan Hotel, the members took train to Cheddar for the purpose of visiting the Gorge, Gough's Cavern, Cheddar Cross and the Church of St. Andrew.

Driving to the foot of the Mendips, Professor W. BOYD DAWKINS, F.R.S., met the members and conducted them up the Gorge beyond the place where quarrying was taking place on the western side, to a point specially selected for the purpose of his lecture. He gave the following address, illustrated by the geological maps of the district.

The history of Cheddar Pass is one of the most interesting chapters in the records of geology. The rocks out of which it is carved consist of the carboniferous limestone and triassic conglomerate, the former being the lowest member of the great carboniferous formation, that consists in Somerset of the following series :—

|   |     |     |          |
|---|-----|-----|----------|
| Upper coal-measures, fresh-water            | ... | ... | 2000 ft. |
| Pennant sandstone                           | „   | ... | 2000 ft. |
| Lower coal-measures, fresh-water and marine |     |     | 2500 ft. |
| Carboniferous limestone, marine             | ... | ... | 2000 ft. |
| Carboniferous shale                         | „   | ... | 500 ft.  |

The last resting on the old red sandstone. It is upwards of 9,000 feet thick, and was originally horizontal, all of it being accumulated under water, with the exception of the coal-seams, which are the débris of forests, growing in the marshes near the sea-line. They are now, however, as may be seen in the inclined beds of limestone of the gorge, no longer horizontal. This was caused in the following way. At the close of the Carboniferous period the carboniferous rocks and the old red sandstone were thrown into a series of east and west folds, by movements of the earth's crust, that range from the west of Ireland, through Pembrokeshire, Somerset, and eastwards through North France, and far away into the valley of the Rhine. Then the upper, or anticlinal portions of the folds, were cut away by marine action as they rose above the sea, and by the sub-aerial agents as they became long east and west islands. This destruction went on until the whole of the carboniferous rocks were swept away from their tops, leaving the old red sandstone to form the surface at Black Down and Shipham, at Priddy, and at Pen Hill about a mile to the north of Wells. The Mendips, therefore, have been carved out of three of these folds, on the flanks of which the carboniferous rocks occur, like the abutments of a broken arch. It is further clearly proved that these stupendous changes took place before the Triassic age, because the triassic conglomerates rest on the eroded crowns of the folds, in all three areas above mentioned. When we note that they took place in the interval between the Carboniferous and Triassic ages, in one of the many such intervals in the geological record, we cannot fail to realize the vast antiquity of the earth. We can only conclude that it is as immeasurable as the earth's future.

These Mendip folds have a special interest, because they gave me the clue to the exact position of the south-eastern coalfield buried under the newer rocks in Kent, and thus allowed me to prove the truth of Godwin-Austen's view of the eastward range of "the Axis of Artois" in England. The boring at Braburne,



near Ashford, struck the eroded summit of a fold on which triassic conglomerate rested on old red sandstone, like that of Black Down, Priddy, and Pen Hill. The south-eastern coalfield in Kent is to the north-east of Braburne, just as that of Somerset is to the north-east of the three above-mentioned Mendip folds.

The triassic conglomerate lying in the lower portion of Cheddar Pass is an old pebble beach, formed of fragments derived from the limestone cliffs, when the Mendips were an island in the Triassic Sea. Their position indicates that the pass was outlined, to say the least, in pre-triassic times, and is of vast antiquity, although it was deepened after the triassic rocks were deposited.

The Cheddar Gorge was formed, as I have pointed out in my two previous addresses to the Society, by the action of rain water passing down through the joints of the limestone, and dissolving away the rock by the carbonic acid, picked up from the air, and decomposing vegetation. It gradually enlarged the passages which it traversed into caves, and formed a series of water-courses that followed the joints running at right angles to each other, taking one or other according to the tilt of the rocks. It is in consequence of this that caverns invariably are winding. A cavern formed thus with a stream flowing through it occupied the spot on which we stand, and has been converted into the noble gorge as we have it now, by the destruction of the roof by sub-aerial erosion, and by the stream having made for itself a series of similar caverns, at a lower level, coming to the surface just below the entrance to Gough's Cave. We may also note that all the accessible caverns at Cheddar are merely deserted water-courses, sometimes, as in Gough's Cavern, adorned with a marble-like crystalline floor, and with pendants from the roof and drapery on the sides, red or snow-white as the case may be. All these arise from the limestone dissolved in the rainwater being redeposited in pools of water in the floor, in the drip coming from the roof, and the trickle of water down the sides.

Proceeding, Professor Boyd Dawkins said when he first knew this gorge it was beautifully grassed right away down where the houses began, and now he found a hideous scar, which was represented by that quarry. And he wondered that the inhabitants round there had not had sufficient patriotism to prevent any such vandalism. If they had not sufficient courage to do that he should have thought that in their own instinct of self-preservation they would have realised that the beauties of this gorge were one of the most important mercantile and commercial assets of Cheddar, and he really hoped that for the credit of Cheddar and for the credit of the county at large that that horrible desecration of Cheddar would be stopped. There was some talk of it, and he only hoped it would be carried out.

#### VOTES OF THANKS.

The Rev. E. H. BATES, in moving a vote of thanks to Professor Boyd Dawkins, congratulated him on the energy and skill with which he had given that most interesting address. It was forty-six years since the professor first addressed this Society, and that meeting at Wells was a gathering of "giants." On the same platform there were Professors Stubbs and Freeman and John Richard Green, the historian; Professor Willis for architecture, and Professor Dawkins for natural history and ancient remains.

Then before they separated they had a large number of friends to thank. In the first place there were the President and Mrs. Kennion; the presidential address was one to which they had all listened with pleasure, and they heartily thanked the Bishop and Mrs. Kennion for their hospitality and kindness. Then they had to thank the Dean of Wells, Canon Church, Chancellor Holmes, Mr. St. John Hope, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Wells. They had also had the benefit of the assistance of the clergy of the different churches, who had thrown them open to the Society and exhibited their treasures.



Then again their thanks were due to their Assistant-Secretary and Curator, Mr. St. George Gray, for his excellent arrangements in connection with that meeting. In his efforts he had been most ably seconded by the Rev. H. J. Green. Their gratitude also went out to Mr. Balch for his interesting account of the discoveries made at Wookey Hole ; to Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hodgkinson for their kind hospitality at Glencot ; and to all who had in any way contributed to the success of that meeting.

Colonel CARY BATTEN seconded ; and the resolution was carried with acclamation.

### **Gough's Cavern, Cheddar.**

The Cavern was visited by the members in detachments, conducted by guides employed by the Messrs. Gough.

While waiting to enter the Cavern the members were addressed by Mr. H. N. DAVIES, F.G.S., on the subject of human remains found in the cave. The following is a summary of his remarks :—

During excavations which have been in progress in this Cavern more or less for twelve years, the following accumulations have been cleared out : (a) Recent accumulations which filled the entrance and covered the upper calcareous crust ; (b) a bed of calcareous deposit of varying thickness and consistency ; (c) a bed of cave-earth 4 to 6 ft. deep, containing limestone blocks and calcareous deposits at various depths ; (d) a lower bed of crystalline stalagmite, which reposes in some parts on the rocky bed of the Cavern, in others on a bed of sand and well-rounded pebbles.

These deposits passed into the fissure in which the human skeleton was found in December, 1903. Here the upper calcareous crust was from 4 to 11 inches thick, and formed of several layers. The skeleton was found in a huddled position in the upper part of the cave-earth, the skull below the level of the pelvis and legs. Interment is out of the question ; the

position of the skeleton, the character of the fissure, and the undisturbed earth and calcareous deposit all decide against it.

The cranium is of average size and oval in form; maximum length 185 mm., maximum width 130 mm., giving a cephalic index of 73.

The frontal bone, as pointed out by Mr. St. George Gray, has an extreme thickness of 9 mm.<sup>1</sup>; the lower jaw is very wide, 120 mm. between the condyles; the teeth are well preserved. The very forward slant of the mastoid processes and the large tubercle at the posterior end of the zygomatic arch point to a short powerful neck. The face is much mutilated, but the prominence of the supraorbital ridge is fairly indicated.

The femur represents a man of about 5 ft. 5 in. in stature. The tibia is remarkably platycnemic, yielding the exceedingly low index of .526.

Remains of Pleistocene mammalia have been taken from the cave earth of the vestibule of the cave, but only those of horse were found in the cave earth of the fissure where the human remains were discovered.

Many flint blades, borers, scrapers, and flakes have been found in the cave earth; on the majority of them there is little or no secondary working, but they are highly patinated. They closely resemble flints found in the Torbryan Cave, Devon which are exhibited in the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and also others illustrated in Mortillet's famous work "*Musée Préhistorique*." In both instances the specimens are labelled Palæolithic, Mortillet placing his in his Magdalenian age of culture.

The circumstances under which and the position in which the human remains and the associated flints were found, as well as their form and workmanship, places them at the end of the Palæolithic or very early in the Neolithic age. This conclusion has been arrived at not by trying to calculate the time taken to form a bed of stalagmite so many inches in

1. *Som. & Dor. N. & Queries*, ix, pp. 2-5.



thickness, a very uncertain problem, but by cumulative evidence as indicated above. It is quite true that remains of cave bear, hyæna, etc., have not been found in the cave earth of the fissure, but they certainly have been taken from the same cave earth of the vestibule of the Cavern. If these conclusions are correct we have in the man of Gough's Cavern a link between the earlier cave man of the latter end of the Palæolithic period and the later Neolithic man whose remains are so plentifully found in the caves and tumuli of our country.

### Cheddar Church.

After tea at Weeks's Tea Garden, Cheddar Church, by permission of the Vicar, the Rev. Preb. F. A. Clarke, R.D., was described by the Rev. F. W. WEAVER, who said the Church had already been twice visited by the Society—on August 31, 1859, when it was described by Professor Freeman, and on August 29, 1888, when it was described by Mr. Buckle. There was a church here at a very early date—probably in Saxon times. In 1067 they had a charter of William I, granting, at the petition of Bishop Giso towards the demesne of the See and the maintenance of the brethren of the Church of Wells, thirty hides in Banwell. The expression Cheddar “Minster” implied a Saxon church, and the charter was signed by William I, Queen Maud, and many others. There was a grant by John, the King's marshal, whom he found by the *Red Book of the Exchequer* to have been living in 1235—to the Church of St. Mary of Bradenstoke and the canons there, of the Church of Ceddre, for the soul of the grantor, his father, brethren, and his relations resting there. John, the King's marshal, was apparently an inhabitant of this place. It did not belong to Bradenstoke Priory very long, for there was a document dated 1192, in which there was a release by Matthew, Prior of Bradenstoke, to Alexander, Dean of Wells and the Canons of all right and claim in the Church of Cheddar. Mr. Coleman wrote a very

interesting account of this Church in which he said it consisted of naves, aisles, a fine western tower, a chancel, and two chantry chapels within the screen, dedicated, that on the south to the Holy Trinity, and that on the north to the Blessed Virgin. The date of the latter was 1376-80. There was a vestry at the east end of the chapel on the north, a north and south porch, and eastward of the south porch, built on to it, the manorial chapel of Cheddar Fitzwalter. The arch beneath it was extremely rich and opened into the south aisle.

Mr. Weaver then went on to quote some extracts of the description of the Church by Mr. Buckle, published in the *Proceedings*, XXXIV, i, 40, 74.

Some of the bench-ends had heads illustrating sins of the tongue. The chapel east of the south porch had two graceful windows set under a square head, which was pierced so as to constitute the square-headed window. Here all the old bits of old glass were collected and arranged in 1873. Two of the female saints were St. Barbara and St. Catherine of Alexandria. In the south-east angle beneath a canopy was the figure of St. Erasmus, who was generally represented with a windlass.

A move was then made to the G.W.R. station and Wells was reached about seven o'clock. In the evening Wells Museum was opened to the members, and the Loan Exhibition at the Guildhall was again on view.

## **Fifth Day's Proceedings.**

### **Glastonbury Abbey.**

This was the last day of the longest Meeting ever held by the Society. At 11 o'clock about 130 members, in spite of the inclement weather, assembled at Glastonbury Abbey for the purpose of viewing the excavations and the work of preservation of the ruins which were proceeding.

The party was met by the President (the BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS), who delivered a short introductory





GLASTONBURY ABBEY.

View from the South Transept Chapel, looking North, into the South Aisle of the Choir ; showing the new Corbels inserted for the support of the S.E. Pier of the Central Tower.

*From a Photograph by J. R. H. Weaver.*

address, and by Mr. F. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A., Hon. Diocesan Architect, who gave a highly interesting account of the excavations conducted by him up to that date. His remarks are embodied in his Second Report on the Excavations, printed, with illustrations, in Part II of this vol.

This completed the official programme, and at 12.30 p.m. the members dispersed, some leaving for their homes, others visiting the Abbot's Kitchen, the Tithe Barn, the Churches and the Museum (containing the relics from the Lake Village).

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