

Second Day's Proceedings.

Bawdrip Church.

The members left the Royal Clarence Hotel in motor vehicles about 10 a.m., and proceeded to the Church of St. Michael, Bawdrip (Rev. G. W. L. Cass, Rector).

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A., said that this well preserved specimen of a XIV Century 'cross' church had not hitherto received the attention it deserved. The plan was still perfect, and unmutilated by modern additions. There were now all too few such survivals. Hence a proposal mooted by the parish for the addition of a vestry or organ chamber was deprecated, and the speaker expressed the earnest hope that

this scheme would not be encouraged. The most remarkable feature of the Church was undoubtedly the central tower, which was of considerably less diameter than the width of the crossing; the difference was seen internally in the ingenious arrangement of piers and subsidiary arches connecting the masonry with that of the walls and throwing the weight partly on to these. It might be compared with the Church of Minster Lovel in Oxfordshire. The narrow openings flanking the supports of the tower formed hagioscopes to the aisles.

In the north transept was a figure of Joel de Bradney, ob. 1350 (not 1550 as elsewhere stated). In the chancel there was preserved a small stone figure from a former group of ecclesiastical statuary, perhaps part of a reredos.

THE NAME "BAWDRIIP."

With regard to the name "Bawdrip," Dr. F. J. ALLEN has sent the following note:—

Land in "Bagadrip" was remitted by Adam de la Ford to Balwine Mallet, 25 Edward I. The Rev. James S. Hill, B.D., in "The Place-Names of Somerset," p. 303, says of the name:—"Another instance of this disguised thorpe is in Baga or Bakaterpe; that is, Baga's thorpe. This became Bagaterp, Bawdrip, and then, by the interchange of letters, Brodrip, and then Brodribb, and then, of course, we are invited to accept the customary sort of explanation. Sir Something Brodrib re-named the manor, forgetful that the name of the place existed in the enigmatical form before the Conquest."

Chedzoy Church.

Soon after 11 o'clock the members arrived at Chedzoy; they were struck by the general appearance of the Church externally, and the care displayed in the upkeep of the beautiful churchyard. The Rector, the Rev. G. R. Mullens, who had met the Society at the Church twenty-three years ago, was away for his holidays and regretted not being able to be present. In that year (1897) the Church (dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary) had been described by Mr. E. Buckle

and Colonel Bramble (*Proc.*, XLIII, i, 41-43), when, among other things, allusions were made to the Sydenham brass, the medieval embroidery which had been converted into three altar frontals, and the incisions on the external buttresses—supposed indications of the sharpening of weapons, perhaps scythes, previous to the battle of Sedgemoor.¹

MR. BLIGH BOND offered some notes on this fine XIII Century building. He said that of that date there were remains in one window of the south transept, certain capitals now built into the east wall of the same, and in the south chancel wall,—no doubt originally forming the opening to a chantry chapel on the south side of the chancel, of which no other traces now remained above ground. There were also Early English buttresses to the east wall of the chancel, and the font was of the same period. The nave arcades had already been noticed in the *Proceedings*, vol. XLIII. The rood-screen with its loft was standing perfect in 1841, but about that time the loft was removed to the west end of the Church to form a singers' gallery (since removed). The screen was taken away and cut up, but some of the fragments were retained and incorporated in the modern screen. The pulpit was ancient, with linenfold panels, and there were many old bench-ends worthy of note. Records of this Church, before the modern alterations, were to be found in the *Ecclesiologist*, iv, 197, and in Worth's "Guide to Somerset," 1885.

The PRESIDENT said the transeptal plan of the Church suggested that the building might originally have had a central tower. Such towers were common in churches built after the Norman conquest, and the presence of a cruciform plan with a western tower generally afforded ground for the suspicion that the position of the tower had been changed at a later rebuilding. In many cases of that kind (*e.g.* Oundle, Northants), the tower was entirely of a late date, and had evidently been built outside an existing west front, while the

1. In the Somerset County Museum is exhibited the spy-glass with which Mr. Wm. Sparks, from Chedzoy tower, discovered the King's troops marching down Sedgemoor on the day previous to the fight, July 5th, 1685, and gave information thereof to the Duke of Monmouth, who was quartered at Bridgewater. (*The Connoisseur*, V, 118).

crossing beneath the tower had been remodelled and thrown into the nave.

Westonzoyland Church.

At noon the members arrived at the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Westonzoyland (the Rev. C. M. Rogers, Vicar, who became incumbent in 1883).

Mr. BLIGH BOND described the Church, but as it was fully dealt with in the *Proceedings*, XLIII, i, 43-46, little needed to be added here. The chancel was of the first half of the XIV Century; and the rest of the building was Perpendicular in character. The priests' room attached to the Church appeared to be of the XIII Century. There were distinctly two dates of Perpendicular work in the building. The north transept, which was very lofty, covered the clerestory and suggested the commencement of a later scheme of a somewhat ambitious nature, which, however, got no further than the reconstruction of the north transept and of the chancel arch. These two features might be attributed to the early part of the XVI Century; but the rest was of the XV Century. The font was of the early Decorated period (1272-1325).

The PRESIDENT said that this was another instance of a transeptal plan with a late western tower. In this case, it was probable that the new work was built outside the walls of an earlier aisleless church, which accounted for the great width of the nave. The north transept and aisle seemed to have been built first, but, owing to insufficient funds, the work was completed on a less ambitious scale, and the elevation of the clerestoried arcades adapted to the low south transept. The abbey of Glastonbury, as proprietors of the rectory, would be responsible for the building of the chancel, and, as landowners, would contribute to the rest of the Church; but the money for the nave and transepts would largely be found by the parishioners. This would apply also to the Churches of Middlezoy and Othery. The effigy of a priest in the north transept seemed to be earlier than the recess in which it was placed. The carving was rough and the vestments simple: an interesting feature was the extremely narrow stole,—a

mere ribbon. (The effigy is figured in Part II, Plate X, fig. 1).

Mr. T. G. SIMMONDS gave an account of the well known Somerset centenarian, Honor Pierce, who was born at Westonzoyland, and baptized in the Church, 22nd February, 1801. She married George Coleman at Yatton Church, 30th March, 1826, died at Cleeve, near Yatton, 23rd January, 1908, and was buried in the churchyard there. (Further information in *Som. & Dor. Notes and Queries*, XVI, 149).

NOTE ON THE BATTLE OF SEDGEMOOR.¹

Sir W. BOYD DAWKINS, F.R.S., has sent the following contribution :—

“ This note on the Battle of Sedgemoor may be of interest to the Society, not only because it fixes the actual site of the battle, but also because it illustrates the continuity of oral tradition, handed down from father to son in a family in Westonzoyland, from before the battle to 1858. At that time my father (the Rev. Richard Dawkins) was Vicar of Westonzoyland and I, an undergraduate at Oxford, wished to find out the place where the dead were buried on the field. There was a record of the prisoners, who were placed in the church, in the parish register, but the place where the dead were buried was unknown. The battle had been fought close to ‘ Bussex Rhine,’ one of the many ditches in the moor. I was fortunate enough to get the evidence I wished for from Mr. Richard Tazewell, an old inhabitant of Westonzoyland, who told me the following story :

“ His great-grandfather and other of the villagers were ordered to bury the dead on the field. They dug trenches in the moor and covered the bodies with sand which they obtained from a sand-pit on Bussex Farm, and on this they placed the soil that had been excavated. Under Mr. Tazewell’s guidance I examined the side of one of the ditches between Bussex and Bussex Rhine, and found human bones under a layer of sand and thus verified the accuracy of his statement. The layer of sand in the moor marks the exact site of the burial.”

1. Two Monmouth relics, the Feversham Dish and the Mary Bridge Sword, formerly preserved by William Bridge at Westonzoyland at the time of the battle, have been figured and described in *The Connoisseur*, Vol. V, 116–119, and Vol. L, 95–96.

Middlezoy Church.

The next church visited was that of Middlezoy (the Rev. J. F. A. Thomas, Vicar), dedicated to the Holy Cross; also described in *Proceedings*, XLIII, i, 46-48.

Mr. BLIGH BOND called attention to the fine geometrical tracery of the windows in the eastern parts of the Church, which showed the marks of superior design in the subordination of the delicate tracery mullions. There were two dates visible. The earlier windows might be about 1250: in that view the President concurred, and instanced similar examples of work in Northants. Others were more characteristic of quite the beginning of the XIV Century. The east window of the south aisle had reticulated tracery, and was rather later than the rest. The vaulting springers to the tower (XV Century) were worthy of note, and the tower was a good specimen of its class. The screen was of the High Ham type, but simple and plainer than that very elaborate example. Until a comparatively recent date it was placed more to the westward, and had been injured in the setting-back. It exhibited a carving of two ears of bearded barley, and the initials R. B. (? Richard Bere).

The PRESIDENT said that the tracery of a two-light window in the outer wall of the south aisle called for notice. The geometrical figure in the head was formed by making piercings in a round plate of stone, instead of the usual method of fitting together pieces specially cut out and moulded. That might represent an idiosyncrasy of a local mason, who was certainly less skilled than the man responsible for the minute tracery of the chancel windows. Parallel examples are rare: the best was the east window of the south aisle of Felton Church, Northumberland, a somewhat more elaborate example.

ISLAND SITES ON THE SOMERSET LEVELS.

Mr. H. CORDER called attention to the 'island' sites of so many villages, hamlets, and farms on the Somerset 'levels,' of which Athelney was the best known example. Generally speaking they consisted of low mounds of red marl or lias

often surrounded by a fringing sand-bank containing recent shells—one of the latest geological deposits known as the 'Burtle beds' from their occurrence at Edington Burtle. Westonzoyland was an interesting example of a village with practically all its farm buildings standing close together on an 'island,' whilst almost all the arable land formed one immense open field divided up into different holdings. A very similar state of things existed at Middlezoy, which was, indeed, a part of the same rising ground.

Othery Church.

On arriving at Othery the members partook of luncheon before visiting the Church of St. Michael (the Rev. J. H. Collins, Vicar). This Church was described on the Society's former visit in 1897 (*Proc.*, XLIII, i, 48-49; with illustration of the low-side window). The font is of the late Decorated period (1325-1377).

In 1897 the Vicar exhibited an embroidered cope *circa* 1470, which had been found concealed under the pulpit. It is now framed and placed against the south wall of the nave. In the Somerset County Museum is a similar cope (now changed into an altar frontal) of the late XV or early XVI Century, from Allerton Church, near Wells. These copes were made of *baudekyn*, or silk, the weft being of linen. The embroidery is *opus plumarium*, or feather-work. They were probably made in Flanders, perhaps at Bruges.

Mr. BLIGH BOND said that the plan of the Church remained almost unimpaired, but the restoration had been drastic and had robbed the exterior of much of its interest. The bench-ends were of fine workmanship, but the feature of greatest attraction was the curious opening in the s.e. buttress of the central tower, opposite the little window in the adjacent angle of the chancel. Various opinions had been expressed as to its intended use. It seemed clear that it was later than the window. It could not be a hagioscope, but might be a lychnoscope. It did not effectively convey light to the reader's seat in the chancel, but presumably it would have furnished

a view of the pathway from the village, and a light placed in the window would be visible from the moors in a southerly direction; and being limited in direction it might have given a compass-bearing to anyone traversing the moor at night. In cases like that, the simplest explanation—practical rather than a symbolic or liturgical—was the best and the one to be preferred.

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The PRESIDENT said that the low-side window was unique in its combination with a piercing in the tower-buttress. The explanation was undoubtedly practical. The most thorough treatment of low-side windows was that by the Rev. J. F. Hodgson, recorded in an article published in *Archæologia Aeliana*.¹ Although his conclusion, that they were intended for lights to keep evil spirits away from the churchyard, like the French *lanternes des morts*, was highly disputable, it was not out of keeping with medieval sentiment; and his criticisms of other theories, some plausible and some absurd, were full of sound common sense. The theory, however, which suited most cases, was that such windows were intended for use at mass, especially on days when the congregation could not be entirely accommodated in the church. In medieval churches much of the floor-space was occupied by screened chapels, and, in days when everybody went to church, those who came late might have to stop outside. A small bell, rung by a server at the window, the lower part of which could be opened by means of hinged shutters, would warn worshippers in the churchyard of the approach of the most solemn moment of the service. The bell-theory was the only one which could apply to low-side windows on an upper storey, such as those in prior Crauden's Chapel at Ely and the Chapel of Kidwelly Castle. The opinion, strongly maintained by some, that low-side windows were intended for the hearing of confessions, depended primarily upon the misinterpretation of a document which did not apply to parish churches at all, and was inadmissible on practical grounds.

1. Vol. XXIII (1902), pp. 43-235, with illustration of Othery on p. 47.

The Mump, Boroughbridge.

The members ascended the "Mump" at 3 o'clock; before they rejoined their conveyances it began to rain steadily, and so continued for the rest of the afternoon.

Mr. ALBANY F. MAJOR, O.B.E., said that from the height on which they stood they saw the whole scene of King Alfred's campaign in 878. A mile away to the west was Athelney, where the king found a hiding-place among the marshes, when the Danes occupied Chippenham by a surprise march in mid-winter. Northwards beyond Bridgwater, and near the mouth of the Parrett, was Cannington Park, which they would visit next day, probably the Cynuit Castle where Hubba was slain, and it was easy to see how a successful landing there, if combined with an occupation of the Poldens to the east, would have placed Alfred in deadly peril. Borough Mump was no doubt the work which Alfred and his little band of followers in Athelney threw up, when the victory over Hubba encouraged him to disclose his place of refuge, but it was uncertain how far the Mump and the lines upon it were artificial. Excavation to determine that point ought to be undertaken, and he hoped the Society would consider that question. From that stronghold, we were told, the king waged war untiringly against "the army," which was the term always used in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for the main force of the Danes. How he could have done that if that force had remained camped in Wiltshire, 40 miles away, was impossible to explain; but if we supposed that Guthrum with the army had marched west to co-operate with Hubba, or on hearing of Hubba's defeat, as he would be bound to do, it became readily explicable. From Bawdrip at the foot of the Poldens they had driven along the chain of former marsh-islands,—Chedzoy, Weston-zoyland, Middlezoy and Othery,—which continued through Borough Mump and Athelney to Lyng, following apparently a ridge connecting the Upper (Keuper) Marls at Lyng with the same formation which cropped out at the foot of the Poldens. These islands were like a broken causeway connecting Athelney with the mainland to the N.E., and were no

doubt linked together by marsh paths, known only to the fenmen, by which Alfred could carry on guerilla warfare against the Danes and keep their attention fixed on his marsh fortress. The end of the chain of islands was only separated by a narrow strip of marsh from the Poldens at the foot of Edington Hill, and by occupying this hill Guthrum could cover the point where the Saxons could most readily attack him, while the same point offered him the best prospect of being able to force the passage of the islands. It also enabled him to co-operate with the remnant of Hubba's fleet, which could lie in the harbour which then existed at Downend, where the Poldens sank to the marsh level. The storming of the islands would be no easy task,—it took William the Conqueror six months to force his way to Hereward's camp of refuge at Ely,—and while he was preparing for the attempt Alfred was also preparing a surprise for him. Then having learned when the attack was likely to be made, which would partly depend on when the tides suited for crossing the marshes, Alfred gave the word for his army to assemble at Egbryht's Stone on a given day, probably by signalling by beacon-fire from the Quantocks, rode to the muster-place to put himself at their head, led them back by forced marches, and early on the second day occupied Edington Hill in rear of Guthrum, who, unaware that Alfred had left Athelney, was about to attempt the passage of the islands. The nature of the surprise, which left the Danes no refuge but their camp at the end of the Poldens with the marshes on three sides of them, accounted for the completeness of their overthrow.

Mr. C. H. BOTHAMLEY said that the idea that the Mump was really King Alfred's ultimate stronghold against the Danes was a fascinating one, and moreover was reasonable on the assumption that it was in existence at that time in something like its present form. Its size, character, and position obviously made it well adapted to the military control of an extensive area of surrounding country. When seen as a whole, the Mump showed two concentric lines below the summit where there was a change in the angle of the slope; but at present there were no distinct indications of fosses. Whether these breaks in the slope represented fosses that had

become completely silted up (not a common occurrence), or whether they were of geological origin due to strata of different degrees of hardness could only be decided by digging. The same test could alone settle the larger problem whether the Mump was wholly natural or partly artificial in substance. The summit was probably flattened when the church was built, but its area was capable of holding a considerable number of men, and having regard to the height of the Mump and the steepness of its sides it was obvious that even if it were only protected by a palisade at the top, with possibly a second palisade part of the way down the slope, it would be capable of offering a very stout resistance to an enemy.

The Rev. D. J. PRING drew attention to a feature which he said was apt to be overlooked. That was the causeway connecting Burrow Mump with the mainland. As the party came along the road from Othery it might have been observed that the elevation of the ground on the left-hand side was considerably higher than the road. Some cottages had been built on the higher ground; apple-trees and vegetables in the gardens grew on a level with the top of the hedge. It was only when they looked down upon it from the summit of the Mump, that it became apparent that the ground on which the cottages had been built was merely a narrow ridge, the level of the moor being many feet lower on either side. That ridge extended right away from the Mump to the hills at Othery, and was in fact an artificial causeway which doubtless formed the chief means of communication with Alfred's Fort across the intervening swamp. As such it was a distinctly interesting feature, and had probably every right to be designated "Alfred's Causeway."¹

The existing ruin on the Mump was evidently of comparatively modern construction and had apparently never been used for worship. But there was evidence that a chapel

1. Along the south side of this ridge is the "Burrow Wall Rhyne," and we have been informed by the Rev. J. M. Chadwick, of Boroughbridge, that many years ago a large number of Roman coins were shovelled out in cleaning this watercourse (in the civil parish of Othery), at a point about 300 yards to the east of the house nearest to and on the east side of Burrow Mump.—H. St. G. G.

occupied the same site in earlier times, and it might have been connected with Athelney Abbey. At the time of the Civil War a party of Goring's soldiers were said to have been posted in the building, and to have held out there till surrounded by troops sent from Langport, to whom they capitulated.

Mr. BLIGH BOND said that the 'Chapel' on the hill appeared to be entirely modern and nothing more than a 'folly,'—an attempt to make a picturesque sham ruin. There did not appear to be any traces of ancient work incorporated, but it was quite possible that there were old stones built in, and that the walls might have been erected on genuine foundations to some extent. What was standing exhibited the usual XVIII Century notions of 'Gothic.'

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY made some remarks with regard to the pottery of the Saxon and Norman periods, and said that, although shards of post-Roman times were very difficult to identify and classify, especially when devoid of ornament, the same difficulty did not exist in dealing with pottery of the Norman period.¹

Lyng Church.

This Church, dedicated to St. Bartholomew (the Rev. J. D. Ellis, Vicar), was visited by the Society in 1897 and 1901, and as it was described in *Proceedings*, XLIII, i, 51-52, and XLVII, i, 69-70, it will not be necessary to say much here. It is a small building, but of good type, with an excellent tower of the Huish-North Petherton variety, well proportioned and delicate in its detail. The greater part of the structure is of the Perpendicular period. Carved bench-ends of the XVI Century remain, and an old chest made from a hollowed tree-trunk. The font is of the earliest Norman period.

Before leaving the Church Prebendary HAMLET said it contained one of the very few relics of Alfred's "famous church," which for seven centuries stood on the neighbouring

1. Shards of pottery of the Roman period were found in August, 1920, at the foot of the s.w. side of "The Mump," in digging a grave in the N.E. extension of the churchyard at Boroughbridge, depth 5 to 6 feet (see *Proc.*, 1921).—H. St. G. G.

Isle of Athelney—the tombstone of one of its monks. Search was immediately made, but it could not be found. The Vicar writing on August 14th reported :—

“The sexton here has a distinct recollection of two fragments of stone lying in the belfry, bearing a Latin inscription, some twenty years ago (dug up from the outside), but cannot recall what became of them. We have searched all round, in the Church and without, and can find no trace of them anywhere to-day.”

An account of the inscription is, fortunately, recorded in *Som. & Dor. Notes and Queries*, VII, 25. Prebendary Bates Harbin at first surmised that it was the memorial of a monk of the Dissolution. Later he altered his mind as to the lettering being Tudor, and made a marginal note in his own copy of *N. & Q.* in loco : “Benedict, the clerk of Athelney, witness to a deed of Henry de Erleigh, *temp.* Henry III ; Athelney Cartulary, no. 28.” (*Som. Rec. Soc.*, XIV, 134). It may be added that the Latin does not appear to be Tudor.

North Petherton Church.

After tea at the Sunday Schools at the west end of the churchyard, the Church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, was visited and described by the Vicar, the Rev. J. ADDY. He said that the present Church, in the Perpendicular style, dated from about A.D. 1400, but the tower and sacristy were perhaps forty years later. The ironwork of the sacristy windows was contemporary ; also the fine carved door opening into the chancel. The priests' door of the chancel (south side) had the terminal blocks of the dripstone in the rough, which might be due to cessation of work owing to the beginning of the troubles of the period. In the chapel (now occupied by the organ) was the remains of a piscina (at its base, the recumbent figure of a lamb ?). The screen (1909) replaced one long since demolished ; it was considered to be among the finest of modern screens, and was the work of the late Baker King. The pulpit dated from about 1420 ; its carving was well preserved. The font was late Perpendicular (1460–1540). A gallery (south side) bore the date 1623, and was thrown out

from the old muniment room over the south porch. Its front bore a figure of Time standing on the globe with Death resting on his head—probably older than the gallery. There was some good carving within the gallery; the hammer-beams were really fine.

The south aisle (east end) had the matrix of an elaborate brass. The stone had certainly been cut since, though it had no inscription now; there was one recorded by J. J. Toogood as existing in 1845, "Hic jacet Alianora quonda uxor Willi Poulet," etc., with date 1416.¹ Toogood also recorded a brass as then existing in the sacristy, with the effigy in chasuble, etc., and with the tonsure; it had disappeared. In the nave was a brass to Catherine Morley, wife of John Morley (1652). He became vicar, 1615: his living was usurped under the Commonwealth. It was noted that among those "hired to serve the cure" was "the chaplain to the Countess of Stirling (then living at Huntworth House with her second husband, Coll. Blount) and a professed papist as appeared afterwards: I had this information from Mr. Colethurst, and other creditable persons then living here." (Old Book of Bartholomew Scammell, vicar, instituted 1681).

Evening Meeting.

MR. HENRY CORDER gave a lantern lecture on "Rambles round Bridgwater" in St. Mary's Hall in the evening, a lantern for the purpose being kindly lent by the Rev. W. E. Catlow.

The speaker first showed a series of slides of the old Packway, which, leaving Bridgwater by way of West Street, passed through Durleigh and Enmore and over the Quantocks by Buncombe. Although the present road did not exactly follow the same course, yet many original portions of the ancient sunken lane might be seen on one side or the other, especially where it crossed Enmore Park. Another set of pictures illustrated some ancient manor-houses and the water-mills

1. Since the Meeting the Vicar reports that he has found a strip of brass bearing this inscription, lying on top of an old cupboard under the tower, which is certainly the inscription to which Toogood refers.—H. ST. G. G.

at Cannington, and that led on, by means of photographs of bench-ends on which windmills were carved, to a series of slides of that fast disappearing feature of the country-side. Probably only one or two remained in a 'going condition' in the county, and even those were of the later type with stone towers, and not of the more ancient wooden type of "Post mill," as shown on the benches. The speaker, however, had examples of the latter to show from the east of England. Most of them were fast falling to ruin, and photographic records should be secured before it was too late. Turning to another subject, some slides of Somerset ferns and flowers were shown. Of the former some new records had been made in the Quantock area. Of flowers a variety of pictures was shown from the turf-moor, and attention was called to the wealth of species often occurring together in hedge-banks or bogs.

Mr. C. TITE, on behalf of those present, cordially thanked Mr. Corder for his entertaining and well illustrated lecture, and also for the part he had taken in connection with the excursions. He also thanked the Rev. W. E. Catlow and the members of the Local Committee for the arrangements they had made in connection with the meeting.

Third Day's Proceedings.

At 9.15 a.m., the members left the Clarence Hotel for

Cannington Church,

where the members were met by the Rev. G. H. W. Mallett (Vicar).

Mr. BLIGH BOND in the first place referred to the notes on this Church in *Proceedings*, XLIII, i, 38-41. *The Ecclesiologist*, III, 27, gave some interesting items of its rather unfortunate modern history. It was a fine church, but very much spoiled by injudicious renovations. In 1843, the roodscreen was cut down and formed into a fence for two large proprietary pews, and at the same time the fine XV or XVI Century pulpit was removed from its proper place, the carved benches sold (to

the contractor), and the stained glass cleared away. Originally the roodscreen must have been of imposing height, proportionate to the lofty nave and aisles. It ran across the whole width of the Church, one bay west of the aisle terminations, leaving space for the enclosure of two chantries. At a more recent date some fragments were worked up into the present screen, but the work was mostly modern and had a flat appearance from the loss of the fan-vaultings. The aisle portions retained more original work. The tower contained some ancient masonry, probably of the XI Century, in its lower part. The upper stages were late XIV Century work. Its orientation was notably different from that of the rest of the Church. Marks of an older nave roof could be seen within. The fine series of consecration crosses in the church walls were worthy of attention;¹ also the excellent hammered ironwork fencing the Clifford chapel on the north side, and dating from about 1750. The font was late Perpendicular (1460-1540). The general form of the Church with its aisles raised to the height of the nave wall-plate, bringing all under one roof, might be compared with that of Norton-sub-Hamdon.

The PRESIDENT said that the design of the whole Church indicated that it was the work of a man who was well acquainted with XV Century work in other parts of England and departed from local practice. While the lofty nave, without a clerestory, and lighted entirely by the unusually tall windows in the aisles, was an adaptation, with a view to imposing effect, of the arrangement very general in the neighbouring county of Devon, the treatment of the eastern bay of the chancel, with large windows throwing a flood of light on the altar, was exactly that which was pursued by church-builders in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Cannington Court and Priory.

The members found this house in the hands of workmen employed by the Somerset County Council, and time did not allow of any of the buildings being entered. They assembled

1. *St. Paul's Eccl. Soc.*, VII, part 5; *Archæol. Journ.*, LXV, 1.
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in the quadrangle and listened to a short account of the Priory given by Mr. SEBASTIAN EVANS, whose material was taken for the most part from the Rev. Thos. Hugo's paper published in *Proceedings*, XI, ii, 1-121.

The Priory was founded in or about the year 1138 by Robert de Courcy, or Curci, for a community of Benedictine nuns. The foundation had also been attributed to William de Romara, but there seemed little doubt that the chief patrons were the heads of the De Curci family.

One of the most interesting of the stories of its early history was its connection with "Fair Rosamund." Though the story might be legendary, local tradition said that she was born at Cannington, and as the daughter of Walter de Clifford, a large landowner in the county, she was most likely sent to the priory to be under the care of the nuns.

Mr. Hugo gave a detailed account of the various benefactions to the priory, but in spite of all these gifts, the priory seemed to have been generally in poor circumstances. The records up to the time of the Dissolution contained little beyond giving the names of the vicars of Cannington and Witheridge (in Devonshire), which benefices were in the gift of the prioress and convent. The King's commissioners took over the property in May 1536, and the formal act of suppression took place on 23 September following.

In 1538, the King granted to Edward Rogers, a farmer on the property: "The whole house and site of the late Priory of Cannington in the County of Somerset, and all the Church, bell tower, and cemetery of the late Priory. Also all messuages, houses, buildings, granaries, stables, dovecots, gardens, orchards, &c." The property remained in the possession of the Rogers family till 1672.

In that year the property reverted to the Crown and was granted to Sir Thomas Clifford, who, having filled some of the highest offices in the State, was created first Baron Clifford of Chudleigh. The priory, or as it was now called, "Cannington Court," had remained in the Clifford family till recently.

In or about 1807, the priory reverted to its original purpose, and for twenty-six years was occupied by some Benedictine nuns from Belgium, whose cemetery might still be seen.

Very little of the old priory buildings remained, if we excepted the high walls of the convent which might be seen on entering the village. The priory church had entirely disappeared, the only fragments being a few small pieces of tracery of Perpendicular style.

The present mansion was probably begun by the first Baron Clifford, soon after he acquired the property in 1672; but as he died in 1673, it might have been finished by his successor Hugh, the second baron. The exterior of the building remains much as it was then, but great alterations had taken place in the interior. It had been used as a boys' school, and even now is again being altered to adapt it for a Farm Training Institute and Agricultural Education College.

The PRESIDENT said that the history of the priory, as written by Mr. Hugo, was an admirable example of the thorough and careful use of information from episcopal registers, compiled at a time when few people understood how to employ their contents to advantage. He did not enter, however, into its architectural history, which might well be made the subject of a special monograph. The existing house was clearly formed out of the buildings of the nunnery, and formed a complete quadrangle round the site of the cloister. Although the medieval arrangements were completely transformed, and the present gateway was broken through the western range, it should be possible, by careful examination, to restore the plan of the religious house. Such works as Mr. Brakspear's monograph on Lacock Abbey, and Mr. Gray's on St. Radegund's Priory (now Jesus College) at Cambridge, were invaluable guides to nunnery plans. At Cannington the church probably was on the south side, next the parish church, which stood apart from the priory and showed no trace of monastic arrangements. The chapter-house and common-room were on the east side, with the dorter above: on the north side would be the frater, probably on an upper floor, with a cellar below, and screens at the west end leading to the kitchen offices; while the west range would contain the prioress's lodging on the upper floor, with the entrance parlour and various chambers below it. The post-suppression history of the priory was interesting, both on the ground of the con-

nection of the original grantees with Henry VIII and on that of their relation to the Elizabethan poet, Sir John Harington, the translator of *Orlando Furioso*.

Cannington Park Quarries and Camp.

The members left the conveyances for a short time to walk to Cannington Park. Owing to its distance and the time available they did not actually visit the Camp, but explanations were made from the head of the great quarry, from which a good general view of the Camp could be obtained on the west.

Mr. H. CORDER drew attention to the triple-pointed hill of Carboniferous Limestone, either faulted against or overlying the Devonian rocks which occurred on the south. In each hill were large deposits of barium sulphate (heavy spar), which during the War had been taken away in great quantities,¹ much of it being ground in the little water-mills of the neighbouring villages, which had thus received a new 'lease of life.' The calcite veins had also found a most inartistic use as 'rockery stone.' Much of the limestone itself was oolitic in structure, similar to beds in the Avon Gorge. Very few fossils were found in it, but the speaker showed the section of a coral found there.

Mr. ALBANY F. MAJOR said that Mr. Corder had told them that the limestone of Cannington Park was connected with the Mendip rocks, but he had not explained how it got to that side of the Parrett. The speaker would tell them. The devil once set out to destroy Cleeve Abbey. Where he started from, whether it was Bath or Bristol or elsewhere, was not stated, but anyhow when he crossed the Mendip Hills he pulled a huge chunk out of them with which he meant to crush the Abbey. But as he was jumping across the Parrett his foot slipped, and he came down heavily and dropped his load on what was then the foreshore of the river. That story must be true, for the gash in Mendip could be seen whence he

1. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXII, xlvi-xlvii.

tore the chunk (*i.e.* Cheddar Gorge), and his footprints,—a big hoof and a huge foot,—were still to be seen in the rocks of the old foreshore. But the connection of the devil with Cannington Park was not confined to its origin. The Wild Hunt passed over it, and the huntsman had been seen at various times as a headless horseman, a rider on a headless horse, and a rider on a huge pig. Of the last it was told that a shepherd was returning late one night past Cannington Park, when he heard the Wild Hunt and saw the pack passing, urged on by a huge form riding on a great pig. The rider called to him :

“ Good fellow, good fellow, how ambles my sow ? ”

“ Eh, by the Lard but hur ambles well now,”

replied the shepherd, and as he had been wise enough, or fortunate enough, to name the Lord, the devil had no power to harm him but vanished in a flash of fire. The late Rev. C. W. Whistler traced in those apparitions a remembrance of the Norse mythology, the headless horseman being the hooded Odin, the headless horse one that had been offered in sacrifice to the gods, and the rider of the pig, Frey, the sungod, whose steed was the boar, “ Golden-bridles.” But as the Saxons were Christians before they reached the Parrett, those reminiscences of heathen beliefs seemed to point to Norse occupation of the district at a date earlier than was generally ascribed to such settlements. Those legends had been very persistent and only a few years ago it had been ascertained that the shepherd living in the cottage down that lane had had to leave it because the devil had been looking in at the window and interfering with him as he came home at night.

Cannington Park Camp was almost certainly identified with the Cynuit or Kynwith Castle, in which Odda took refuge in 878 after his first defeat by Hubba, while the hill on which the members stood was the position taken up by the Danes, where Hubba was subsequently defeated and slain, and the Raven flag taken. The camp answered to Asser's description, and the hill on which they stood had been a vast cemetery, though most of the graves had now been quarried away and little record of them kept. They had, however, shown un-

doubted signs of being the result of battle-burials and of massacre, and the only relics recovered pointed to the burials dating back to the Saxon period.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY said that the dark brown pottery which had been found with the battle-burials appeared to be of Anglo-Saxon fabric. An iron knife and buckle also discovered belonged to the same period. In Cannington Camp a large number of flint implements and chippings of Neolithic type, including a finely worked arrowhead (*Proc.*, LII, ii. 158), had been picked up on the surface; also shards of pottery, including an ornamented fragment of Late-Celtic type (*Proc.*, LII, i, 68) similar to pottery found in the Lake Villages, and at Wookey Hole, Worlebury, Dolebury, Charterhouse, Cadbury Castle, Ham Hill and other sites in Somerset. He regarded the camp as one which might reveal much archaeological material if systematically excavated.

Stogursey Church.

The drive was resumed and the Church of St. Andrew, Stogursey (the Rev. W. J. Stuart-Crump, Vicar), was reached soon after 11.30 a.m.

The Rev. C. H. HEALE said that the history of Stogursey Church was recorded in many existing documents. Eyton in his "Domesday Studies" stated that Stoke Courcy belonged (by marriage) to William de Falaise; he married Geva, daughter of Serlo de Burci, who was the widow of "Martin."

The Provost of Eton (Dr. M. R. James) had recently found the original charter in which William de Falaise gave the Church, etc., to the alien Benedictine Priory of St. Mary's, Lonlay (*Proc.*, LXV, 26). Its date was between 1100 and 1110. The purpose of those gifts (*see* charter) was to found a priory at Stogursey, which existed until 1414, when an Act of Parliament was passed that all "alien priories" were to be handed over to the King for redistribution; for a time certain annual payments were made to laymen, the monks still residing at the priory. The accounts, etc., relating to the priory were probably sent to Lonlay; the abbey buildings

were destroyed during the French Revolution in 1793, but the XII Century abbey church was in use as a parish church until recent times.

The pre-Reformation church accounts, dating from 1504 to 1547, now in private hands, were most interesting, giving particulars of five altars (the High Altar, St. Mary the Virgin, the Holy Trinity, St. Erasmus, and St. John the Evangelist), images, lights, a brotherhood, etc.

In 1324 an alien priest, named George Fromond, was interred away from the sea-coast. The "book of remembrance," in which the names of the departed were subscribed, was kept on the altar.

Mr. Edward Hobbes, who was high sheriff of Somerset in the year of the Monmouth Rebellion, resided at that time at the priory; the under-sheriff, Mr. Poole, at Shurton Court.

After giving a short history of the Church, Mr. Heale briefly described the building. (See also *Proc.*, XXIII, i, 64-67, and XLIII, i, 24-27).

He said that the arch of the west doorway was Norman. The west window and three of the nave windows dated from about 1380 (glass modern). The bench-ends were carved in 1525 by a Flemish craftsman named "Glosse." The north and south walls of the nave were rebuilt in 1815; in 1865 they were lowered, three extra windows inserted and a new roof put on. The present pulpit was erected at the same time. The walling between the north porch and chancel-arch contained the rood-staircase. In 1735 the screen was repainted, but since that date all record, as well as the screen itself, had been lost. The Fairfield Chapel on the south side, a building 18 by 16 feet, had been entirely destroyed to make room for the furnace of a heating apparatus. The font was early Norman, and the tower arches were of the same period. According to tradition the stone pulpit was used to restore the churchyard cross; a "three-decker" took its place, followed by another pulpit, erected near the position of the present one, which was sold to Huntspill for £10, and was now in the church there.

The tower arches and pillars had suffered from the weight of the bells. When a new bell was cast, its weight was in-

creased, instead of being reduced. In the churchwardens' accounts were the following records :—

- 1727. Cramping the Church Tower.
- 1789. A ringing-loft ordered to be built.
- 1803. Span walls erected to strengthen the Tower.
- 1815. Taking down the inverted arch.
- 1815-6. Taking down and rebuilding two pillars of Tower.

The side-arches were of later Norman work. The vestry-door, at the east end, was erected in 1865. Formerly two doors existed in the east wall of St. Erasmus' Chapel; when they were made a painting of Christ and the Twelve Apostles was destroyed. On the south side was the priory chapel, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. The stone-work of the entrance door, piscina, etc., still remained. In that chapel were various tombs; one to Sir Thomas Wroth (buried at Newton), for the erection of which his daughter (Mrs. Elizabeth Palmer) left £300 in her will; others were to the members of the Palmer family, etc. St. Erasmus' Chapel, on the north side, was erected by the priory. In 1841, practically a new roof was provided. It contained two Early English half-pillars without capitals. Under the Norman arches (south side) were two table-tombs, erected to the Verneys of Fairfield, (1) about 1300,—a heart burial; (2) about 1450 (with small carved figures below).

The church plate was given by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Palmer in 1722. That previously in use could not be traced. The registers dated from 1598, and were fairly complete, especially during the Commonwealth period. Various churchwardens' accounts and other books were preserved in the Church.

Mr. BLIGH BOND made some further remarks on the building, and said that he and the President concurred in the view that the piers and arches of the crossing dated from about 1100, whilst the work in the side-arches of the chancel were probably about 1180, and recalled that of the nave of St. David's, and, in a measure, the detail of Glastonbury Abbey. He added that there was some XIV Century work in the room over the vestry, which dated from about 1340.

The PRESIDENT sent the following notes after the meeting :—

The long chancel and crossing of this fine church are a remarkable feature. Although the priory of Stogursey was, like many alien priories, a very small affair, consisting only of two or three monks, sent from the mother house to administer their English property, the plan suggests that at first a larger convent was contemplated, with a regular monastic quire. It is extremely rare to find anything which suggests a monastic plan in parish churches belonging to alien priories, and, as a matter of fact, many such churches remained unappropriated, the convent merely presenting a rector for institution. The monks usually lived in an ordinary dwelling-house on the property; and the number of alien priories which were large enough to have conventual buildings of their own was very small. Whatever may have been contemplated with regard to Stogursey, it eventually shared the fate of those priories which were not 'conventual,' but were regarded merely as manors or granges belonging to foreign houses. Its possessions were not immediately granted away by the Crown, but, as in some other cases, were apparently held on lease from the Crown by the existing tenants, the 'apport' which previously had been rendered to the abbot and convent of Lonlay being paid at the royal exchequer. At Martinmas, 1429, a monk named Robert Vise, with one Walter Sergeant, obtained a lease of the priory with its appurtenances for thirty years, at a rent of £25 6s. 8d. a year, which, with the reversion of the property, was conveyed by Henry VI to the provost and fellows of Eton in his foundation charter of the college, granted on 25th March, 1441.

East Quantockshead.

COURT HOUSE.

MR. ALEXANDER F. LUTTRELL, in receiving the members at his beautiful home (*see* frontispiece), said that the manor of East Quantockshead was part of the possessions of the Paganel after the Norman Conquest. It passed by marriage to Geoffrey Luttrell about the year 1207, and it was believed to be the only part of Somerset that had not been sold since the Con-

quest. A house on the site of the existing house had been lived in continuously from then to the present time. It was occupied as a farm-house for about two hundred years previous to 1889, when the speaker came to live there.

The PRESIDENT said that this beautiful house was a remarkably perfect example of the simple type of domestic architecture prevalent during the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. The medieval manor-house appeared to have been rebuilt about the close of the XV Century. This house, of which a considerable portion remained at the south end and behind the present eastern front, was remodelled and enlarged in 1614, a date which appeared upon one of the fire-places, the work being completed about 1629. The architecture of the period was the direct outcome of late Gothic work, and, in construction, showed no influence of foreign Renaissance work ; although the larger and more costly houses, such as Montacute, were freely ornamented with details in picturesque and not very accurate imitation of classical forms. At East Quantockshead this type of decoration was confined externally to the porch, where it was used very sparingly ; and the rest of the house, with its plain walls and large mullioned windows, was in the traditional vernacular style of the district. Its excellent proportions and air of dignity were the result of that instinctive sense of fitness which local masons, in all parts of England where good building-stone was available, acquired from the long practice of generations in dealing with local material. No better instance could be found of a house which, as it were, sprung from its native soil in complete harmony with its natural environment. The internal arrangement corresponded in general respects to the ordinary English house-plan, before considerations of symmetry had turned the hall into a mere vestibule : the living-rooms and offices were divided by the entrance-passage, and the drawing-room and chamber above occupied a projecting wing on the north side, at right angles to the main block. The influence of foreign detail was apparent in the fire-places and chimney-pieces, which were of the elaborate quasi-classical type copied by their designers from architectural picture-books of Flemish and German origin. There was an excellent series of plaster

ceilings with shallow relieved ornament of a less ambitious type. The whole building remained in an almost unaltered condition, and the charm of its spacious and well-lighted rooms, with their modest elevation, was enhanced by its site close to the shore of the Bristol Channel, commanding wide views on three sides and sheltered on the fourth by the slopes of the Quantocks. The rainwater-heads, with heraldic reliefs, bore the date 1628, and were good examples of lead-work. (The house is also described and figured in *Country Life*, 3rd Feb., 1912, pp. 168-175).

THE CHURCH.

Time was too short to allow all the members, after viewing the interior of the house, to visit this interesting little church, but the following notes have been contributed :—

The PRESIDENT.—The Church, which lies close to the house on the south side, is small and plain ; but contains the very handsome early XVI Century tomb of Hugh Luttrell, on the north side of the chancel. Such tombs, as is shown by wills of the period, were at once family memorials and Easter sepulchres : the tombs in this position at South Pool and Loddiswell in Devon show clear evidence in their sculpture of their use for this second purpose.

Mr. BLIGH BOND.—The interior of the Church has an old-world charm. It is full of ancient oak, richly carved. The rood-screen is of the older and simpler type, with rather low rectangular-headed compartments containing quatrefoil tracery. The lower panels are traceried, and the screen retains its doors. There is a fine series of bench-ends with varied and original designs,—some of which are figured in *Country Life*, 3rd February, 1912, p. 174. The pulpit is of the earlier type of Renaissance with richly carved panels. The font is early Perpendicular (1377-1460).

About 1.30 p.m. Holford was reached and luncheon was provided by Mrs. J. Hayman at the Combe House Boarding Establishment. At 2.30 p.m. the members left for

Dodington Hall.

Here Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY briefly described the history of the house, his remarks being based on those made by Mr. E. Buckle on the occasion of the Society's visit in 1897 (*Proc.*, XLIII, i, 28-29).

The PRESIDENT said that the manor-house was largely of the XV Century, but the internal arrangements were somewhat obscured by later additions. The porch, however, led directly into the screens which divided the hall from the kitchen, and the hall remained upon the east side with a considerable amount of old woodwork.

The assistance of the Rev. W. H. P. GRESWELL, the former Rector of Dodington, had been anticipated, but although he was unable to come to the meeting, he has contributed the following notes :—

The small parish of Dodington, or Dodeton, was named after Dodo, a Saxon thane and a forester. (*See Eyton's "Domesday Studies, Somerset,"* 1, 202). Hence the bugles in Dodington Church and manor-house. Dodo's homestead formed part of the larger Stow, afterwards Stow or Stawe Superior and Inferior, *i.e.* Over and Nether Stowey. Domesday says "Dodo tenet Staw" amongst the king's thanes. This Staw or Stow may survive in "Stowborough" or "Stobergh," a large field opposite the church (*Inquis. p.m.* of John Waleraund, Stoke Courcy, 1309). "Bernersworth" (modern Barnsworthy) seems to preserve the "worth" or abode of the "Berners,"—an Anglo-Norman word for "kennel-men," as we learn from Gaston de Foix's "La Chasse." (*See also Greswell's "Forests and Deer Parks of Somerset,"* p. 230). Close to Dodington Church, Newhall, an old Domesday manor, was anciently held of Sabina Peche, forester-in-fee of North Petherton Park and Forest, and the tenants of Newhall held this land by the service of attending at Petherton Park in fawning season. This service was commuted to a money payment which still exists in the form of a land-tax from Newhall to North Petherton. "Peche's Oak" on the Dodington Common surely preserves the name of the Peche

“foresters-in-fee.” At Domesday Count Harold held Stowey, *i.e.* Over Stowey on the Quantocks, and Dodo’s part of this Saxon settlement looks like the Quantock Saxon hunting abode, judging from the above indications. Dodington Church may have had its origin as a hunting chapel, like Newton-Forester in North Petherton. In Hugo’s account of Mynchin Buckland Priory we find that the Prior drew an annual pension of 2s. from “the Chapel of Dodyndon in the Parish of Nether-Stowey.” The first Rector of the separate parish of Dodington was, presumably, Thomas Skybow, 1473 (Weaver’s “Incumbents”). Stowey, as apart from Stow or Stawe, must be a compound of “Stow” and “Way,” alluding to the great trunk road or way that ran from Combwich Passage, Cannington (Cantok-ton) to Over Stowey Church, and was known and described in documents as the “Great Staw herepath.” It seems to have given its name also to Rodway or Roadway manor in Cannington. Allusions are made to this important “Way” in the Gaunt’s Hospital records (Braikenridge MSS., Taunton Museum) and in Eton College Stoke-Courcy deeds (1100–1200). Important notices are made of the “Vetus Castellarium” or old Castle that stood close to Over Stowey Church, preserved in the place-names “Croggh Stokke” the old “stockaded hill” and, at the present day, “Castle Ground.” This Over Stowey fort was anterior to the Nether Stowey one on Castle Hill mount and must have been the stronghold of Count Harold, commanding the Quantock approaches from the Parrett, with Danesborough on its flank. In later Norman times the Nether Stowey barons had two parks there, one for red-deer and another for fallow. It seems likely that “Bernersworth” was used as the kennels. These parks existed till Elizabethan days and there are many place-names still reminding us of their existence.

Some years ago, by the courtesy of the late Lord St. Audries, Mr. Greswell obtained a copy from the Palmer MSS. of the Dodington genealogy. It corresponds somewhat closely with that given by Collinson, and is another proof how great a debt Collinson owed to the researches of Thomas Palmer, the industrious antiquary of Fairfield. He represented the town of Bridgwater and died 1734–5.

The Dodington estates in the XVIII Century went to George Bubb Dodington, member for Bridgwater, who was created Lord Melcombe. In 1762 Dodington passed to Richard Earl Temple; thence to the Duke of Buckingham, whence "Buckingham Plantation" on the hill. In the Duke's days the Dodington mines were worked.

Gothelney Manor.

A long drive brought the members to Gothelney, which was visited by the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cann. Owing to trouble with some of the motor-cars on the road, delay resulted, and some of the party were unable to spend more than fifteen minutes at Gothelney.

MR. SEBASTIAN EVANS said that before describing some of the architectural features of the house as it stood at present, he would give some account of the early history of the manor. The name at the time of the Conquest was Godelege, from the Anglo-Saxon *God*, good, and *leaze*, pasture. The latter word was still used in some parts of England to mean meadow or pasture. Later on the name had been Gautheney, Godelney, and now Gothelney. At the Conquest the manor was held by Roger de Curcelle. It was mentioned in Domesday, which said: Geoffrey holds of Roger, Godelege. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded (that is, paid tribute) for half a hide. Arable, two carucates; and if we take a carucate at eighty acres, there was not very much difference at the present day. There was half a mill which paid 10*d.* rent, and 20 acres of pasture worth 20*s.* Half a mill meant that the mill was in use between the tenants of this and some other manor, and the tenants each paid the rent to their respective landlords. After the Conquest the manor had an owner of its name,—Richard de Godelege, who served King Edward in his Scotch wars. The Lords of Charlinch held it till the time of Henry VI (1422), when it came into the possession of the family of Hody. There was a record of a John Hody being presented to the benefice of Witheridge by the Prioress and Convent of Canynton on September 16th, 1425,

and he might have been one of the Hodys of Gothelney. In the reign of James I it was sold to Roger Bourne of Wells, whose family were people of considerable property, and to him most likely a good many of the alterations in the house were due. The manor came into the possession of Mr. Cann's father and himself some fifty years ago.

There were apparently no remains of the old Norman manor house, and therefore none of the Saxon house as it stood in the time of the Confessor. Since those times many changes had taken place, and Mr. Cann said that a great part of the house had now disappeared altogether. At one time a moat ran round the buildings, and it could be traced approximately, but at present only a very small portion of what was probably the moat could be seen at the back of the house. It was quite likely that at some time the house was put in a state of defence from the various loop-holes in the tower and elsewhere.

At the end of the XIV Century or early in the XV Century the manor might have been the home of some religious order, as by the will of Edward Greville, dated 1436, he left 4 marks to the Chapel of St. John the Baptist at Gothelney, and that was interesting as giving the dedication of the chapel. One did not feel sure whether this chapel was in the tower, or whether it was the building seen on the members' right, for there was not anything left in the interior of either to prove the point.

Early in the XVII Century great alterations must have taken place, and probably at one time there might have been two towers with a large gateway between, as the remains of a large arch in the present dining-room might be seen, and there were massive foundations in what was now Mr. Cann's cellar,—in fact the cellar was formed in the thickness of the walling. Some time in the XVII Century the Banqueting Hall was ceiled over, but the original XV Century roof which might still be seen was in good condition, with the minstrels' gallery and their room adjoining. The porch and a large part of the front of the house seemed to have been built in the XVII Century, at a time when large alterations were made in the interior of the house.

The PRESIDENT said that the chief feature of Gothelney,

also of the XV Century like Dodington Hall, was the tall octagonal turret east of the porch, which rose above the roof and was capped by a low spire. The hall, on the other side of the porch, had been cut up into two modern rooms, and its north side formed a passage by which they entered. Adjoining the house on the east was a two-storied building, the upper portion of which might have been a chapel or oratory ; but no positive indication of that use remained.

On leaving Gothelney a few of the members proceeded to Bridgwater to catch their trains, but the great majority visited the last item on the programme,

West Bower Farm,

by permission of the tenant, Mr. W. Dyer.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY said that that picturesque building was all that remained of Bur or West Bower Manor or Court (now called West Bower Farm). What one saw was only a fragment of the original manor-house. Foundations had frequently been uncovered in the garden and yard, which proved that the extent of the mansion when in its complete condition must have been very considerable. What remained was of early construction and belonged to the Decorated period. The entrance, guarded by two towers with windows far from the ground, showed that it was built in troublous days when the need of fortification had not passed away, and when every Englishman's house was his castle. The lean-to roof and present doorway probably did not form part of the original building. Within the doorway one found an inner arch of larger size, but it was cut by a modern ceiling. In the vestibule there were four arched doors, of which three were moulded while one in front was plain. The western turret was from here approached by a stone newel ; above its windows on the inside were three shields and two ornaments, which appeared to be repeated in the tracery on the outside. Some old glass was to be seen in the turret, and there was a peculiar swelling in the centre of each mullion, similar to an ancient window at Meare ; there were also traces of shutter-hinge hooks. The

eastern turret also contained ancient glass in which formal roses and archaic letters were represented. "M" could easily be deciphered, which was said to stand for Malet. The Malet family owned the adjacent manor of Enmore, but no deed had turned up to confirm the Malet's connection with Bur.

West Bower claimed to be the birthplace of Jane Seymour, afterwards queen of Henry VIII, and mother of Edward VI; also of her brother Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset (the Lord Protector Somerset). The father, Sir John Seymour, was lord of the manor of Bur; but he had other country-seats, viz. Wolf's Castle in Wilts and Seymour's Manor in Bucks. West Bower passed to the Lord Protector, and on his execution the King, on the 1st May, 1553, "granted to Thomas Sydney, of Walsyngham, in the County of Norfolk, Esq., and Nicholas Halswell, of Gotehurst, in the County of Somerset, Esq.," together with property in other counties, "the following in Somerset:—A messuage and hereditament called Westbowre, lands called Yatefeldes, the Mylle close, the Mylle mede, Grenham, Basyng, Warrens, Downe, and Castle-acre, then or lately in the tenure of John White and John Raffe, or either of them, in Brydewater, Durleigh, and Cannyngton; a water mill called Westbowre, and other lands in the parishes of Bridgewater, Durleigh, and Wembdon; a tenement and six acres of land and meadow, in the occupation of John Ffarmer, in Comyde; . . . all of which were lately the property of Edward, late Duke of Somerset. . . . The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the day named above" (Hugo's "Mediæval Nunneries of Somerset," 1867, pp. 203-4). From that period West Bower remained the property of the Halswell family, and came to the Tyntes by the marriage of the Halswell heiress in 1648 to Colonel John Tynte of Chelvey. According to Collinson (III, 84) the Godwyn family were lords of Bower from the time of Edward II, when it was known as "Godwyn's Bower." The Godwyns sold it to John Brent of Cossington, and later that manor with others became dispersed to other families.

Mr. Gray then turned to the columbarium or dove-cote, which was difficult to date as it had apparently no feature that betrayed a special style. It might be late XVI or early XVII

Century. The walling, which was 4ft. in thickness, consisted of rough stone-work to a height of 3ft. 6ins., and of mud above. The total height was 16ft. to the wall-plate. On the outside the stone-work was contained within the mud, but it was uncovered inside the building. The roof inside was made with care,—eight rafters with a bracket at the foot of each. The method adopted in the tying of the rafters seemed general in circular dove-cotes. The flight-hole was at the apex; the trap-door, for closing it, was no longer in its place. The door of the dove-cote was larger than those of the doors of similar structures. The nest-holes were in 13 tiers, and each row appeared to have contained 60. That made a total of 780, but 35 must be subtracted for the doorway, so that the building contained about 745 or 750 breeding-places. The holes measured 6 by 8ins., and varied from 15 to 18ins. in depth. The circular dove-cotes at Wellow and West Camel had each about 600 holes; whilst the square one at Kelston had 900.

Mr. Gray said he was indebted to Mr. St. David Kemeys-Tynte for some of the historical notes, and to Father Ethelbert Horne for the description of the dove-cote.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Before leaving West Bower, the Rev. Preb. HAMLET on behalf of the Council of the Society, expressed thanks to all those who had contributed to the success of their visit to Bridgwater. He mentioned severally the clergy who had thrown open their churches, the owners and occupiers of private houses for having allowed so large a number of visitors to enter their doors, the Local Committee, and the various speakers including Mr. Bligh Bond, the Rev. C. H. Heale, Mr. A. F. Major, Mr. S. Evans, Mr. H. Corder and Mr. C. H. Bothamley. He concluded by paying a tribute to the indefatigable efforts of Mr. H. St. George Gray in the capacity of Excursion Secretary, and by making reference to the eminent abilities of their President, Mr. Hamilton Thompson.

This was the last item of a very full day's expedition, and most of the members, arriving at Bridgwater at 5.20 p.m., were able to disperse to their homes that evening.

Somerset Earthworks Committee.

Secretary—Dr. A. BULLEID, F.S.A., Dymboro, Midsomer Norton, Bath.

Director of Excavations—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Taunton Castle.

MURTRY HILL, ORCHARDLEIGH PARK, NEAR FROME.

AS previously reported (*Proceedings*, LXI, xxviii) the ancient remains at Murtry Hill were surveyed by Mr. Gray, August 31st to September 2nd, 1915. With the kind permission of the owner, Major A. C. Duckworth, the Committee conducted excavations from September 28th to October 8th, 1920, when two large and two smaller cuttings were made, and a number of the stones forming the original structure were uncovered. The work has been recorded by means of plans, sections and photographs, and a full report will be prepared in due course. The excavations were superintended by Mr. Gray, and Dr. Bulleid rendered valuable help in various ways. Contributions for future work on other sites are earnestly solicited. The season's work finished with only £2 18s. 5d. in hand. This fund was started in 1914 by a donation of £10 from Lord Portman (then the Hon. H. B. Portman).

The following donations during 1920 were received :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
H. H. P. Bouverie, Esq.	2	0	0	John E. Pritchard, Esq.,			
Dr. A. Bulleid, F.S.A.	3	3	0	F.S.A.	1	1	0
W. S. Clark, Esq.	2	2	0	A. F. Somerville, Esq.	1	0	0
H. Martin Gibbs, Esq.	1	0	0	W. M. Tapp, Esq., F.S.A.	1	1	0
John Morland, Esq.	1	0	0	Charles Tite, Esq.	1	1	0
W. de C. Prideaux, Esq.,				Rt. Hon. Earl Waldegrave	1	1	0
F.S.A.	0	10	6				

Glastonbury Abbey Excavations.

REPORT OF THE GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION
COMMITTEE, 1920.

OWING to lack of funds, very little work has been possible during the year, but Mr. Bligh Bond has been able to excavate on the site of the Loretto Chapel on the north side of the nave wall, and has laid bare its foundations, which show it to have been a Chapel about 40 feet long by 24 feet broad, with an entrance probably from the north transept of the Church. This is all the work that has been done, but it is hoped during 1921, with the permission of the Trustees, to start excavations at the south-west end of the buildings, in order to find, if possible, some traces of St. Joseph's original church.

SEBASTIAN EVANS, *Hon. Secretary.*

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, *Jan. 1, to Dec. 31, 1920.*

GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION FUND.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
By Balance of Former Account	25	6	11	To Labour, Apr.-June, 1920	47	0	0
„ Donations—				„ F. Bligh Bond, Personal Expenses, 1919 ..	6	0	0
Bath Branch, S.A.S.	1	1	0	„ Postages	0	3	9
Dr. W. E. Carnegie Dickson	10	10	0	„ Sundries	0	6	3
Rev. G. W. Saunders	1	0	0	„ Balance in hand ..	19	2	11
Mrs. Arthur Stallard	2	2	0				
„ Box Collections at Glastonbury Abbey ..	15	18	0				
„ Proceeds from Societies conducted by F. B. Bond	13	15	3				
„ Rebate on Workmen's Insurance, 1919-20	2	11	2				
„ Interest on Deposit Account, 1920 ..	0	8	7				
	£72	12	11		£72	12	11
	£72	12	11		£72	12	11

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