

The Members then visited the

Parish Church.

The Rev. Preb. BULLER, the Vicar, gave a description of the exterior of the edifice. He said he believed that he was right in saying that there was only one stone left belonging to the original church. This had been pointed out by the architect, Mr. Ferry, and it formed the foundation of one of the buttresses of the east end of the chancel. The present building was erected between the years 1400 and 1440, and was of the Perpendicular type peculiar to Somerset. The gargoyles were particularly beautiful, and of great interest. On going inside they would find that the old rood-loft passage was to be opened up, and several squints were also to be opened. On a portion of the walling some vermilion was found, which indicated that the walls were once coloured. The church was now being restored, but he assured the Society that the restoration was being carried out on the strictest conservative principles, and he trusted that no ardent archæologist would have reason to find fault with what was done. The roof, which was lowered about fifty years since, would be raised to its original pitch. But an endeavour would be made to keep to the old lines, and nothing new would be introduced excepting the wood-work. The interior of the church would be filled with open benches.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Buller for his explanation. They were all very anxious that nothing of interest should

be destroyed. There were fears least some radical alteration might be made in the structure.

Mr. BULLER was very pleased to hear that the eyes of the world were upon them.—The interior of the building was then examined, and Mr. Buller described the principal features in connection with it. He said that originally there were two chapels, with an altar in each. He also pointed out the passage to the rood-loft which went right across the church; and the squints which had been discovered during the restoration. The organ gallery, extending across the west end, will come down, and the organ be removed to the south transept. The western entrance will be walled up, and the north and south porches opened for their legitimate use. One of these porches is now used as a vestry, and the font stands in the other. A new vestry will be built, and two additional bells, to make the peal eight, will be placed in the tower.

Mr. GREEN gave some account of the Chantry of the Blessed Mary, and of the Fraternity of St. Katherine. In 1395, 19th Rich. II, one William Baker forfeited certain lands to the King, for having granted or sold them without a license, and disputes arising over this in 1400, an enquiry was conducted at Chard to determine the ownership, when the jury found that a third part belonged to the King, but that the other two-thirds were feed or granted by the King to William Atkyns and Nicholas Norrishe and the Fraternity of the Blessed Mary. Proclamation was made for any who wished to challenge this decision to come forward—when, after a little hesitation, there appeared John Verney, who said the jury were arrayed or impanelled, or packed, as we should say, by Walter Attemore, the under-sheriff, to give a verdict in favour of the King. This challenge was found to be so true that the decision was cancelled, and another jury called—“provided that the said under-sheriff was not to interfere in making it.” In 1440, 19th Henry VI, the King of his special grace augmented the chantry, and gave to Robert Straunge and John

Bushell three parts of fourteen burgages, one house, six acres of land, four acres of meadow, and three closes, and 12d. rents from two burgages in the burgh of Chard, value 24s. 1½d., formerly belonging to William Baker, and forfeited. At the dissolution and the enquiry into these chantries, thirty-three such holdings or burgages were returned, including a burgage vocat le George, with six acres, in the tenure of Richard Tucker, the total value of the chantry, £14 9s. 8d., from which the sum of 13s. 4d. was annually distributed to the poor. The Fraternity of St. Katherine owned twelve burgages, or small holdings, and including the rent of the house called our Lady's house in which the chantry stood, was worth £6 2s. 8d. per annum. The whole was sold for £406 3s. 4d., to John Whitehorn and John Bayly, of Charde, the gift to the poor not being considered a charge: in the margin is written—Rex exonorabit. The woods growing in and upon the premises would barely suffice to “mayneteyne the hedginge and fensyng parteynyng” to the same, therefore they were not valued. In the *Valor*, p. 163, 27th Hen. VIII, 1535, are mentioned oblations in the Chapels of St. Francis and St. Margaret. In the reign of Edward VI, John and William Marsh received a grant of many very small holdings, including a cottage, “formerly a chapel.”

In 1536, March 6th, the Provost, William Raylyns, who was the rector, leased the tithe corn to John Palle of Chard, when the rents of the sundry lots were valued.

	£	s.	d.
The tithe corn of Elder Chard ...	3	13	4
„ „ Tatteworth ...	4	13	4
„ „ South Chard ...	3	10	0
„ „ Kermer Chard ...	4	3	4
„ „ Farthington ...	3	10	0
Demesne lands of the town ...	2	0	0
Pasture of the parsonage garden ...		6	8
	<hr/>		
	£ 22	0	0
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Reserving to the Provost the chester corn. In 1548 the same leased the grist mill or western mill, called Averham Mill, for sixty years, at £1 16s. 8d.

On this question of tithes, of course disputes arose at Chard as well as in so many other places. In Trinity term, 10th Anne, 1711, Elizabeth Chowne, widow and executrix of Christopher Chowne, deceased, late Vicar of Chard, brought an action against Mary Deane, widow, to discover and recover tithes due in kind. The bill had been filed by the Vicar in 1705; the defendant was owner and occupier of divers pieces of ground—arable, meadow, and pasture—and upon the same kept divers milch cows, which had calves, and produced great quantities of milk; also he kept great numbers of sheep and had great quantities of wool, and many pigs, geese, eggs, and chicken, and other small tithes, titheable. The defendant answered, and duly “discovered” particulars, quantities, qualities, and value, but insisted that a modus was payable, and that the tithe was not payable in kind. The cause was heard at Serjeants’ Inn, when the defendant was ordered to account in kind as prayed.

People in the olden time were perhaps more attached to localities than we are fast becoming. In the Lambeth register is the will of Thomas Dygon, date 1453, in which he desires to be buried in the church at Chard; and again in 1524, John Prowse, by his will, now in the *State Papers Domestic*, directs his body to be buried in Chard church, and bequeaths to the church 6s. 8d., to the altars of S^t. Mary and S^t. Katherine 3s. 4d. each, and to the high altar at Chard, for tithes forgotten, 12d.; and for mass for two years, £13 6s. 8d.

Mr. E. B. TYLOR, LL.D., remarked that the bequest for “tithes unpaid” had probably nothing to do with tithes, but would be simply the continuance of, or substitute for, a mortuary custom of the early times, when the deceased’s horse or some other valuable perquisite went to the priest.

REV. FREDK. BROWN, in his researches through many early

Somerset wills had often met with this bequest for tithes forgotten, and had always been puzzled and unable to account for it. No doubt Mr. Tylor's suggestion solved the difficulty.

The PRESIDENT concurred in this view.

Mr. GREEN was glad to have this explained, and gave a case which seemed to the point. In 1336 died Sir John de Clevedon, and by his will he desired to be buried in the Chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr, in the Church of St. Andrew of Clevedon. He left a cope to the altar of St. Thomas; a pair of vestments and a chalice. To the vicar he left the horse, with all military harness belonging to the same, which should go before his body at the funeral, or twenty marks—at the choice of the vicar; if the latter were chosen, the horse was to revert to the executors. To the Chapel of St. Peter in Clevedon he also left vestments and a chalice.—Mr. Green then drew attention to the mural tablet in the north-east angle of the south transept to the memory of William Bremer, “physician,” with his wife and six sons and five daughters, all men and women grown. It was remarkable for the excellent absence of stiff formality in the group, produced by the air of inattention given to one son and one of the daughters.

Quitting the church, the supposed only stone of the original building was inspected, and the party then proceeded to the

Grammar School.

Mr. GREEN said the Head-Master was unfortunately absent that day. The date he saw on the rain-water pipe was 1583, but he could not assent to that date for the house, as it seemed to him much later. He had never been inside it, and so spoke with diffidence, hoping for local help and information. This was not one of the royal early foundations, to correspond with the above date, but was a later private endowment of the time of James I. He would draw attention to a document preserved in the County MSS. at Taunton. It was issued with the sanction of the Portreeve and Burgesses of Chard, being, in accordance with a then custom, an application to the justices

for a brief or license to beg for money to rebuild after a fire. The petition, dated 13th October, 1727,—“ Humbly Showeth that on Fryday the Twenty-fifth day of August last past about eleven of the clock in the forenoon there happened a great and terrible fire which broke out in the dwelling house of your petitioner Fras. Coleman which by reason of the dryness of the season (there having been no raine for some moneths before) did in the space of four houres burn down, consume and utterly destroy the Grammar School, being a large pile of building belonging to the said borough, and also the dwelling houses of your petitioners with their household goods and furniture. The loss being £1400 they pray that some one may be appointed to collect money for their relief.” Some one, he hoped, would tell them where this school stood.

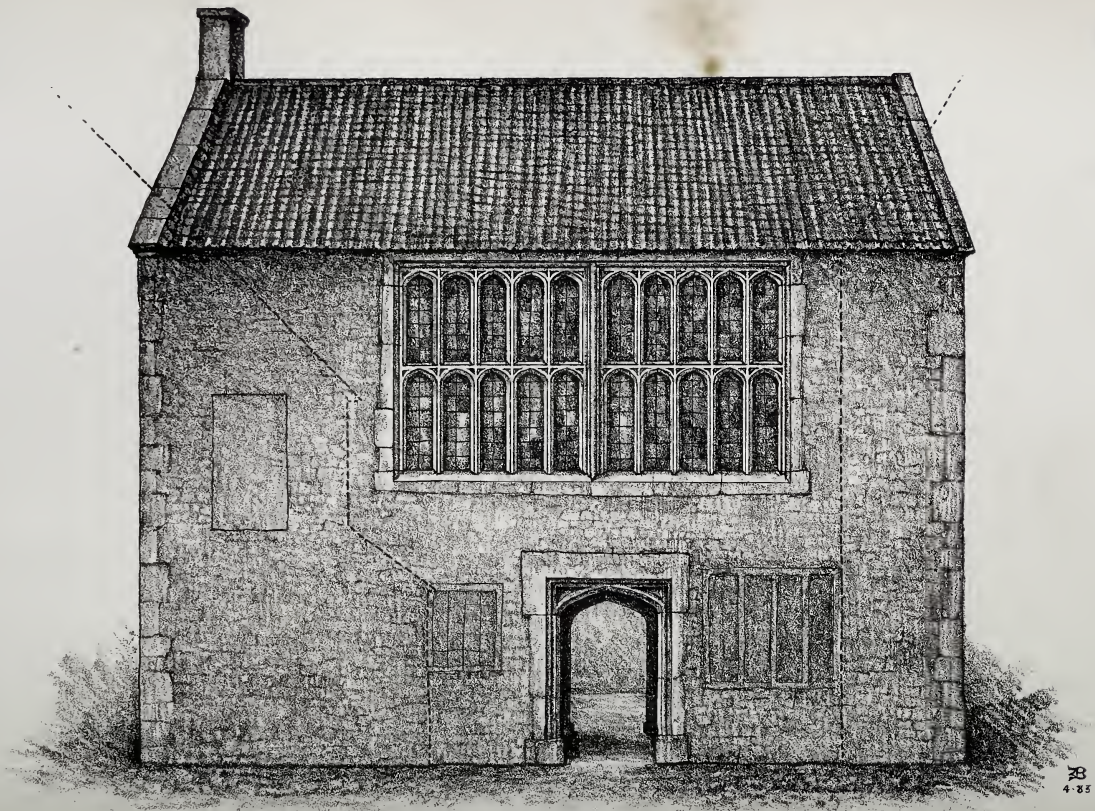
As this question could not then be answered, an advance was made to the Market House, the fine supply of water ever passing though the gas lamp posts, used as conduits, being noticed by the way. Under the Market House were two cannons, bearing a rather curious casting, in circles. It reads:— These two pieces of cannon were presented to Augustine Wheadon of Crimchard, by his faithful servant, Mr. William Burrige, who by his own industry became an eminent merchant of Portsmouth, and was recast (*sic*) by his grandson, George Wheadon. The year of our Lord 1842.”

It will be noticed that it was the donor, the eminent merchant, who was recast, not the cannon.

A few paces higher, and the party halted in front of the house known for trading purposes as

Waterloo House.

Mr. GREEN considered it was of the time of James I. The upper or higher half was older than the lower, and all bore marks of reparation; the date was about 1602. But behind this they had a very interesting building, which he should now name for the first time the



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W. Bidgood, del.

MANOR COURT HOUSE, CHARD.

West, Newman & Co. imp.

Manor Court House.

It had been called the Justice Hall, and also the Bishop's Palace. They would find a very remarkable ceiling, in what was evidently an Elizabethan room of about 1580. Immediately on the left on entering was a representation in plaster of the "Judgment of Solomon;" adjoining it was Justice with a sword; in the centre was another medallion, representing the three men in the fiery furnace; then there was another female figure, reading a book, perhaps the Book of the Law; and then a medallion, representing Daniel in the lions' den. He would draw attention to the lions, the idea of harmlessness was well conveyed. The ceiling at this half was most elaborate, marked out in panels, whose squares or voids were filled in, in high relief, with curious ornamental figures, such as a hare with the wings and body of a bird; or the beak and wings of a bird on the body of a rabbit; then there were dogs heads holding branches; and others were necks of geese, or one neck with three heads, with a leafy branch trailing from mouth to mouth, all used merely for their curves for gracefully filling in. The other half was different, having fruit, flowers, and stars, instead of animals. At this end would be seen the key to the whole. Over the mantel-piece was a phoenix, the badge of Queen Elizabeth. She did not discard the Tudor rose, but in the literature of the time constant allusion was made to the Phoenix, this being Elizabeth, under whom England had shaken off the dust of ages, to rise to the greatest prosperity. Above this was an animal which, he thought, was intended to be a badger or brock in some wild shelter, the crest of the Brook family, landowners in Chard from an early time, and lords of the manor, until it was forfeited by Lord Cobham, by attainder in the time of James I. The Hall was, he considered, the Court House of the manor, in which the lord or his steward sat to receive the customs of the manor, and where disputes were settled and justice dealt to all. Every house in Chard paid

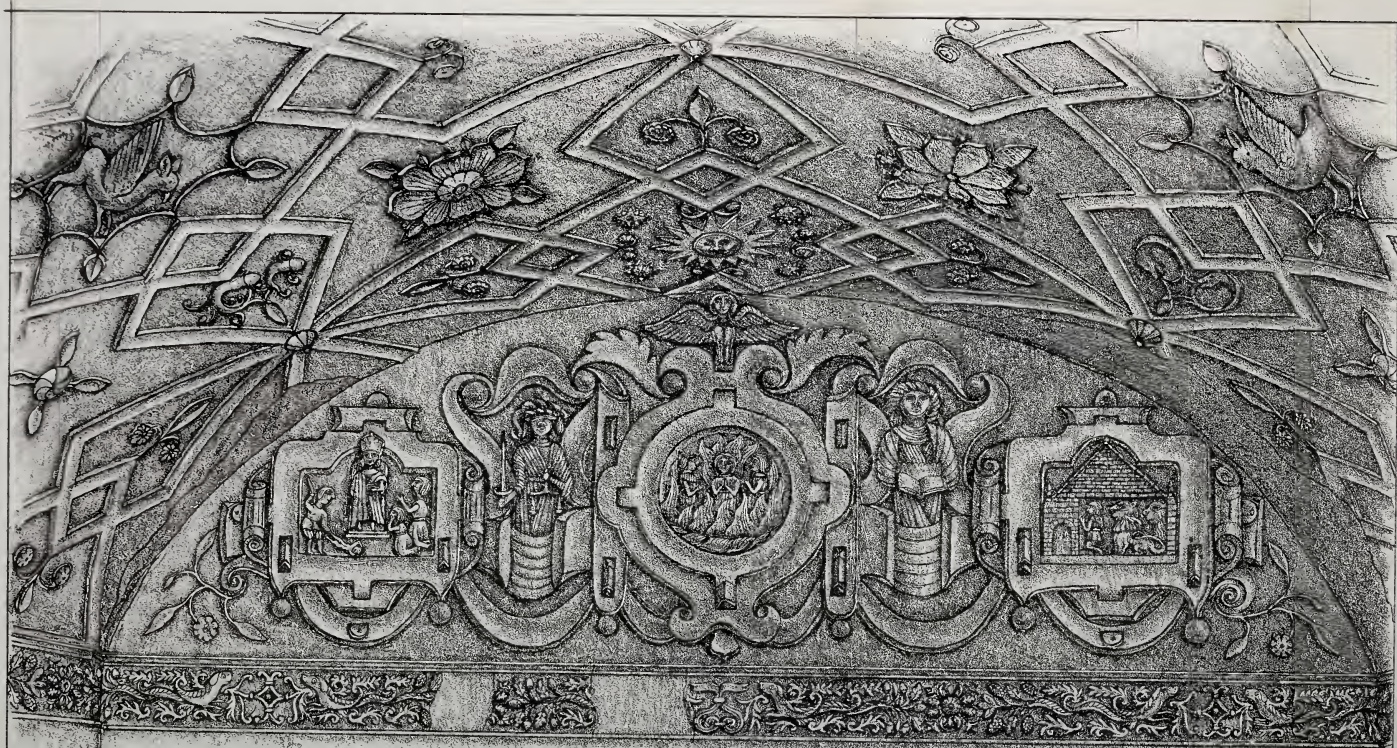
twelve pence per annum, and certain services had to be rendered, and such duties would be performed here.

The ceilings of Waterloo House, now so called, facing the street, were of a different character, corresponding to their later date.

The question of who had built or resided in these old places, their habits, their manners and their beliefs, all passed away, must be of local interest, and he would just endeavour to give a clue for others to work the subject out. But no assertion should be made or conclusion arrived at except on proof by absolute facts.

There was in Chard as a prosperous merchant one John Bancroft, in whose house King Charles I twice stayed in 1644. Which house was this? Then Mr. Wm. Symes of Poundisford, merchant, is found in his will of 1597, leaving to his wife "my Manor House in Charde," and to his daughter, the wife of Jasper Pine, "my implements in Filton, Chard." There were others of this family, who intermarried with the Walronds, 1613 and 1624, also merchants of Chard.

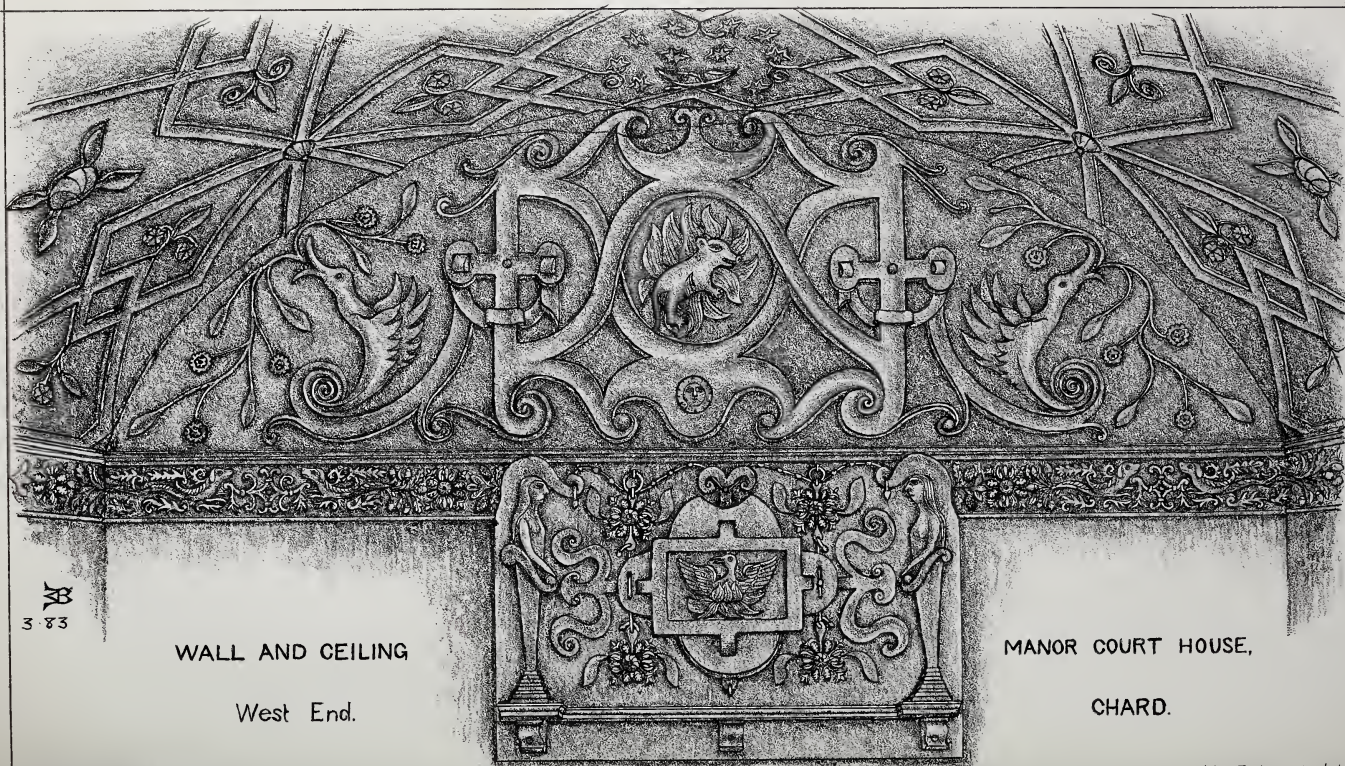
There was one family of the name of Cogan—pronounced, he presumed, Coggan, as it is sometimes so written,—clothiers, who were admitted as entitled to bear arms in the Herald's Visitation, and so to the status of gentlemen. There appears to have been several of them, so that, without time, a pedigree is difficult. One had property close by this Hall. In 1547, Richard Cogan left 6s. 8d. to have his name "sett in the Bede roll and to be prayed for." Then appears Thomas Cogan, who died in 1580, leaving sons, Thomas and Philibert. Thomas died without issue, and Philibert died in 1623, aged 60, leaving five daughters. No son is mentioned. A Philibert Cogan was fined, 21st Jas. I, 1623, and pardoned for buying land without a license, and a Philibert died in 1641, whose will was proved 12th April in that year. About this time the wealthy branch apparently ended in a daughter Elizabeth, who married John Helyar of Yately, Hants, second son of Wm. Helyar of



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WALL AND CEILING, IN MANOR COURT HOUSE, CHARD.—East End.

W. Bidgood, del.



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WALL AND CEILING

West End.

MANOR COURT HOUSE,

CHARD.

Coker. In Yately church is a slab recording that there lyeth John Helyar who died in 1721, second son of Wm. Helyar of Coker, Somerset, by Rachel, coheiress of Sir Hugh Windham of Dorset. He had two wives, the first being Elizabeth, sole heiress of Philibert Cogan of Chard, who died at Chard and was buried there, leaving issue one child Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Windham. It can be seen here how quickly a pedigree becomes mixed. Of course Cogan got into Chancery and had law suits as our ancestors persistently did. In 1590 John Hodie of Langnam in Chard, brought his action against Thomas Cogan, clothier, the dispute being about a small piece of land, a paltry debt of twenty shillings and an obligation for £40.

But whilst the Cogans established to the satisfaction of the Heralds their title to coat armour and the position of gentlemen, others were not so fortunate. The Herald was authorised to peruse, take knowledge and survey, all manner of arms and crests, descents and marriages, and to reprove, control, and make infamous by proclamation all who usurped the title, honor or dignity of esquire or gentleman. At the Visitation held at Chard in 1591 the Heralds found some claims which they disallowed, and proclaimed the parties accordingly, much perhaps to the delight of their neighbours. These were

Wm. Bonner	...	of East Chinnock.
John Jenes	...	of do.
Richd. Fox	...	of Combe St. Michell.
Richd. Rocetur	...	of do.
Giles Chilton	...	of Finsborough.
Robt. Jennings	...	of Corryvall.
Wm. Kingman	...	of Deniett.
Thos. Rawe	...	of Ilton.

whose names would then probably be registered as "ignoble."

Formerly the present open street was blocked by three buildings; the Market House which stood opposite the present one; and the Sessions Hall, which would be also the Town Hall or Shire Hall where Jeffreys held his court, and which

stood at the corner of the street leading to the church, a foot-way only between it and that side. Immediately above the Shire Hall were the shambles. Until they were all removed, about 1834, the coaches could no more than just pass. It has been stated by Stukeley that there was once a market held on Sunday; very possibly the case as in very early times it was usual. An episode on the question of cattle dealing, or engrossing as it was called, may be mentioned. It must be remembered that buying corn or cattle to sell again was formerly forbidden, all sales were to be made in open market, and no corn could be removed from its own district without special licence. With corn, however, secrecy and cunning often succeeded, and the dearer market got an occasional supply. With cattle the case was different, as any removal must be known, hence the following instance may be recorded as somewhat rare. The interrogatories put were—

1. Do not you know that the defendant is a common buyer of cattle?
2. That he hath kept the same in his pasture grounds for five weeks before he sold them again alive.
3. How many oxen of the aforesaid cattle hath he sold within the five weeks, and for what prices?
4. What other cattle hath he bought?
5. Hath he bought 12 oxen from one Sir John Stradlyn, and to whom were they sold, and at what prices?
6. Did he buy 10 steares or runts or heyfers about Myniard and sell them again within ten days to one Wm. Buridge of Chard, and what price did he get? Declare the truth hereof upon your oath.

Deponent said that ten steers were bought at Myniard and sold the same day to Buridge of Chard. The defendant paid for the ten, £60, and sold them for £63 6s. 8d.

One witness said he knew defendant as a seller of oxen. Oxen were worth £4 to £5 a piece, the steers £3, and the heyfers about 7 nobles a piece.

Another said that the defendant bought of Sir John Stradlyn, Kt., 12 oxen, and sold them within a fortnight at about £5 a piece and sold them for more than he gave, and he sold to deponent 16 oxen and 40 sheep, the oxen at £4 13s. 4d. a piece and the sheep for £20, and this within three weeks after he bought them; that he bought at Myniard 10 steers for £3 a piece and sold them again within ten days at Chard. The result of the enquiry is not found. (Exc. Dep. 21 J i. Hil. No. 15.)

The HON. SEC. having suggested that as time was pressing the visit to the interior of the hall should be postponed until the morning as he hoped there would be no delay in starting presently for the excursion, the Members proceeded to the George Hotel Assembly Room where luncheon had been most kindly provided by the Local Committee.

The PRESIDENT, at the conclusion of the luncheon, thanked the Mayor and the Local Committee for the gracious manner in which the Society had been received.

The MAYOR (Mr. S. Toms) acknowledged the compliment, and assured the company that he only expressed the feeling of the Local Committee who welcomed them with great pleasure and thanked them for their visit.

Much regretting that the Snowdon quarries, so full of geological interest, could not be visited, the company drove in breaks and carriages to

Membury Camp.

The HON. SEC., in describing the camp, said it was an ancient British fortress, from which seven or eight other similar defences could be seen. They were formed when the people of Devonshire were at enmity with those in Dorset, and when the inhabitants of both those districts were enemies of those of Somerset. They had their little wars, and that was one of the fortresses of Dorset, a protection from the people of Devon or Somerset. This camp, it would be observed, had a very Roman appearance as it was somewhat rectangular, but the Roman entrances were always direct, whilst those of

British origin were oblique, guarded on each side, and were made on the opposite or sheltered side from the enemy. An interment had been found, but on exposure the remains crumbled to dust. The spot where it was discovered was not identified. There was a trackway traceable, he believed, from Membury to Whitestaunton and by Buckland to Neroche, the last being once a fortress of the then Devon people.

The PRESIDENT said that those camps appeared to go back to the time when people were unacquainted with the use of iron. Bronze celts had been found in that neighbourhood, and those were the weapons used in cutting down the trees before they were superseded by weapons of iron. In his own parish of Whitestaunton there was just such a camp with a steep escarpment. Those camps were made sufficiently large to hold the cattle. The people were disposed on the hill sides, for in all probability the valleys were full of water, and in the time of trouble they took refuge in the forts. In front of them was the ancient port of Seaton. No doubt it was originally a place where a great deal of trade had been carried on with the Mendip mines. A pig of lead found bore an inscription of the time of Nero—showing that the Romans considered them silver mines, although the lead contained less silver than was usually found.

Some discussion then ensued on the question of silver in lead ore, and as to the way in which it was extracted. It was contended that the Romans were acquainted with the process, although it was said to be a very difficult one.

Within easy distance of the camp,

Membury Church

was next inspected.

The HON. SEC. not having seen it before mentioned a few details as they occurred to him. After drawing attention to the roof of the south aisle, he said there were remains of a very early time. The chancel arch was early 13th century work, as was also the east window, this being three distinct

lancet lights. In a recessed tomb in the north aisle was a recumbent figure representing a lady in the costume of early in the 13th century. Probably the lady and the building of the chancel were in some way connected. The tower was of a very severe type. He then drew attention to the Fry monuments in the south chapel, one representing a lady and gentleman, the lady being dressed in Jacobean and the gentleman in Elizabethan costume. The latter apparently wearing the robe of a Doctor of Oxford.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the upper portion of this monument, where was represented a curtain drawn back, disclosing a skull or *mort*. In Brittany it was the custom to preserve a father's skull, the *chef* as it was called, and this was visited at certain times.

Some conversation ensued, but it was concluded that this representation had only the ordinary signification, and was not connected with this custom. After some remarks by Mr. Greenfield on the various armorial bearings, and some time had been spent in attempts to read a partially defaced inscription on one memorial,

The Rev. FREDK. BROWN gave a brief outline of the family of Frye, to whom the monuments were erected. They had been there for a great many years, and intermarried into some of the best families in Devonshire. They were a family of importance, and lived at the old house at Yarty. The earliest notice he had found was that of William Frye, who died in 1607. His son died in 1633, and the only peculiarity about him was that in his will he wished that no blacks should be provided for his funeral, which showed "the vanity of this world," and that his body should not be "unbowelled." He had many children, one, Agnes married into the great family of Shurman, of Upottery. She died the first week of her marriage, as recorded in Upottery church. The family from the Reformation was distinctly Protestant, and they had no connection in any way with the old religion. So

much so that William Frye, one of the sons, threw himself heart and soul into the civil war, taking the side of the Parliament. His name appeared as a commissioner. He was the member for Shaftesbury during the Long Parliament, and was one of the Council of State for the trial of Charles I. It was stated that some of the early Fryes were connected by marriage with John O'Gaunt. The last Robert Frye died in 1722, and left a daughter, who married Lord King, ancestor of the present Earl of Lovelace. The tablet on the north side of the chancel was to the memory of Sir Shilston Calmady, who was killed in one of the battles between the Parliamentarians and the Royalists, and which took place in the parish of Membury. The date of his death was 1645.

Mr. J. B. DAVIDSON kindly contributed the following notes, some of the particulars being noticed by Dr. Oliver in the *Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Devon*. Early in the 13th century a chapel stood at Membury, attached to the church of Axminster. A cemetery and a baptistery were added, and the whole was reconsecrated by Bishop Stapeldon on the 22 July, 1316. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The chancel, the most ancient part, is separated from the nave by a pointed arch without ornament and has an east window of three lancet-shaped lights, with two small loop-hole lights at the sides, all of which point to the early part of the thirteenth century as the time of building. In the north wall of the chancel is a small and rude piscina.

The north aisle is called St. Catherine's or Brinscombe aisle, the latter being the name of an estate in the parish. Under a low semi-circular arch in this aisle is the recumbent figure of a lady, habited in a long robe, and wearing a veil and wimple, her head rests on a cushion and her hands, uplifted before her breast, hold between them an image of the Virgin and Child. This is a *fac-simile*, though of inferior execution, of a monument in Axminster church, and is probably an effigy

of Lady Alice de Mohun, believed to have been a contributor to the structures of both churches.

The south aisle has been called "Our Lady's ile," and was erected in the 16th century by one of the family of Fry of Yarty. The seat formerly appropriated to the family opens to the chancel by an arch, and is separated from the aisle by a light wooden screen, over the folding doors of which is a coat of arms—Fry and Langton quarterly. On it also is the record that the monument and seats were repaired by Robt. Fry in 1718. The corner of the wall of the church was perforated when this aisle was erected, to enable the occupants of the seat to see the preacher. The tower, handsome but quite plain, is of the fourteenth century.

The inscriptions on the tablets have been already noticed, but there were formerly four hatchments, of which one bore the arms—*argent* a saltire engrailed, between four roses *gules* leafed *vert*, and beneath it:—

In memoriam Dominæ Annæ uxoris Johannis Fry de Yearty, Devoniensi armig. quæ unica fuit filia Roberti Naper de Puncknole, Dorcestriensi armig. Obiit 25 die Martii Anno Dom : 1683, ætat 39.

Then followed five lines in Latin, of which the first formed a chronogram:—

CœLVM VXorI pIæ DeVs paraVIIt.

This was a method fancifully adopted to mark the time or date. If the capital letters here are taken and placed in line perpendicularly, beginning with the C, the numbers which they represent then placed opposite each and added together, the total will give the year, viz., 1683.

A walk, rather too long for many to undertake through the dirty way, was made to the

Quakers' Meeting House.

This was found to be a building now used as a barn, but, with other indications, the gallery still remaining within marks its original use. It belonged to Thomas Smith, of

Cloakham, but the exact time of its disuse could not be discovered. From a small manuscript book entitled, "A Register for Marriages, Births and Burials of the Peepell of the Lord Called Quakers Belonging too the Meeteing at Membury and there About," kindly shown by Mr. Reynolds of Bridport, a short history of it can be seen. The first burial was on the 15th of the 5th month (July), 1660; the first birth recorded on the 14th of the 4th month (June) 1662, and the first marriage on the 9th of the 9th month (Nov.), 1662. Couples were "marred" in 1726 and 1733, and a burial is recorded 21st day of 1st month (Jan. N.S.), 1788. The burial ground was also visited, where the following inscription is on one of the stones: "Here lyeth the body of Ann, the wife of Edward Smith of Cloakham, near Axminster, who dy'd the 17th of Oct. 175(5), aged 72 years. She was the mother of two children." Some discussion ensued as to the use of gravestones by the Quakers. In their early days such stones were used, were afterwards disused, to be now again in use, if desired. About equidistant from the meeting house and the burying ground, on the brow of the hill on which the latter was formed, is Lee Hill Farm. The farm house appears to have been used by the Quakers as a temporary residence, whenever the affairs of the community brought the members of the society with some of the leading officials into the neighbourhood. Here the wedding parties met, and the funeral processions were arranged. A large room in the house was used on occasions as a council chamber, another as a refectory, and there were sleeping apartments. In this house is preserved a carved chair, from the Meeting House, bearing the initials T.S. and the date May 19, 1618. This would be some time before the first preaching of George Fox. On the mantel-piece of the kitchen are painted the initials A.S. and the date 1678.

Not attending to the Secretary's call, nor to the programme, some members here deviated from the route laid down for them and thus the whole cavalcade was detained for more

than half an hour, the arrival home being in consequence equally delayed. In future the greatest happiness of the greatest number must be considered, and such stray sheep will be left to their own devices.

A goodly company dined at the George Hotel, well catered for by mine host.

The Evening Meeting,

commenced rather late in the Town Hall, but was largely attended, especially by the inhabitants, many standing the whole evening without movement or sign of restlessness.

The PRESIDENT, on taking the chair, said the papers set down for that evening were one by Mr. Greenfield on the Meriet family, and one by Mr. Green on the Manor of Chard. With the permission of the meeting he would call upon Mr. Green to read his paper.

Mr. GREEN then read his paper, which is printed in Part II.

The PRESIDENT thought they were all very much indebted to Mr. Green for his valuable paper. He would like to ask Mr. Green if in the course of his enquiries he ever came across a word which so far as he knew was absolutely peculiar to Chard. Mr. Tucker had been kind enough to allow him to look at an old document, and in that, a matter of special interest was, that there was a piece of official land called Hayward's Ham. It was a piece of common ground which was given to the constable of the town to pay him for his services. In the document was the expression that the wheat was not to be filled above the chisem wheat. He wished to know if any gentlemen could tell him what chisem wheat was.

No one could explain the meaning of the word.

After the meeting Mr. J. BROWN wrote that chisem was used for grown or sprouted, and was still applied usually to potatoes when in that state. Other correspondents kindly sent similar information, but its meaning as applied to wheat was not cleared up.

Mr. GREEN asked if any gentleman present could inform him where Hall and Waterscombe were.

Mr. MITCHELL, Junr., replied that there was a Walscombe in Cudworth.

Mr. C. E. DAVIS, of Bath, said the Secretary had stated with reference to the old hall that the phœnix was a badge of Elizabeth. The phœnix was the crest of the Seymour family, and it showed that the property at some time or other must have been held by the Seymours. In the course of his paper Mr. Green had informed them that the Seymours actually did hold property in Chard, and he claimed the ceiling of the hall as Jacobean.

Mr. GREEN adhered to his opinion that the phœnix represented Queen Elizabeth, and remarked that the property did not belong to the Seymours at the time the hall was built. He could give many examples of this phœnix in the time of Elizabeth, and it would be so found in Books of Emblems, all kings had a badge or emblem, besides their usual cognizance and crest. In the Bath Field Club *Proceedings*, in a paper on the Queen's visit to Bath, this matter was specially prominent, jewels in the form of a phœnix being the usual present, and the poems of the time were full of the allusion. A badge, special to the individual, was not a crest. The crest of the Seymours was a phœnix issuing from a ducal coronet, which was quite a different thing heraldically from the present representation.

The PRESIDENT said the work of the ceiling appeared to have been done by a band of wandering Italian workmen, who took their designs from ceilings of Rome. They did some work in his house at Whitestaunton, clearly of the same character which would be seen on the following day, and which bore the date of 1577. These wandering artists used to go about decorating the gentlemen's houses in different parts of the county. Of their work other examples were known.

Rev. F. BROWN said that in the neighbourhood of Dunster

there were some plaster works and ceilings similar to that of the old hall, and he agreed with the President that they must have been done by the same band of Italians, who were wandering about the country at that time.

Mr. W. E. SURTEES asked by what name some of the early bishops were mentioned.

Mr. GREEN replied—Bishops of Bath.

Dr. TYLOR, referring to the word "brock" which had been mentioned, said it was a good Saxon word.

Mr. SURTEES said that when he hunted badgers at Winchester he remembered they called them "brocks."

The HON. SEC. intimated that Mr. Greenfield had gone away and left his paper in his hands. It was practically, closely, and very minutely worked out after his manner, but it would be too long for them to listen to then.

The company then separated.