

## The Excursion.

In the course of the morning the members availed themselves of the excellent arrangements made by the courtesy of Mr. Clarke, at the brewery, for visiting the remains of the Roman Potters' Kiln.

In the afternoon the members proceeded to

### The Parish Church,

under the guidance E. A. Freeman, Esq.

MR. FREEMAN observed that the building had undergone so many changes that it was difficult to say how much was old and how much was new. The tower was a very fair specimen of the Taunton type, and was crowned by a spire, which had either never been finished or the top of it had been broken down; in that, however, local knowledge was required. It was rather remarkable that both in this county and in the county of Dorset they had found a great number of these unfinished or destroyed spires—for instance, St. Mary Redcliff, Bristol, Yatton, Minchinhampton, and others; in other parts of the country they were few in number, but he particularly mentioned one at Naseby, Northamptonshire. With regard to the roof of the church, it was one of the finest if not the finest carved roof in the county. Wooden roofs were not mere make-shifts, but they shewed a preference to vaulting. The roof of that church did not appear to have been painted or gilded as was commonly the case, and he never saw a carved roof carried out to such an extraordinary degree of splendour.

The members then proceeded to

### Doultling,

where they were hospitably entertained at the vicarage by the Rev. J. Fussell, who also exhibited a very interesting and valuable ancient British urn, found in the encampment at Small Down in the neighbourhood.

In the course of his remarks MR. FREEMAN said the history of

### Doultling Church

was pretty plainly written in its own stones. It was curious as illustrating the changes that had taken place in several churches in the county. Many of them doubtless knew how very common the cross form was in the early period of Somersetshire architecture, and how in many cases that form had changed into another—St. Cuthbert's at Wells, and St. John's at Glastonbury, for instance. The nave of the church they might call late Norman or Early English—it was transitional, or the turning point from Romanesque to Gothic, and was pretty perfect. The tower must be a little later, though carrying out the same design; it was octagonal in form, and was a good plain example of English thirteenth-century work. A good deal of trouble had been taken, without destroying the tower or altering its character, to adapt it to a later and more prevalent style. A battlement had been added, and a stone spire, but it was somewhat stumpy. The chancel had been rebuilt, with a decorated window, transitional from the Geometric to the Flowery. He pointed out the squints or hagioscopes. The central tower had been raised and supported by angular buttresses. The transepts had been recast within and without. There was a very fine Perpendicular porch which was a fair reproduction of the

old one, the original stones of which might be seen in the vicarage garden. He assumed that the old porch must have been in a most dangerous state, and that it was quite impossible to repair it, or he could not suppose they would have sacrificed the old stones.

Mr. J. H. PARKER then conducted the members to

### The Barn,

the characteristic features of which he explained, observing, that the Barn at Doulting is a very fine one of early character; the walls are thick and the buttresses more massive than usual. It has not much ornament, but what there is bears the usual stamp of the fourteenth century. The character is earlier than that of either Pilton or Glastonbury, and the date is probably about the middle of the fourteenth century; the roof is also good plain timber-work of the same period, though repaired in places.

### The Doulting Quarries,

so extensively used in Glastonbury Abbey and Wells Cathedral, were then visited under the guidance of MR. CHARLES MOORE, F.G.S., who pointed out the chief geological features of the formation.

The Ordinary at Shepton Mallet at half-past five was well attended, and, in the evening, the meeting was resumed for the reception of papers.

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## The Evening Meeting.

MR. THOMAS SEREL read a paper on "The Strode Family," which is printed in Part II.

The REV. PREBENDARY GRAY contributed an interesting series of Notes from the Church Records of the Parish of Pilton, which commence with A.D. 1503.

The REV. F. BROWN read extracts from the Autobiography of a Somerset Quaker Farmer, of the name of Whiting, written during the Civil War.

were looking for, and if it increased as it had done, and he hoped it to do, the yield would be very good. Mr. Moore concluded by giving greater details as to the contents of the various beds around Shepton.