The Abbey Church.

Mr. FREEMAN called the party to a spot on the north-east of the church. From this point he said they could see its main features. It was small as compared with many cathedral churches, for after it had been nearly ruined towards the end of the fifteenth century, Bishop King rebuilt it upon the nave only of the older church. At the east end of the present building were some remains of the Romanesque church. Two things would strike the eye at once—the peculiar shape of the tower and the extraordinary height of the clerestory, and these two things always went together. They belonged to a type of church of

which there were several examples in this part of England, as S. Mary Redcliff, Sherborne Minster, and the Priory Church at Christchurch in Hampshire. Both at S. Mary Redcliff and at Bath Abbey the transepts were singularly narrow, which was done in order to get the effect of great height in that part of the church. The central tower of course should be square, but with narrow transepts they must either not have a central tower at all, as at S. Mary Redcliff, or else one which departed from the ordinary shape. The transepts being so much narrower than the nave the tower becomes oblong, being broader on the east and west, and narrower on the north and south. If he rightly remembered, the pinnacles on the tower and the east end were not there many years ago, but merely battlemented turrets, and whether these turrets were good or bad, they fell in with the general conception of the building. There was a certain love of squareness to be observed in the treatment of the windows. In the last place in the world where they would look for a square-headed window they would find one, namely in the east end. It was a strange thing to have the east window of a minster with a square head. Some persons at one time pulled it about and blocked it up—improved it perhaps—but destroyed a piece of history. People generally did so when they did these things. They destroyed one of the characteristics of the church when they destroyed the square head of the window, and also another in not leaving the turrets. When people got old buildings into their hands and thought that they could improve them, it was all up with them. He was glad to see the corners of the square head opened again.

Mr. Freeman then proceeded to the interior of the church, where he continued his remarks. He said that now they were under cover from the sun, he would say what should strictly have been his beginning. It was nothing short of saying what the building was, for he was not at all clear as to the views people generally took with regard to it. It was commonly called Bath Abbey, and in that name he said he would

comment on it for a minute or two, but it was really the secondary cathedral church of the diocese of Bath and Wells. As a Wells man he was bound to say secondary, and history bore him out in it. The *bishopstool* of this diocese was originally placed in the church of S. Andrew, at Wells, in the time of Eadward the Elder. Just before and just after the Norman conquest came the great movement for removing the seats of the Bishops from small places to larger ones, as from Crediton to Exeter, Sherborne to Salisbury, and others; all of which took place within a few years of the coming of William the Norman. It was a continental idea; not an English one. In these islands the Bishop was the Bishop of a district, or, to speak more accurately, of a tribe; but not of a city. He had not, necessarily, more to do with a city than with the rest of his diocese. In early times, in the northern part of Europe, Bishops took their titles from the tribes or district over which they had ecclesiastical control. Just as now in Scotland and Ireland we find titles taken from districts as Meath, Ossory, Argyll and the Isles, and such like; so we, too, had the Bishop of the West Saxons, East Angles, and so forth. In Italy, Gaul, and Spain, the city was everything. The Bishop was, first of all, Bishop of the city; and, in a secondary way, of the territory round about it. But when in early days an English tribe embraced Christianity, the Bishop of the tribe took his title from it, and not from the name of a city. The Bishop's seat of this part of England was set up at Wells, which was a small place. In the time of William Rufus the Bishop was one John de Villula, a Frenchman, who had the continental idea of a bishoprick. He despised Wells, and wished to move his see to the older and more important city Bath. They in Wells looked upon his name with great dislike, for he forsook them, and did them every conceivable mischief. He came and planted his seat in the existing abbey of SS. Peter and Paul. This, of course, put an end to the line of Abbots. The Bishop, however, could not exercise the needful authority over the monks, and so there

arose the distinct government of Prior and Convent. When the monasteries were dissolved the Prior and Convent of the church at Bath made surrender to Henry VIII, just as in other like cases. That did not in any way touch the rights of the cathedral Chapter of the older cathedral church at Wells. The great disputes between Bath, and Wells, and Glastonbury in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries as to the title of the Bishop, were finally settled by the arrangement that the Bishop should have both churches, be called Bishop of Bath and Wells, and that he should be alternately chosen by the Dean and Chapter of Wells and by the Prior and Convent of Bath. At the dissolution the Prior and Convent of Bath ceased to sit as a corporate body, and the Dean and Chapter of Wells were constituted the sole Chapter for the election of the Bishop, but the Bishop still went on keeping the old title of Bath and Wells. For some time after the see was first joined to Bath this city seemed to be much more thought of, the Bishops were commonly spoken of as Bishops of Bath; and the church, too, was much more thought of than the one at Wells. Afterwards however from the thirteenth century onwards, the Bishops lived chiefly at Wells, and paid much more attention to the church there than to this at Bath; and so by the end of the fifteenth century the Bath church fell into great decay, and was repaired in the way he had told them outside, by building a new church on the site of the nave of the older one. Now they would see how the name abbey had gone on, though there never was an Abbot of Bath since the time of William Rufus, except so far as the Bishop was the Abbot. It had always been called Bath Abbey, and if they applied the term cathedral to it people would not know what they meant. It was remarkable that the term abbey should have been applied to two cathedral churches—Durham and Carlisle—where there never was an Abbot. There never was an Abbot at Durham, except so far as the Bishop was Abbot, yet the church used to be called Durham Abbey; but the use of the term had now gone out. And though the name of abbey had

ceased to be used at Carlisle in connexion with the church, the precincts, the close, the college or cathedral green were still called after the abbey. That was pretty well the history of the foundation of Bath Abbey. When the Prior and Convent made surrender to Henry VIII, the church was offered to the parishioners by the King, if they chose to buy it for a parish church, as was done in several other cases. At Bath—and he hoped he was not scandalizing the people—they would not buy the church of the King, and the lead and glass and everything that was worth stripping off was sold. It continued in this state until the time of James I, when Bishop Montagu set it up again as a parish church. He would now say a little—though he had not much to say—about the architecture of the building. It was manifest at the first sight of the building that it was altogether uniform, being late Perpendicular in style. At the east end there was a small portion of the Norman church of John de Villula. If they went round to the east side they would see the bases of some Norman columns, which were the only fragments remaining of the earlier church. They would see for themselves that it was an example of the later form of the Perpendicular style. Here the capitals were plain, they had no pretty foliage as in some other instances. They would also observe the great fondness for ogee moulding which was characteristic of the district. Every one who wrote about this church began to find fault with it as an example of the degradation of the mediæval architecture. Now he was not prepared to deny, so far as the details were concerned, that this was true. The capitals were of no great beauty. The ogee moulding, which works well on a small scale, was here on a large scale, and was certainly not satisfactory; and, what was a greater fault still, they had a four-centred arch for a pier arch. Now, a four-centred arch, which did for a window or a doorway or a tomb, did not do well for the main arcade of a building. They would see that it came of the fashion of the time of throwing everything into a great height, so gaining a huge clerestory. If he

remembered rightly, before the last restoration they could not see the square heads of the spandrels, and they were very rightly brought to light again, though the window would have been better without them. The square head did not suit a great window like this, and it was difficult to make it fit with the vaulting, but it was quite right to reproduce it. He could not help giving a little sigh for the old ceiling of the nave. They had made a great improvement in the church, and made it a more perfect whole by carrying the fan vault over the nave as well as the choir. Some persons thought it was impossible to vault large buildings, but here was one thoroughly well and grandly vaulted. But he was so conservative in all these things that he confessed a lingering wish to have seen the old ceiling left, for it was a part of the history of the church; it showed that at the time of the dissolution the church was not fully finished—they had not yet carried on their vault over the nave. When Bishop Montagu set the church up again he must have shrunk from so great a work as vaulting the nave, and so put a ceiling over it—a very valuable one. It was the old type of the cove roof of the district, carried out in a sort of Jacobean form; it was flat and low, still it was an old local roof, with the details of the time of James I. The old ceiling did not stand alone, for there were several in other parts of the country—there was one at Axbridge. It was one of the links in the chain; the last of the links in the chain which began with the barrel stone-vaulted roofs, went on from stone to the wooden cove roofs, and ended in the plastered ceilings of James I. It was not to be compared for grace with the grand vaulting they had now, but it was a part of the history of the building—it told how it was left unfinished, and restored in the fifteenth century; and, as a conservative antiquary, he would rather see Bishop Montagu's ceiling there than the grand stone roof of Sir Gilbert Scott. Still it was a noble work, and made the church a perfect whole, which it never was before.

Roman Bath.

On leaving the Abbey Church the Members went to the Pump Room, where the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH undertook the leadership of the party. He said that they were then standing near what was probably the centre of the Roman forum, and that if they looked across the other side of the way, they would see where Stalls Church formerly stood, that church was built out of a portion of the Roman temple—bits of it were embedded in its structure. The remains of another temple, which they would see in the Literary and Scientific Institution, were found underneath the Pump Room, when excavations were being made for vaults. During the process of excavation, when the White Hart was taken away, and the new Grand Pump Room Hotel was erected, they came first upon mediæval remains, then Norman, then Saxon, then upon a bed of alluvium—peat and other things—and then upon the Roman foundations. Here they found the remains of the platform of a temple, and also surrounding it the foundations of walls which had formed the basement of the peristyle. They were all carefully noted by Mr. Irvine, who, as each fragment was turned up, drew it, and then united them in a plan. It had been said that the abbey was built on the site of a Roman temple, which was not at all improbable, but there was no proof that such was the case. The Roman baths, of which many fragments had been discovered, were situated further back, and extended to a considerable length, exposing a very fine frontage, and forming one side of the forum. They were very elaborate in construction, and the portico had been clearly made out by Mr. Irvine from fragments and by measurements. These fragments had been deposited by the Corporation of the city in the Literary and Scientific Institution, and were to be seen in that building.

At the Mineral Waters Hospital, Mr. Scarth said that, before the party went inside, they should mark the remains of the mediæval wall, built on the Roman foundations, which were,

perhaps, twenty-five feet below the level of the pavement. The Roman walls had been destroyed to within 10 or 12 feet of their foundation, and the mediæval walls were raised upon them. The wall marked the boundary of the Roman city, and outside it traces of interments had been found. Another piece of the ancient wall was to be seen near the Institution.

The Rev. Prebendary EARLE said that he thought Mr. Scarth was forgetting East Gate.

Mr. SCARTH said that the East Gate was mediæval, but in the piece of wall running towards the Institution the older work could be perfectly traced.

The party then entered the Mineral Water Hospital, and went down into the vaults, where there were remains of a Roman pavement, from the position of which, Mr. Scarth remarked, they would observe the ancient level of the city. The pavement, which was discovered when the hospital was erected, was *in situ*, having been cleared and left in the position in which it was found. It was a very coarse portion, and formed the external part of a room. At the Royal United Hospital another pavement had since been opened, but though it had been protected the air and damp had acted very detrimentally upon it. The latter piece was formerly supported on pilæ or columns, and when it was opened it looked like a Turkey carpet, the colours were so brilliant, but now they had faded. The pavement before them did not rest on columns, but was laid on the earth itself. It gave a good idea of the way in which the level of the city had been raised. When buildings had been pulled down only a part of the rubbish had been cleared away, and other buildings had been erected upon the debris, and so the level of the city had risen almost to the top of the ancient walls.

At the Blue Coat School Mr. Scarth pointed out another piece of Roman pavement, which had been taken up and placed immediately over its original place, though several feet higher. The run of the ancient walls was about the run of the present street, and the pavements they had seen were within the walls.

The party then walked through the Saw Close and Westgate Buildings, along the course of the old walls, which enclosed a space of the shape of an irregular pentagon. In Westgate Buildings Mr. Scarth pointed out Chandos House, one of the noted houses of Bath.

At the Royal United Hospital the party went down into a vault, where Mr. Scarth said they were again on the level of the Roman city. When the new wing of the Hospital was built the pavement before them had clear and bright colours, which had now been destroyed by the damp. In this instance were to be seen the *pilæ*, or small pillars supporting the floor, which had been broken down by the various buildings that had been erected there from time to time. Yet they could see how the hot air was carried underneath the floor, and there was one of the flue tiles remaining in position. The pavement was *in situ*. When it was found the debris was cleared away, and the hospital authorities took every means to preserve it; but do what they would, when a pavement which had been covered up so many years was brought to light, it was sure to suffer greatly. Many of his hearers had, doubtless, visited the very interesting pavements at Cirencester, which were some of the most striking in England, the colours being very fresh; indeed, if they were wetted they came out as bright as they were in ancient times. The pattern before them was simply geometrical, but the pavements at Cirencester were filled with animals of various kinds. A very interesting pavement had been laid open near Newton St. Loe, bearing a representation of Orpheus playing a lyre, and various animals dancing around him. That pavement was first laid down in the railway station at Keynsham, and remained there some years, when it was taken to Bristol. They wanted to get it to Bath, but were unable to do so, and it had been kept locked up in Bristol ever since, and not laid down. He did not know whether any Bristol gentlemen were present, but if they were, he hoped they would stir up the persons concerned. They had established an

Archæological Society for Bristol and Gloucester, and a first act might be to put down that pavement as it ought to be, which would not be very difficult. Mr. Scarth then said a few words about a beautiful pavement found at Chedworth, about six miles from Cirencester. At this place several nice pavements had been found, and Lord Eldon, to whom the property belongs, had done all he could to preserve them, and had formed a local museum. It was curious that these remains were only found in the South of England, and especially in the county of Somerset. They did not find them in the North of England beyond Doncaster and Bedale, in Yorkshire. All this part of England seemed to have had elegant villas, and around Bath there were very many, the remains of which had been found and the sites made out. At Wellow there was a pavement worth opening if the Society had had time to visit it.

Mr. MOORE suggested a geological reason why these pavements were not found out of the immediate neighbourhood of the West of England. It might be that the material of which they were constructed could not be found in other parts of the kingdom. The whiter portion of the tesseræ consisted of cubes of white lias, which abounded in the West of England; the darker portion was of blue lias, or Pennant rock; and the red colours which they saw in the patterns were generally of some burnt material. He should also like to make one remark with regard to the construction of Roman houses. He thought he should be borne out by those who had seen Roman remains opened, that they never found another story above the rugged edges of the stone walls which were uniformly level with the pavements. That, he thought, might be explained in this way —that the Romans built the superstructure of wood, or raised much lighter walls, as suited their purpose. Whenever a Roman villa was discovered they often found plaster painted and coloured in various ways, but no stone materials, except the thick slabs of Pennant stone of which the roof was composed.

The Rev. Prebendary WILKINSON agreed with Mr. Moore in

his opinions as to the materials used by the Romans in building their houses above the floor level.

Prebendary EARLE said there was a word used by the Saxons for that particular low wall on which the upper structure was built—groundwall, a term which he believed still existed among some masons in the county. It was also equivalent to the *podium* of the Greeks.

Bishop CLIFFORD asked whether it was not the custom in Somersetshire to build walls to the ground-level of stone, and the upper part of "cob."

Colonel PINNEY said that it had struck him that the Romans might have built higher walls on the more massive foundations to support the stone tiling above. He asked whether the pavement they saw might not have been the floor of a bath heated by a hypocaust.

Mr. SCARTH supposed that it was the floor of an ordinary living room. At Chedworth they would find the outside stove quite perfect.

Bishop CLIFFORD said it was quite a common thing to find at Pompeii chambers with hypocausts below to warm them.

Mr. SCARTH, in reference to the colours of the cubes in the pavements, said that an inventive people like the Romans would soon produce colours that would answer their purpose.

The party were then conducted to the Literary and Scientific Institution, passing as they went Weymouth House School, at the back of which, Mr. SCARTH said, the Roman wall had run. At the Institution, he stated that the Museum contained some of the most perfect remains to be found in all the country. The date of the earliest of them might probably be fixed from the reign of the Emperor Titus. Vespasian and his son Titus were in Britain and conquered this portion as far as the Severn. Within the last two months two pigs of lead had been discovered at Charterhouse on Mendip, bearing the stamp of the Emperor Vespasian. Those hitherto found in Britain had the name of Titus associated with that of his father. These must, therefore,

have been cast immediately after Vespasian obtained the Imperial purple, and before Titus was associated with him in the empire, or about the time of the taking of Jerusalem by the Romans. Pigs of lead, also of a later date, had been found at Charterhouse. The earliest pig of lead found in Britain was discovered on Mendip, and bore the stamp of Britannicus, and showed that the mines there must have paid tribute in the reign of that Emperor. They were, therefore, worked probably at an earlier date than A.D. 49 or 50.

Mr. Scarth then went on to point out the various Roman remains in the Literary and Scientific Institution, especially the head of Medusa, and the emblems which accompanied it, and shewed that the temple of which it formed the pediment had been dedicated to the goddess Minerva. He also pointed out the emblems of the goddess Diana, which appear upon another and smaller pediment.

The Moore Museum.

The Members then adjourned to the large room, formerly the lecture hall of the Institution, in which for many years Mr. Moore's rich and varied geological collection has been placed.

In a short address, Mr. MOORE remarked that, though he did not despise the comparatively modern remains Mr. Scarth had been discoursing about, which had a great interest, especially in Bath, it was his province to pass backwards, from where the antiquarian left off, into times far more remote. In order to have as complete an illustration as possible, his collection commenced with the natural history of the Roman period, and passed downwards, through pre-historic times, to the more ancient. In this he had been assisted by the discovery of two stone coffins on Bathurst Hill, which had been filled in with a beautiful crystalline carbonate of lime, amongst which he found organic remains of the Roman period, which had found their way into the coffins. These were shewn, as well as the mammalia of the period in the gallery of the Museum. The carbonate of lime he had referred to could not have been obtained nearer than the

Mendip Hills, and as a Roman pig of lead had been previously found near the coffins, he concluded their occupants had probably to do with the minerals of that district. The pre-historic followed these in age, and in the collection were many fine remains of *Elephas primigenius*, *Bubalus moschatus*, and other extinct species from the mammal drift, and from the Somersetshire caves. So abundant were the bones and teeth of elephants just under the surface of the Bath basin, and in the gravel of the neighbouring valleys, he had no hesitation in saying that elephants were represented therein by hundreds.

Passing hurriedly over the tertiary and cretaceous beds, it was remarked that the great oolite of the Bath district was not so rich in specimens as some others. Mr. Moore then dwelt more fully upon the liassic series he had gathered together in the Museum of which he thought he had a right to be proud, as it was probably the most extensive, and had more new and typical species than any other collection. Some of the reptilia were more especially referred to as being in so perfect a state of preservation that not only were their original soft skins preserved, but their last meals had been retained undigested in their stomachs for ages. Noticing the latter fact in connexion with a beautiful example of *Teleosaurus Moorei*, Deslongchamps, Mr. Moore stated that he first exhibited this specimen at the inauguration of the Society at Taunton in 1849, and spoke of the great delight expressed by Dr. Buckland, who was present, when these facts were pointed out to him. It was the first and only time they met, and it was the last scientific meeting that veteran geologist ever attended. The bed of upper lias from whence these reptilia came also contained fish, of which he possessed many new species, cuttle fish, crustacea, many fossil insects, fruits, &c., examples of which were exhibited. The remains from the lower lias were then referred to, especially the fine series of *Ichthyosauri* and *Plesiosauri*, with which the walls of the Museum are crowded, and in the table-cases many new and typical species were found. Notable amongst these was a

series of corals. Not more than about seven species had been found in the lias until he was fortunate enough to obtain from a liassic deposit in South Wales nearly forty new species, all of which were found in an area of only a few square yards.

At the base of the lower lias were some beds about fifty feet in thickness, but more largely developed in the Rhætian Alps. By some geologists these had been classed with the lower lias, by others with the triassic beds. As these, including the bone bed, possessed a special fauna, Mr. Moore had proposed the name of "The Rhætic Beds," which had been accepted in geological nomenclature. The organic remains of this series were of great interest, as they included the oldest known mammalia, the *Microlestes Moorei*, Owen, and *Microlestes Antiquus*, Plieninger, also Thecodont and other reptilia, and remains of fish. These Mr. Moore pointed out, and especially referred to a tray containing more than 70,000 teeth of the *Acrodus*. The Members of the Society would remember that at one of the excursions of the Frome meeting he had taken them to the spot from whence they had been obtained.

Mr. Moore concluded his observations by remarking that the chief object of his work was to illustrate as fully as possible the ancient natural history and the physical conditions of the Bath district and the county of Somerset, in which he hoped he had to some extent been successful. He had not been able to notice remains from the still older deposits. Everything in the Museum was stratigraphically arranged, and as the collection was freely open to the public, he trusted it would be more and more used for the purposes of scientific study.

When referring to the new gallery, Mr. Moore expressed the obligation he was under to Mr. Cossham, who had liberally placed £500 in his hands for its erection, thereby enabling him not only to enlarge the collection, but also to make its scientific arrangements more complete.

At 6 p.m. the Members and friends of the Society dined together at the Grand Hotel. After dinner a few toasts were drunk.

Evening Meeting.

The Evening Meeting was held in the Guildhall at 7.30, and was fairly attended.

Mr. F. T. ELWORTHY read a paper on the "Grammar and Dialect of West Somerset," which is printed in Part II. He considered that a great mistake had been made in placing the boundary between the Eastern and Western dialects at the river Parret; a mistake which would be found in many places, and which ran through the interesting Introduction to the *Somersetshire Glossary*. The real boundary was, as might be expected, the Quantock range.

Mr. FREEMAN said the Society was deeply indebted to Mr. Elworthy for having brought forward a subject which in their investigations of the antiquities of the county they had overlooked, for, after all, the speech of a district was its greatest antiquity. They were wearied with the kind of glossaries which put down as characteristic of a district words not used in high polite book-English; Mr. Elworthy had given them something very different from that, he gave them the real life of the speech he was talking about. He was rather disappointed that they had not been told in what the dialect of West differed from that of East Somerset. As to the river Parret he did not know that it had ever been called a boundary of language. There was no authority for such a term in the Chronicles, and he had never called the Parret anything more than the mark of one of the waves of conquest. The boundary of dialects would have to be fixed wherever Mr. Elworthy, or anyone else who knew the details, fixed it. A river, as Arnold said long ago, was no great boundary—the mountain was the boundary. The old speech would have gone on in the hill country of the Quantocks long after the people of the plains spoke nothing but West Saxon. Mr. Elworthy spoke of the double negative being called bad grammar; if anyone ever said so he

was a very great fool for his pains. The double negative was the real old thing in every language. Mark the difference between Greek and Latin. In Greek they had the double negative, because they had it in its old natural form. They had no double negative in Latin because they had it only in an artificial form. In the early form of language everyone piled his negatives one on top of another to emphasize his expressions, and that additional strength of negation was afforded till men found out some such dogma as that two negatives made an affirmative, and so the form of our grand old speech was lost. Mr. Elworthy spoke of the double negative in French, but there was none there; it was merely that certain words had been so constantly coupled with the real negatives that they were received into every day use, and so they got the extraordinary phenomenon of a language which wants to say nobody saying somebody—*personne*. The only similar idiom in our own language—not exactly a polite expression—was when people talked about "devil a bit." He did not quite understand what Mr. Elworthy meant by the comparison of the West Somersetshire pronunciation of *come* with the modern German. He was exceedingly struck with the remark about *v* and *f*, and with the beautiful instinct by which people saw the difference between a genuine native word and a foreign word, and would not extend the old usage to the new comer. In the interchangeable character of *v* and *f*, Mr. Freeman said he saw a remarkable analogy to the Greek. Now, here came a very ugly thing, so many people were getting to say there was some strange non-Arian element here among us. Tacitus said something of the same sort long ago. Here more lately was Mr. Huxley saying so, and Mr. Dawkins had been doing the same. They had really thought that if they were not Dutchmen they were nothing worse than Welsh; but here was an undersigned coincidence of many people coming to the same conclusion by wholly different rules, and that made the thing terribly ugly—one did not like to look it in the face at all. There was one other matter he

wanted to mention and that was that Mr. Elworthy spoke of some forms of the first person pronoun not in use. Would he say what form was in use?

Mr. ELWORTHY—Simply "I."

Mr. FREEMAN said that was a pity. He had hoped that the West Somerset folk said something like *Ch*, because it ought to be *Ich*. He had seen it in so many books that he hoped it would turn up somewhere or other. In conclusion he must express his hope that Mr. Elworthy would go on with his researches, and extend them over the county border, and not pay any attention to the books of people who looked at the question from other points of view.

Mr. EARLE said he thought the paper read by Mr. Elworthy a most admirable innovation, and one which promised good fruit, if treated in the way in which it had been by him. Dialect was to be judged in the same manner as the quality of poetry—by the ear, and not by the logical faculty. Like Mr. Freeman, he expected to hear a contrast drawn between the different dialects in the east and west of the county, but he had heard something much more satisfactory. He recommended this as a sphere of great interest for young men with their ears open. They wanted the dialects illustrated, not by mere lists of words, but by observation of the way in which the words were used, the sentences in which they came, and the tone of voice and temper in which they were spoken. He thought the kindred studies of geography, politics, and history could only be bound together and clamped in one by a full understanding of the original dialects that had developed in any area, because dialects expressed the character of the races with which history and politics have to deal. There were few countries in which dialect could be really effectively studied, because the populations had from various causes suffered such great disturbances. A population was wanted that had been stationary for something like a thousand years. In Somersetshire they had a real middle term between the Devonian dialect and the language of

society at the present time. In England, perhaps more than any other country except Italy, could this intensely interesting subject be studied to the greatest advantage.

Mr. ODGERS hoped that the different dialects would be tabulated, or else within perhaps thirty years they might be lost altogether. He asked whether Mr. Elworthy had ever met with *cham* for I am, a form which was used by Mr. Hughes and others in dialect verse.

Mr. ELWORTHY said that he only could speak of facts, and if they did not fit in with theories it was so much the worse for the theories. As regards Mr. Freeman's assertion that he did not believe that any one had called the Parret a boundary of dialect, he could assure him that that opinion was advanced by Jennings.

Mr. FREEMAN said he knew nothing about Jennings. What he wished to say was that in speaking of the Parret as a boundary, he and other students of history meant that it was for a time a boundary of conquest, and therefore for so long a boundary of races also.

Mr. ELWORTHY could assure Mr. Freeman that Jennings was a widely recognised authority on matters of dialect. He had never met with the form *cham*, and did not believe that it existed.

Mr. FREEMAN: How then do you explain the fact that Mr. Hughes and others[28] thought that people did say *ch* and *cham*?

Bishop CLIFFORD read a paper on the "Roman Military Roads through Somerset," which is printed in Part II. He considered that the road made for the use of the Legion Augusta from Caerleon through Bath to Silchester, having passed through Venta Silurum (Caerwent), must then have gone

(28). Shakespeare amongst them, in the part of Edgar in King Lear, Act iv. 6. This reference is given in the *Glossary*. It does not seem to prove that this and cognate forms are in their right place in a glossary of Somersetshire dialect, but the compilers say, "This form occurs chiefly in the neighbourhood of Merriott." It is to be hoped that Mr. Elworthy will make a special point of investigating the value of this assertion.

on to Henbury, which he believed to be the Abone of the Itinerary. The next station was Trajectus, which he thought was Bitton, for it was pure assumption to say that the passage was across the Severn. Thence it was probable that the road led to Bath over the high ground by the Lansdown camps.

Mr. SCARTH said that he thought it probable that the Bishop was right in placing Abone, the landing place of the troops, at Henbury. With respect to the claim of Sudbury camp which had been considered and rejected by the Bishop, it was difficult to come to any decision, as only about half of it was left, for it was continually being carried into the Severn. They could not therefore picture to themselves what might have happened in Roman times.

Mr. SCARTH had prepared a paper on "Roman Somerset," with special reference to recent discoveries in Bath, but as it was growing late he only gave an epitome of it. The paper is printed in extenso in Part II. At the conclusion Mr. Scarth said that he was preparing a complete synopsis of all traces of the Roman occupation of Somerset, to be illustrated by a map of Roman Somerset, which might be of considerable historical value in time to come. If he gave the labour which such a work entailed, would the Society undertake the cost of printing?

The PRESIDENT thought the expense was one which might very properly be borne by the Society.

Mr. HUNT said that in the present state of the finances of the Society he could not recommend the Committee to embark in any scheme of publication besides that of the volume of *Proceedings*. He hoped that Mr. Scarth would be able to carry out his design, and had no doubt but that at some future time the Society would be better able to help it forward if he should still wish it. The smallness of the yearly subscription, which had formed a topic of discussion at the last Annual Meeting, prevented the Society from carrying out this and other like schemes, which properly belonged to its work.

The Meeting then ended.