The Members accordingly adjourned to the grand jury room, where lunch had been provided at the expense of the Mayor, Mr. James Leaker.

S. Mary's Church

was then visited by the Members, who entered from High Street by the northern door. When most of them had assembled in the chancel,

The Vicar, Rev. W. G. Fitzgerald, remarked that they would observe that the edifice was of the Perpendicular style of architecture. Some of them, perhaps, had noticed the stone carving, and especially the band across the porch, which was almost unique, and really, he thought, almost the only interesting part of the building. He was sorry to say that many years ago there were destroyed three squints or hagioscopes, which were referred to by Parker in his *Glossary of Architecture*, who wrote as follows:—"In Bridgwater Church, Somerset, there is a series of these openings through three successive walls, through the same oblique line, to enable a person standing in the porch to see the high altar. In this and some other instances it seems to have been for the use of the attendant who had to ring the sanctus bell at the time of the elevation of the host. There are numerous instances of this bell being placed in a cot on the parapet of the porch, and as frequently there are windows or openings for a room over the porch into the church, probably for the purpose of enabling a person stationed in this room to see the elevation." The Vicar added that one feature of interest he should like to speak about was the picture forming the altar-piece. He was not able to tell them much about that, because it was doubtful who was the artist. The picture was, he believed, presented to the Mayor

and Corporation, on condition that it should be exhibited in that church, by the Hon. Anne (so named, because Queen Anne was his god-mother) Poulett, who was then the Parliamentary representative of the borough. It had always been a great question who was the artist, and as to whether it was the work of a Spanish, Italian, Flemish, or French master, though it was now pretty generally conceded that it was not Flemish. There were some points connected with it, such as the figure of Mary Magdalene—the style of the hair, and the blue band across it, which gave some the idea that it was of the Spanish school. The President of the Society had visited the church with him on the previous day, and was then of opinion that during his visits to Rome he had noticed a similar figure by an Italian artist; but whoever was the painter, it would be admitted that the picture was full of beauty.

Mr. G. PARKER mentioned that some years ago when Haydon came to Bridgwater to look at the picture with a view to its being sent to London to be cleaned, he expressed an opinion that it was by an Italian master.

The VICAR: That confirms, then, the opinion of Bishop Clifford. It would, he added, be noticed that some of the colours were as bright as if the painting had been only executed two or three years ago; and that, unlike many of their modern paintings, there were no signs of cracking. He might mention that Sir Joshua Reynolds made it a point, when going to and from Plymouth (of which place he was either a native or where he married), of coming all the way round from Salisbury to inspect it, and that he did so more than once, and remained in the church for some hours studying the painting.

Mr. JOHN TREVOR said the picture was supposed to have been captured on board a Spanish privateer.

Mr. HUNT said that, if he had seen the picture in Italy, he should have thought it was the work of some painter of the school of the Caracci, perhaps of Annibale Caracci himself. It was generally ascribed to Guido, though it seemed to lack the eleva-

tion and originality of that master. He had no doubt but that it was a production of the Bolognese School of the last part of the sixteenth century. It was an example of the studied grace and theatrical manner which marked the decline of art in a land which had lost its freedom.

In answer to a question, Mr. HUNT said that Guido and Domenichino were, he believed, both pupils of the Caracci.

Mr. HUNT said that he hoped the rain had not prevented the company from admiring the fine geometrical work of the north porch; he pointed out some of the windows in the nave which were of the same date, about the middle of the fourteenth century. The church had been restored early in the fifteenth century, and since that time church and tower had suffered much from restoration. He asked whether it would not be advisable one day to open the western end. No doubt there was some difficulty of a structural nature.

The VICAR replied that it had been a matter of great debate whether this could be accomplished. He was one of those who, having seen the data, thought that it was not impossible. The architect who restored the church some years ago, however, stated in his report that he did not think it could be opened, and he finished up by saying, "Remember Chichester Cathedral."

Mr. JOHN TREVOR: I think he said it could be done, but that the tower and steeple must first be removed.

The VICAR added that he was glad to inform them that they were about to spend £600 or £700 in some other improvements in the church, and amongst other things they were going to scrape the piers.

A MEMBER asked whether it was not feared, some years ago, that the tower and spire were unsafe.

The VICAR replied in the affirmative, adding that when he came there first the bells were never allowed to be rung.

Mr. TREVOR said that some vaults were very near the arch, and at one time there was a settlement in the tower.

Rev. J. E. ODGERS said that he had recently been allowed to

examine the registers of the church, which presented some points of interest. The earliest volume dated from the first year of Elizabeth, and came down to the year 1645. The two last pages of the book contained numerous entries, showing that Bridgwater was then in the thick of the civil war. From May, 1644, to July in the following year, they had constantly among the burials, "Miles ignotus," "Miles bombardâ occisus," "dux," "major," and so forth. These entries were in the writing of George Wotton, long curate to Mr. Devenish, but then vicar. The next volume began with quite a different handwriting, without signature, which Mr. Odgers took to be that of John Norman, the Puritan, who continued to minister in the neighbourhood after his ejectment, and thus founded the old Presbyterian congregation of Christ Church. They found that shortly after the restoration George Wotton's handwriting appeared again in the register. He appeared to have had no unkindly feeling towards Norman, for, in 1668, he buried him with the entry, "Johannes Norman, Presbiter doctus." But the following year a vicar succeeded of more acrimonious temper—William Allen, from whose hand they had the following curious entries:—"In the year 1689 the Vicar was rated to the poor by order of William Massey, who was then Mayor, as he had been three years before. In the time of his first mayoralty he commanded the minister to be rated to the poor, though it was never known in this parish, and when he was made mayor in this year, in perfect spight he commanded it again. Whoever judges this man a lover of the Church or anything that relates to it, knows not the man. This man afterwards carry'd himself with that insolency and tyranny to all sorts of people that the inhabitants, Churchmen, Presbyterian, and others joyn'd together to ring out the bells for joy at his departure into Ireland, where he was preferr'd, and where it is thought he was poisoned." Again, under date 1690:—"This Mr. Jno. Miles was the honestest churchwarden that hath been this one twenty years. He whited the church for twenty shillings, whereas before at several times they

paid five or six pounds for washing. He also new laid the pavement, which no opportunity could prevail on the others to doe, though they had church monies in their hands. May the curse of sacrilege lye upon such perjured wretches as alienate or consume what is given for the reparation of God's house." A note was appended, in the same writing, but probably later :— "This would be thought no severe imputation if the history of these sons of women that pretend to be 'sons of the Church' was written and transmitted to posterity." Among other entries which now struck them as curious were memoranda of certificates furnished to scofulous persons about to be *touched* by the King, to the effect that they 'had not before been touched by his Sacred Majesty for the King's evil."

The VICAR said that it might interest some present to know that when one of the Whitfields came down to Bridgwater to preach, one of the fire engines was got out, and he was pumped upon, the Vicar assisting on the occasion, and this was entered on the minutes.

Admiral Blake's House.

The Members next visited the house of Admiral Blake, in Blake Street. On their arrival there,

Mr. G. PARKER, its owner, explained to them that many years ago, in renovating the premises, he retained as much as possible of the old remains of the building, which spoke plainly of its authenticity. He showed the old kitchen, with an immense beam across the fire place, the kitchen seats, and where the window stood ; also a large square stone which was taken from a circular stone staircase. The Members were likewise shown an old corner cupboard, taken out of this kitchen, and which is now placed in a summer-cot at the end of a large garden. Mr. Parker also showed them his dining-room, where was the six-square ceiling, with the shields in the centre ; also a bold fluted chimney-piece, and other remains of the original building well preserved. On the table lay a deed, which he stated was a commemoration of the property of the mill, the

earliest records of the town, he said, spoke of this mill. The owner in 1709, as recorded in the deed, promised, upon certain conditions of agreement with the Corporation of Bridgwater, to convey in pipes water from the stream called the Durleigh stream, for the use of the inhabitants, to the High Cross, which stood on the Cornhill, to be repaid by the sale of the water. To encourage him the Corporation was to pay him £100; but when the deed was to be signed they refused.

Bridgwater Castle.

The Members next proceeded to visit the site of the old Castle, first observing an old stone archway on the western quay (adjoining the office of Mr. G. B. Sully), which was generally admitted to be a water-gate entrance to the Castle, and to be in good, massive and perfect condition. Outside this spot

Dr. PRING, of Taunton, read the following paper :—"Bridgwater seems to have been greatly indebted in former times to Lord William Brewer, who is stated to have been in great favour with four successive kings, Henry II, Richard I, John, and Henry III. Prince, who devotes a chapter to him in his *Worthies*, relates that when Richard I was taken prisoner in Germany, on his return from the Holy Land, 'Lord Brewer came thither to him, and was one of the principal persons in the treaty held there with the Emperor for the liberty of the King.' Again, 'After the death of this King, this Lord Brewer was in no less favour with King John, when he assumed the English crown, who confirmed unto him several manors, and bestowed upon him divers wardships, and also gave him license to enclose his woods at Toare (now Torr), Cadeleigh, Raddon, Ailesberie (now Ailesbeer) in Devon, and Burgh-Walter (now Bridgwater), in Somerset, with free liberty to hunt the hare, fox, cat, and wolf, throughout all Devonshire. And further granted him an ample charter for his lordship of Brugge-Walter, that it should thenceforth be a free "burrough," and also to have a free market there every week, &c. Giving to this William license also to build three castles, one in Hantshire, at Eslege, or Stoke; another at

Brugge-Water, in the county of Somerset; and a third in Devon, wheresoever he should think fit, upon his own lands. His favour at Court rather increased than diminished when Henry III came to the throne, and besides many other high offices he discharged with great care and trust, many years, the "sheriffalty" of the counties of Nottingham, Derby, Dorset, Somerset, Hants, Wiltshire, Cornwall, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Devon, Sussex, and Gloucester. All which honours, public employments, civil and military places of trust, and high favour of no less than four kings following, duly considered, may speak him to have been one of the most extraordinary persons, either of his own or any time since.' He founded the Abbey of Tor, in Devonshire, also the Abbey of Dunkeswell (1202), where he was buried before the high altar in 1227. After that he built the Hospital of St. John, at Brug-Walter, in the county of Somerset, for thirteen poor people, besides religious and strangers, to pray for the souls of King Henry II, King Richard I, and King John. He moreover built the Castle, and made the haven of Brugge-Walter, and began the structure of that stone bridge there, consisting of three arches, which was afterwards finished by one Trivet, a gentleman, saith Dugdale, of Devonshire."

Just as Dr. Pring had concluded his reading, the members crossed the Quay to witness the approach of the tide known as the "bore."

Mr. Odgers explained that the wave, which had just passed by, had that moment covered what was called a rock which was before visible in the centre of the river. He however believed it to be part of the old foundation of the Castle bridge, the latter being always kept distinct in the old records from the town bridge, and extending across to what was now known as the Castle field.

A few of the Members next visited Mr. Charles Head's wine-cellar on the Western Quay, which was also stated to form part of the old Castle, and of which Mr. Dickinson said he should like the Society to have a plan.

The party having walked up Chandos-street, and reached the Square, Mr. GEORGE PARKER, pointing to the enclosed grounds in the centre, said he remembered when a boy seeing some of the remains of the old Castle there, before any of the surrounding houses were built. On the right was a large fosse, about thirty feet deep, and at the time of the siege this was filled with water. The remains he then saw were the old walls of the Castle.

Mr. E. GREEN said that towards the end of 1645, when the Castle was ordered to be destroyed, and the works round about it, some little difference arose between the garrison and the people outside. The soldiers, having taken the lead, determined that the works should remain, whereas the order of the Parliament was that they should be destroyed, and the country people coming in to insist on the destruction were shot down in various ways, and so began to learn that they were no longer the leaders in political affairs.

At the other corner of the Square, opposite the residence of Mr. Trevor, Mr. ODGERS stated that a few years ago a portion of the roadway there fell in and a chasm was found, the opening, it was believed, of a well belonging to the Castle, which was thus shown to be of very large dimensions.

The party then left in carriages for the

Afternoon Excursion.

The first halt was made at

Chisley Mount.

The mound bearing the above name, is situate in a field alongside the roadway, and close to a hamlet known as Walpole, but marked "Downend" in the Ordnance Map, near the junction of the Puriton road and the turnpike road between Dunball and Pawlett. The sketch shown by Mr. Bull was examined on the spot, and the various entrenchments marked upon it were traced. The mound appears to be a small hill-fort

commanding the Parret, the course of the river in early times being considerably nearer to the mound. It was one of the many forts which were held to guard the mineral traffic of the country.

Mr. GREENHILL, the owner, said that the ground was quite untouched, and that he had determined that nothing should be done until after the visit of the Society. He said that many years ago a Roman road could be traced, starting from this mound, through the adjoining orchard, and along the ridge of the hill; and that it seemed not unlikely that the road between Street and Glastonbury was connected with it. He thought that the mound might have been used in the trade carried on in tin with the Phœnicians.

Mr. HUNT suggested that there was no need to go back further than Roman times. He asked what Mr. Greenhill now purposed to have done with the land.

Mr. GREENHILL said that he thought of having the mound opened, to see if any remains were to be found inside; that he should exercise great care in any search, and that he should not allow the face and appearance of the ground to be destroyed.

Chedzoy Church

was next visited.

Mr. HUNT called attention to the tower, which was handsome, but without any continuity, the stages being strongly marked. The porch was evidently an addition, and was added when the Church received its Perpendicular alterations; it bears the letters R.B., the initials of Richard Beere, the last Abbot of Glastonbury but one. Inside the Church is a remarkably fine piece of arcading, part of which has, however, been much cut away; it is probably as early as the 13th century. The windows are handsome, with a fine inside splay, which has been considerably tampered with. The remains of the chantry are of an earlier date than the windows. There are some good bench ends, one of the time of Queen Mary, having the letter M, with a crown, encircled by a garter, &c., with the Tudor rose and the date 1559.

The PRESIDENT pointed out some Consecration-crosses on the outside. He said that these were generally painted, and ought strictly to be twelve in number.

The Rev. F. BROWN said that Dr. Rawley or Raleigh, Dean of Wells, and a nephew of Sir W. Raleigh, was formerly Rector of Chedzoy. His will was dated at that place, and was made shortly before he was driven out. Most of them probably remembered the sufferings and death of this unhappy man. He was taken from gaol to gaol, and was at last killed in his own house in Wells, where he was confined, by his keeper, one Barrett, a shoemaker. No investigation was made as to the cause of his death. He was imprisoned as a Royalist. A full account of his sufferings, and of the destitution of his family, is given in Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*.

Mr. H. C. WHITE directed attention to the altar-cloth, which is made from an embroidered cope found concealed beneath the pulpit. A full and interesting account of this splendid piece of work was read to the Society by Mr. Buckley, of Bruges, in 1871, and is to be found in the 17th volume of *Proceedings*, p. 49.

Mr. GILLO pointed out the stone on the south side of the Church, which is said to be worn away by the swords sharpened upon it before the battle of Sedgemoor.

The party then returned to Bridgwater, and dined together at the Clarence Hotel. After dinner a few toasts were given: The Queen; the Right Rev. President; the Mayor of Bridgwater, Mr. Leaker; &c.

The Evening Meeting

at the Town Hall was fairly attended.

Dr. PRING read a paper which excited much interest, "On the Influence of Artificially-formed Atmospheres in Modifying the Development of the Lower Forms of Living Organisms."[2]

(2). Printed in Part II.

The HIGH SHERIFF, Col. Pinney, thanked Dr. Pring for his paper, and for the beautiful diagrams which illustrated it. He said that he believed that hay-fever, a disease which pressed heavily on some people, was occasioned by infinitely small living organisms. He recollected Mr. Crosse's experiments very well. He believed that Mr. Crosse brought galvanic power into certain acids, and that thus extraordinary animalculæ were found in a fluid in which it was thought no life could exist. Mr. Crosse also employed atmospheric electricity, by placing lightning conductors in the large trees near his house, bringing the electric fluid thus collected into his laboratory, and there utilizing it for scientific purposes. At that time it was held that new creatures were called into existence.

Mr. F. J. THOMPSON said that he remembered Mr. Crosse stating to him that he never supposed that he could create, but only develope.

Dr. PRING said he had, at the time, carefully repeated Mr. Crosse's experiments as regards the *Acarus electricus*, passing a low galvanic current, as directed, through silicate of potash for three months in the dark; but without developing the animalculè in question. He understood, however, that Mr. Weekes, of Sandwich, had succeeded in obtaining specimens of it.

Mr. GREENHILL warned the audience of the danger of coming to a conclusion on insufficient premises. He thought that isolated experiments were slender proof, and that before the results were accepted as necessary consequences, a considerable series of such experiments should be made.

The Rev. J. ODGERS stated that Mr. Gillo, who had considerable experience in photography, had told him that he had again and again discovered in nitrate of silver some absolutely definite forms, resembling the microscopic creatures described by Mr. Crosse. It was singular that under such unlikely circumstances and through such a virulent medium these should be discovered, and this discovery seemed to be by no means an isolated circumstance.

Mr. E. GREEN read a paper on "The Siege of Bridgwater."[3]

Colonel PINNEY said he had listened with much interest and pleasure to Mr. Green's paper. He remembered that many years ago, when quite a young man, he formed one of another garrison of Bridgwater, in company with some gentlemen who were present now. He remarked on the change which had taken place in the lapse of two centuries in the appearance of towns, as so many like Langport and Lyme were then fortified which had lost all trace of their former defences, or like Bridgwater, preserved traces only.

Mr. BROWN thought that there was a sad falling off in the beauty of the country from the time when there were no ruins of castles or abbeys, when stately churches and strong fortifications stood intact, in all the splendour of their first days.

Mr. DICKINSON could not agree with Mr. Brown's lamentation. He believed that the country was far more beautiful than in times when but comparatively inefficient efforts had been made in draining, and reclaiming fens and waste lands. He also would remind Mr. Brown that there must have been ruins then, that castles were destroyed, and even churches desecrated and allowed to fall into ruin, before what were called modern times. If we had lost some of the picturesqueness of earlier times, we had lost much squalor with it.

Mr. HUNT had heard Mr. Green's paper with all the greater interest as his attention had been lately given to the Civil war. He wished to ask one question, and that was, what authority Mr. Green had for saying that the name Clubmen was derived from their associating or clubbing together for mutual protection. He had always thought that they were so called because they were for the most part rudely armed with clubs, and suchlike rustic weapons; at least, in the early days of the movement. That derivation was adopted by L. von Ranke in his *History of England*, and by Carlyle in Cromwell's *Letters and Speeches*, who says that "they were called *Clubmen*, not as M. Villemain sup-

(3). Printed in Part II.

poses, because they united in *Clubs*, but because they were armed with rough, country weapons, mere bludgeons, if no other could be had." The expression of Fairfax, "that he feared that, if he were put to the worst, the Clubmen would knock his men on the head," seems to bear out this view. No doubt many amongst them were armed with muskets, especially the leaders, who in some cases were country gentlemen of good position; for the movement, though at first one of neutrality and even of self-defence against the Royalist horsemen, was speedily used by the Royalists for their own purposes, just as in the East of England the Associations, which were first nominally only for mutual defence, were always anti-Royalist in feeling, and were speedily made most useful to the Parliamentarians. He allowed that the comparison between the Clubmen and the Associates, which he had just made, favoured Mr. Green's opinion, but at the same time, he believed that, the weight of evidence would be found sufficient to uphold the derivation from the weapon which was most commonly seen in the ranks of the Clubmen.

Mr. GREEN, in support of his opinion, said these neutrals were treated as cowards by both sides. By both they were taxed, and by the King's troopers so badly used that eventually they "started up into a third sort of army, and gathered together five or six thousand of the middle men, in a short time called by the name of Clubmen." Clarendon, writing of this, also calls them a "third sort," but "greater than either of the other, both in fortune and number." They were not, therefore, generally of the poorest. The first record of any local discontent is in May, 1643, when there was a large assemblage of these neutrals about Frome, and "being armed with various weapons, some with muskets, some with fowling pieces," they declared they feared neither the King nor the Parliament. Neither in the Parliament, nor out of it, relating to this circumstance, is there any mention of the word club. This rising was suppressed, and nothing prominent occured through 1644. In June,

1645, the Prince of Wales being at Wells, received there a petition from some thousands of Clubmen, "most in arms," "armed as well as they could," and wearing, as evidence of their membership, white ribbons in their hats or coats. Their complaint was of the rapine and violence of the King's troopers. The Prince, in his reply, expressed his disapproval of their public meetings and their unwarrantable course of assembling together. Here they are now known as Clubmen, are "most in arms," and their great offence is "assembling together." They gave "passes" to their "Associates," and they had their Rules and Orders, under which they worked. Rule 10 ordered, that a constant watch should be kept in every parish, day and night. Rule 11, that the watchman should give a "hoop away" to call his neighbours together. Rule 13 provided, that all who heard the "hoop," and did not attend, should suffer for it. On the 30th June, at another large meeting, it was ordered that the "Associates" should find arms, set watches, and not favour or protect any but those of the "Association." At this meeting fourteen other propositions were discussed. Amongst these, it was determined that those who were able should provide themselves with horse and arms; that a course should be taken to obtain "ammunition," and that any who betrayed the plans of the Association should suffer death. As showing how dominant the associating was—about this time a man who had gone to Wincanton, to recover his stolen horse, was met on his way back to Salisbury, and arrested as a spy. He denied the charge, and asserted that he was a Clubman. Being questioned on this, he said he knew "no other end of that Association," than to defend themselves from plunder. There "were 700 in Salisbury," but "others were associated;" of these, "some were furnished with pikes and muskets, others with carbines." Here, again, there is no mention of clubs, and the "other weapons," become pikes and carbines. On his arrival at Dorchester, 3rd July, Sir Thomas Fairfax was warned of danger from these Club-risers, as Rushworth calls them. He determined to treat

them civilly, as, if he were worsted, they would "knock his men on the head as they should fly." Here, with the new word, Club-riser, fairly meaning a riser clubbed in union with others, occurs the idea of knocking on the head, suggestive of the club, in its curiously opposite sense, of a cleaver asunder. But this expression is often met with, used as now, not always in its literal sense. Thus, in 1644, the Royalist troopers—not the Clubmen—"knocked on the head" the women, whose husbands were for the Parliament. Again, at Drogheda, in 1649, the officers were "knocked on the head promiscuously." Cromwell went out to this party, some 2,000 strong, on Hambledon Hill. At the bottom of the hill he met "a man with a musket," and asking him where he was going, was told, "to the Club Army." Here is a pretty syllogism, but proving that the Club Army was not armed with clubs. Two parties sent up the hill were "fired upon," and the Clubmen refused "to lay down their arms." Some troopers were then sent up, when they "let fly at them" also, but being charged were dispersed, losing "a great store of arms." This being reported to the Parliament, an ordinance forbade any Associations of the kind, as high treason. Fairfax being advanced to Langport, was met there by a deputation of Clubmen, who presented to him their Articles of Association, showing their Rules, and that the Associates were to provide arms, &c. With this deputation were two "Club Divines," certainly not divines with clubs. It was now asked in London, "Will these clubs still pack together? If they do not sort themselves into better order, they will find the General will quickly trump them. It would be better for them, if they must club, to club with the modern Hercules, the mighty Sir Thomas Fairfax." Here the word is played upon, but the primary allusion is clearly to the packing together. At Bridgwater some 2,000 Clubmen were found assembled on Knoll Hill. The two Generals went out to them, and were greatly frightened at being received with "a most dangerous volley of shot," intended, as it proved, only as a "token of delight." Being

asked why they were thus assembled together, they made their usual answer,—For self-defence, &c. "Some of these," says Sprigg, "were armed with muskets, some with fowling pieces, and some with clubs," and, "if they had not been satisfied with the Generals' propositions, their own clubs would have beaten reason into them." Here occurs an actual mention of the word club as a weapon. Sir Thomas Fairfax, in a letter a little before this, also uses the word, describing a party as armed "with muskets, fowling pieces, pikes, halberts, great clubs, and the like." The club here comes in as a very unimportant affair; and it is questionable if Fairfax saw them, as Cromwell, reporting the same event, mentions the fire-arms, but says nothing of clubs. Who Sprigg was is not known, it has been supposed that he was Sir Thomas Fairfax; if he saw all he records, he was a lucky and a busy man. These allusions would perhaps be strong, had they occurred at the beginning of the movement, but coming at the end of it, after the Associations had existed for two years, it is easy enough to see the simple idea, that a Clubman must be a man with a club. At this very time, another party assembled at Wraxall, and to these Prince Rupert went out from Bristol, with 200 foot and 2 pieces of ordnance. Accompanied by Sir Ferdinando Gorges and about 20 horse, he advanced towards them, but was soon stopped, as they had made good a bank, lined it with musketeers, and placed their horse on either flank. After some parley, the Prince was refused a passage, and bid wheel about or take the consequences. He chose the former. The assertion of Carlyle, a mere *ipse dixit*, entirely unsupported, is nullified almost in the same line, by his mention that M. Villemain, a previous writer, had given a contrary opinion. Granting that the argument still remains open, the inference from the general evidence is certainly clear and fair, that it was from their assembling and banding together in union, that this "third sort," "came to be called Clubmen."

Mr. HUNT, in reply, said that he thought that Mr. Green had

put weapons into his hand; in arguing against the derivation from the arms of the clubmen, he had shown that the weapons they carried were various; and, if they were all furnished with fire-arms, why should it be said that they were armed some with muskets, some with fowling-pieces. Why this showed that fire-arms were the exception and so it was expressly stated that some had them, though some even of these were only fowling-pieces. He also speaks of the clubmen at Wells being "most in arms, armed as well as they could." Why that surely means with clubs or anything else they could get. Mr. Hunt was quite ready to allow that Carlyle was no safe guide in philological matters, but in this case he thought that the derivation was fairly upheld in the *Letters and Speeches*. In a letter from Cromwell to Sir T. Fairfax, quoted by Mr. Green, he says that the Clubmen fired on a body of fifty horse sent against them, but only killed two men and four horses; they probably, therefore, had but few fire-arms. They were easily dispersed, and Cromwell says that the most part of the prisoners he took were "poor silly creatures." Now silly at that time meant innocent or unwitting, as witness Milton's shepherds "silly thoughts" for their sheep, and this epithet would scarcely be applied except to a rustic company, and an army of such men would probably not be armed very well, or, if they had been, they would not have been spoken of so contemptously by the Lieutenant-General. Clarendon speaks of these Clubmen as receiving encouragement from the gentlemen of the country. He says that Prince Rupert disliked the movement, as he was afraid lest they should be won over by the enemy; but nevertheless some inferior officers of the army joined them, and it was then that they grew sufficiently powerful to attack Fairfax. The whole tenor of his account seems to represent a considerable increase of the movement in numbers and efficiency. Though it seems that firearms were found, and even in some quantity amongst them, yet their earlier weapons were such as clubs, and so the name of the force arose.

Mr. GREEN considered that he had fairly proved his point.

Mr. SURTEES said that he thought it highly probable that the political club derived its name from the weapon. The meetings of the Ship-caulkers at Boston, just before the revolutionary war, unquestionably caused one-sided political meetings to be called caulkers meetings, now corrupted into caucus meetings. So, perhaps, the gatherings of the young "bloods" of London, armed with clubs for purposes of fun and mischief, may well have been called club meetings, and have given the name to social and political associations. He was not aware when the earliest instance of a political club occurred which bore the name.

Mr. HUNT said that he did not know of any political club so called before the famous one at Edinburgh in the beginning of the reign of William III, which was called simply "The Club." The suggestion of Mr. Surtees called to mind the fact that clubs were often seen, and the cry often heard in London in old times. Every one would remember the lively scene with which Sir W. Scott's *Fortunes of Nigel* opened: so a more dignified authority, the antiquary Stow, describes just such a scene as happening in Henry the Eighth's reign, when the Prentices resisted one of the Aldermen, who arrested a young man for playing at the Bucklers in Chepe, and they cried "Prentices, Prentices, Clubs, Clubs," and clubs, and other weapons came out at every door, so that the Alderman had to flee. He thought that these Prentices might be called clubmen, because they used clubs.

A question was asked as to the derivation of the word club.

Mr. HUNT asked whether a club was not originally a bundle of sticks rather than one massive one. If so, might not the word be connected with *clufan*, to cleave, a club being a number of cleft sticks which bound together made the club, as the Roman *fasces* were bundles of sticks bound together?

Mr. DICKINSON said that such a derivation supposed rather too much.

Mr. GREEN believed that the connexion of club and the Latin *globus* had been satisfactorily established.

The Right Rev. PRESIDENT then called upon Dr. FARMER to read a paper written by Mr. G. Parker, whose health did not allow him to be present. It treated of the ancient history of Bridgwater and its neighbourhood.

The substance of Mr. PARKER'S paper is as follows:— "I can carry back my memory to about seventy-three years: at that time the site upon which stood the Bridgwater Castle was our play-ground as school-boys. It is partly built upon now by houses, called King's Square. Then it was surrounded by wooden palings. At that time the ruins of the old Castle could be seen, also the holes and pits which had been made in digging out its foundations. The Castle is said to have been built by William de Briwere in 1216. It was in good preservation at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Its decay and destruction must be dated from the siege of 1645. Its walls were fifteen feet thick, and it was surrounded with forty guns. Towards the north was a wide ditch, called then the Bailey ditch, this, no doubt, formed part of the moat, which was originally thirty feet wide, and of great depth. Vaults which are now used as bonded cellars, near the present Custom House, it is supposed, communicated with the Castle from the river, as between the Custom House and Castle-street places have been seen, (and I believe even now some trace of them is found,) that opened into those vaults. These may have been made useful at the time of the siege, as Colonel Wyndham, the gallant commander of the Castle, took every means he could to defend the town. We can also trace remnants of the wall which still remain towards the west, leading to Dr. Morgan's school, and which formed part of the defence; and on the east end of the town, near where Barclay Street stands, were very high mounds of earth, in which, when removed for building purposes, the workmen found human bones, bullets, swords, and other military weapons. At the entrances to the town, north,

east, west, and south, were strong stone arches, upon which were hung iron gates. They were removed some years ago, when the increased travelling and the general improvement of the town demanded it. It is recorded that at the south gate a determined fight took place with some of the rebel army, who marched from Taunton, but who received such a complete defeat that those who could were glad to retire to the place from which they came. Still, we learn from history that Cromwell and his army prevailed, and when Bridgwater Castle was at length surrendered there was found, it is said, treasure in plate and jewels to the value of £100,000. Hostages came out for the submission of the Governor, consisting of Sir Hugh Wyndham, Mr. Walrond, Mr. Warre, Mr. Sydenham, and Mr. Speke. This took place in 1645. In 1685, the Duke of Monmouth, who aimed at the throne of England, came with part of his army to Bridgwater, and, accompanied by Lord Grey, mounted St. Mary's Church tower, and with a telescope surveyed the country towards Sedgemoor, where lay the King's army. Through all these battles and sieges we have still good old St. Mary's Church and tower, which latter is ornamented with a handsome steeple, the top part of which was some years since rebuilt, having been shattered by lightning during a heavy thunderstorm. William de Briwere, it appears, was a great benefactor to the town in ancient days. He it was who built the Castle and began the structure of the old stone bridge, which was finished by Sir Thomas Trivett, and consisted of three arches. He founded, also, the Hospital of St. John's, the site of which stood at the end of Eastover. A stone coffin and other relics have been dug up there from time to time. His son, William de Briwere, after the example of his father, founded a priory of Minorites, called Grey Friars. The site of this priory was at the west end of the town. The best remnant we have of it is an old door in Silver Street; the fields also near the Friars were part of its property."

The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Parker for his paper, and the meeting ended.