The Excursion.

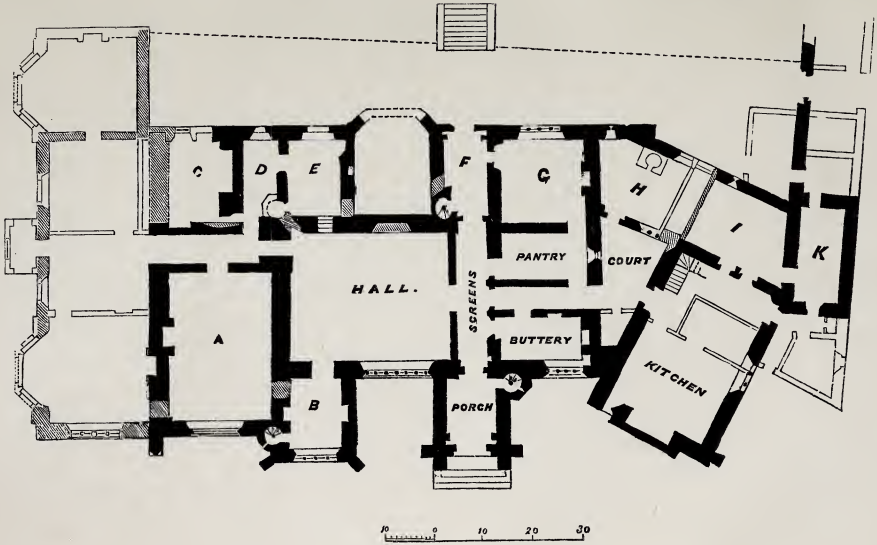
Soon after two o'clock a large party started to visit some of the places of interest in the neighbourhood. The Rev. T. Bliss, of Clevedon, acted, on this and the succeeding days, as conductor; Mr. Parker undertook to give descriptions of the houses, manorial or monastic, that were visited; and Mr. Freeman of the churches. The explanation of camps and earthworks fell to the Rev. F. Warre.

The party first halted at Clevedon Court, the residence of Sir A. H. Elton, Bart., and Mr. Parker gave the following description of the house :—

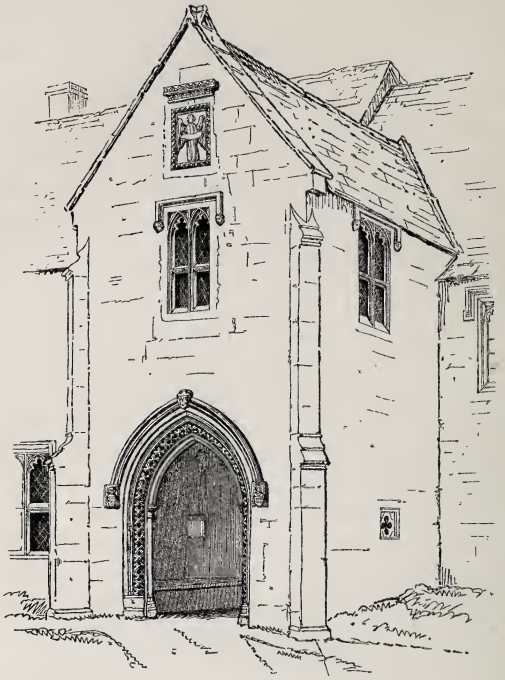
CLEVEDON COURT is a house of the time of Edward II., or the first half of the fourteenth century, much altered and added to, and with parts rebuilt, but of which the main walls remain, and the original plan may still be

* Immediately after the Annual Meeting, the Committee of the Society appointed a deputation to examine the Collection of Cave-bones offered for sale, but finding from their report that it was not Mr. Beard's collection, no further steps were taken in the matter. If the latter collection is ever dispersed, there are many specimens which the Society ought not to allow to go out of this county. In fact the Williams' Collection purchased by the Society, and Mr. Beard's Collection at Banwell are each the complement of the other.

A Parlour, now Library, under the Solar.
B Closet, under the Ladies' Bower.
C Store-room.
D Garderobe-turret?
E Staircase. N.B. Under *E* is the ancient cellar, entered from *D*.
F Back Porch.
G Servants' Hall?
H Bakehouse.
I Scullery.
K Servants' Bedrooms?



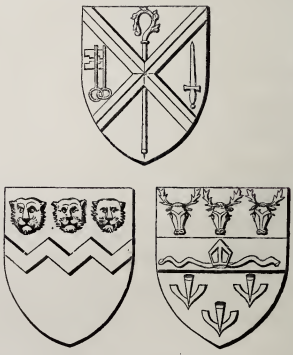
PLAN OF CLEVEDON COURT.



PORCH OF THE RECTORY-HOUSE, CONGRESBURY.



DETAILS OF PORCH, CONGRESBURY.



SHIELDS, CONGRESBURY.

traced. This may be said roughly to be the common plan of the Roman capital letter H, the hall making the cross stroke, but a very thick one; at any rate, it forms the central division of the house, with the rooms for the family at the upper end, and the offices for the servants at the lower, according to the usual arrangement.

The entrance is through a porch, which possesses the two original doorways with Decorated mouldings, and in the jambs of the outer arch are the grooves for the portcullis; over this porch is a small room, in which was the windlass for raising and lowering the portcullis, and in the angle is a winding or newel staircase leading to this room, and to the music-gallery over the screens or servants' passage. At the further end of this passage, or at the back of the house, is another porch, F, also with a portcullis groove, a room over it for the windlass, and a newel staircase. Three doorways, with Decorated dripstone mouldings, open as usual from the screens to the buttery, the pantry, and the central passage leading to the kitchen, which must always have been external in a detached building, and not part of the house, and probably on the same site as the present one; although it has been rebuilt in the Elizabethan period, it is placed diagonally to the main building, leaving a small triangular court, which effectually prevented the smell of the cooking from entering the house. The offices which touch upon this court are the servants' hall, G, which seems to be part of the original building, though much altered. H the bakehouse, and I the scullery, have also been much altered, but have old work in parts; K is a tower divided into several stories, now occupied as servants' bedrooms; it is a very plain building, with small square-headed windows, and has very much the appearance of being part of the work of the

fourteenth century, although if so, it is a very unusual feature of that period.

The great hall is much modernized: the windows and fireplace and wainscotting are all modern, that is, not mediæval, but not very recent. The walls are original, with two gable ends and a chimney on each, and in each gable are windows shewing that the buildings attached to the hall at each end were originally much lower than the hall. There is a peculiarity in the chimneys,—the flue of each is not carried down any lower than the head of the window under it, and was originally open to the hall, so that it would appear that the smoke from the fire on the hearth or reredos in the centre of the hall was allowed to circulate freely among the open timbers of the hall and escape at the two extremities without any central louvre; or these chimneys may have been an extra precaution in addition to the louvre. The present roof is modern and ceiled, and as no ancient view of the house is extant shewing a smoke louvre, we have no evidence whether there was one or not; it is quite possible that this arrangement of short chimneys open below to the hall may be an earlier one than the smoke louvre in the centre of the hall. The dais has disappeared, but the position of it is obvious enough. At one end in the front of the house, where at a later period the bay window would be, is a small square room or closet, forming the basement of a tower, corresponding to the porch at the lower end of the hall. Over this closet is another small room, with a rich Decorated window with reticulated tracery in the front, and at the back a small window of the same period opening into the hall; this was probably the lady's bower or private chamber: the only access to it was by a newel staircase from the small room below, and so from the hall; the

present entrance from the adjoining chamber has been cut through the old thick wall. At the opposite end of the dais, and consequently at the back of the house, was the ancient cellar, E, under a modern staircase, and by the side of it the garderobe turret, D, with a newel staircase in the corner, now destroyed: behind the dais is a large room, probably the parlour, and over it the solar, or lord's chamber. This wing has been much altered in the Elizabethan period, but the buttress at the external corner is Decorated work, and shews that these rooms are partly original. The room at the back of this, marked C, belongs to the Elizabethan period, and has been at some period turned into a kitchen. The west end of the house, beyond this, comprising the present dining-room and drawing-room, is partly modern, with bay-windows thrown out, in the style of the Strawberry-hill Gothic; but the walls and the end window in the front belong to the Elizabethan work, built by Wake, and the back wall extending from C to the west end has had an arch pierced through it to extend the dining-room.

The dotted lines on the plan connecting E and F represent a modern wall, and the straight line at the back with the steps shews the trench cut out of the slope of the hill at the back of the house. The remains of fortification are very slight, and there is no appearance of any moat; indeed, the situation on the slope of a hill hardly admits of one, and the house could never have been intended to stand a siege.

The Church and Manor House of Tickenham were then visited.

Tickenham Church. Mr. Freeman said: The Church is of several dates. It consists of nave and aisles, chancel and south aisle, and western tower. The piers are Early-

English, very plain, and some of them seemingly unfinished; one especially on the south side, with small angle shafts with flowered capitals. The font is of the same date. The windows are of various dates, from Trefoil-lancets to ordinary Perpendicular; the most remarkable are some square-headed ones with fine flowing tracery. The roofs are throughout of the local coved form, except in the south aisle of the nave, which has tie-beams. The tower is Perpendicular, a good plain specimen of the Bristol type, but disfigured by the loss of its parapet and pinnacles. There is a cross-legged effigy in the north aisle.

Tickenham Court. Mr. Parker observed that Tickenham Court is a manor house, probably of the time of Henry IV., or the beginning of the fifteenth century, and without any appearance of having been fortified, though it was no doubt enclosed by an outer wall. The hall is nearly perfect, and stands at a right angle to the other part of the house, so that we have two sides of the quadrangle only remaining. The hall windows are each of two lights, with flowing tracery resembling the Decorated style of the previous century, but the arch mouldings are of the Perpendicular style; the outer arch is pointed, the inner arch, or rear-arch as it is called, is segmental. The roof is perfect, of plain open timber of simple construction, the principals arched to the collars, with good pannelled stone corbels. At the lower end are the usual three doorways to the kitchen and offices, now destroyed, which probably occupied another wing, making a third side to the court; at the upper end of the hall is the arch of the bay window, now destroyed. The remaining wing of the house is divided into two stories, with square-headed windows of the same period; and at the back of this wing are two turrets, one octagonal for the staircase, the other square for the garderobes.



TICKENHAM COURT, SOMERSET.

From a Photograph taken expressly for the Somᵗ Archᵗ Society.



PORTISHEAD MANOR HOUSE, SOMERSET.

From a Photograph taken expressly for the Somerset Arch.l Society

From thence the members proceeded to CADBURY CAMP, situated on a high eminence, commanding a most extensive and beautiful panorama of land and sea. This encampment was considered by the Rev. F. Warre to be one of the most perfect though simple specimens remaining of the Belgic kind of British earthworks. Without entering on the question whether or not there were any people in this country earlier than the Celtic occupation, though probably there were, it was known that the southern part of the island was occupied by a tribe called the Loegri, who were cognate with the Cymri of Wales. About three hundred years before Christ, there came Galedin (Belgæ) from "the land of waters," supposed to be the mouth of the Elbe. They came in naked ships, probably boats without sails, and landed first in the Isle of Wight, where they were received with great hospitality; but they repaid the kindness by overrunning a great part of the country, their frontier extending from the mouth of the Parrett to that of the Axe. Therefore there were two distinct races occupying the country at an early date, if not three. There was a marked difference in the camps; in some there was a threefold arrangement of earthworks, of which the innermost was the most strongly fortified. These, he considered were aboriginal encampments, of which Worle-hill was an example, while the present was a Belgic one. He was confirmed in this idea by the fact that on the first range of high ground on the other side of the Parrett and Axe, there was a series of works, every one of which was of the primeval type. Nor did it militate against it that Worle-hill and Dolberry-hill were within the conquered territory, for probably the Belgæ, like other invading forces, would use what came to their hand. Mr. Warre expressed regret at having heard it was contemplated to destroy the earth-

works at Worle by making a road over the hill, and said that if the object was to increase the value of the property, the Society could not interfere, but if it was a mere fancy, he trusted it would not be carried out. He believed that the encampment on Worle hill was one of the oldest in Europe, and had reason to think that it was earlier than Dolberry. He then pointed out marks of a trackway, on each side of which were hut circles. This trackway, Mr. Warre explained, led to a village without the works, and which probably arose there in a similar way to those that had sprung up in the neighbourhood of castles.

On their return the members and their friends dined at the Royal Hotel, and a CONVERSAZIONE MEETING was held in the evening at the Public Hall.

After a few remarks by the President, Mr. Freeman gave a detailed account of the various objects of interest examined during the excursion that day.