
Excursion : Wednesday.

The weather was most discouraging to those who were intending to join the excursion, but nevertheless a large number followed in the wake of the President, who started at 10 a.m. The course taken was up the steep old Bristol road to the west of Stoberry Park. Pen Hill, nearly a thousand feet high, was passed to the right, and the road led the excursionists over a wild and desolate track of country, which had at different times been tried for ore. This makes it very difficult to decide on the nature of the many small round holes which almost fill the surface, but nevertheless some remarkable groups of barrows could be distinctly made out. The first halt was made at the Castle of Comfort, a small public-house. Near this is a curious depression about 80 feet deep, known as the Devil's punchbowl, there are also several swallet holes, and to the south-east two curious groups of barrows. Some of these barrows have been opened; and an account of their contents is given in *Rutter's Delineations*, Appendix E. The party with some difficulty made out the course of the Roman road (*Iter ad Axium*), which runs from Uphill to Old Sarum, and which line crosses the more

modern road. The heavy rain made every one loathe to stay long enough to make a full exploration of the many points of interest at this wild spot. After a drive of some nine miles, during the latter part of which the weather became more favourable, the excursionists reached

Compton Martin Church.

The Vicar and his Curate were both unavoidably absent, but nevertheless the Society was most hospitably received and entertained at the vicarage. The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, consists of a chancel, nave, side aisles, and a western tower in which six bells are hung.

Mr. FREEMAN having been requested to comment on the architecture of the church, spoke first from the chancel. He said that he thus broke the good rule of examining the outside of a church before going inside, because in this instance it was more easy to see from the inside how the building was constructed, and what changes it had undergone. He remarked on the changes which had taken place since he was last in the church about twenty years ago. It was a very late Norman church, as late as anything purely Norman could be, quite late 12th century work, though of course he did not say that there might not have been something much earlier there once. There was no sign of an apse; indeed in small churches an apse was somewhat uncommon in England, though the rule in Normandy. The building was of a very high rank in its own class. It was rare to find a clerestory in a church of that size and date. There were examples in St. Peter's at Northampton, in St. Woollos at Newport, and here and there, but as a rule there was only a clerestory in Norman churches of a larger size. There was vaulting, which was rare in English parish churches of

any date, but less rare in those of the 12th century than of any other time. The pillars were not exactly columnar, nor yet very massive piers, but something between the two; they might have been treated as columns, but they were treated like the massive piers with a round abacus. On the north side there had been a good deal of tampering. He first drew attention to a singular twisted pillar on that side. This pillar was not really twisted, and any one of the other pillars could be cut into a like shape. The form at once suggested the pillars of Waltham, Durham, Dunfermline, and Lindisfarn. As for the original east window he knew not what it was, but he remembered that there was a Perpendicular window there twenty-two years ago, and he should have kept that rather than a Norman window of the 19th century. But the most noteworthy changes in the church were made in the 15th century, when the local Perpendicular style had come in. Of course there had been once a wide Norman chancel-arch of several orders. But the people who had widened the south aisle had taken down the chancel-arch; they had taken down and to some extent rebuilt one of the Norman ribs, and had cut away the piers of the old arch. They had respected the vaulting and had made their new chancel-arch so as not to interfere with it. The old chancel-arch was doubtless not so wide as the present one; but it was wide for a Norman chancel-arch; it must have been like the one at Iffley. The several orders which the Norman arch would have made it narrower than the present arch. The old screen which he remembered at his former visit was now taken away.

Mr. J. T. IRVINE agreed in considering that the old arch was a wide one, but did not think that it was of more than two orders. He believed that the Norman builder

added a chantry chapel, and that that accounted for the decoration of the pier.

The Rev. W. HUNT expressed a hope, in which Mr. Freeman and Mr. Irvine agreed, that, in any contemplated restoration of the church, the Norman vaulting, the structural peculiarities, the twisted pillar, and the local roof would be carefully preserved.

The PRESIDENT authorized and requested the Secretary to represent to the Incumbent the unanimous opinion of the Society, that nothing should be done to interfere with the arch, and that there was no danger from the pillar being out of the perpendicular.

Mr. T. SEREL read a short memoir of St. Wulfric,* who was born in the parish in the early part of the 12th century. The saint was said to have prophesied the accession of King Stephen. He lived in a cell at Haselborough, and was there buried by Robert, Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Mr. FREEMAN, from the churchyard, pointed out the Norman windows, with mouldings advanced some way towards the next style ; also a piece of stone cornice at the extreme east end of the nave roof. He showed that the tower was an inferior example of one of the familiar county types, as at St. James', Taunton, and Bishops Lydeard, having the staircase-turret in much the same way. Instead of the proper group of belfry turret windows, there was only one window with a flat arch, and very poor tracery. The great number of the small and rather weak shafts stuck against the wall reminded him of Long Sutton, but the tower there was much finer. He also

* A long account of this saint and hermit is given by Roger of Wendover, sub. ann. 1154: also a short and somewhat grotesque notice by Gervase, sub. ann. 1146.

pointed out the pierced parapet which marked the northern side of the Mendips.

The Excursionists next walked down a very long by-lane to

Bykefold Manor.

Mr. PARKER, C.B., remarked, when the Excursionists had got there, that there was really not much to see. All that remained was a pretty, but not in any way a remarkable moated house of the 15th century, with kitchen, offices, and guest chambers. The entrance porch which once was in the middle of the house was now at one end of it; the hall and the principal apartments had been destroyed. It was hardly earlier than Henry VII, but the family of Roynon lived there in the reign of Henry VIII. The square-headed windows, with cinquefoil lights, were such as belonged to the 15th century. There was good wooden panelling of the time of James I.

On their return the visitors were kindly provided with refreshment at the Vicarage. They then went on to

West Garpree.

On entering the church Mr. FREEMAN remarked on the great changes which had been made since his last visit. He would not say much about these changes because the architect, Mr. Giles, was his friend, and because he felt sure that some strong pressure must have been brought to bear upon him before he made them; for Mr. Giles, unlike many fashionable architects, could, and would, if he was allowed, do really good English work. By the help of his old drawings he could tell the Society that there used to be fragments of the old Norman Church. There was once a Norman chancel-arch, which perhaps had a little arch on either side—he could not say for certain, but from the

great width he thought it likely. It was possible that the architect found signs of there having been once a great central arch with a little one each side, and that made him follow the same arrangement. The Norman work was altered in the 15th century or thereabouts. No doubt the change made at that time produced a queer and disproportioned effect. Nevertheless the 15th century change was a piece of the history of the building, and he would have kept it ; and—as for looks—a freak of the 15th century was as likely to be at least as good as a freak of the 19th century. There were formerly two Perpendicular windows in the northern wall—a large one, and another not quite so large. Why should anyone have destroyed them to fall back on the imperfect transitional form which the architect had chosen to follow? The tower remained untouched, the windows were early, and he was glad to see the wooden spire still left, for in these days it was the fashion to get rid of wooden spires, as of other early and characteristic features. The east window had not been meddled with, and the depth of the moulding was worthy of notice. The north transept had been added.

The Rev. W. HUNT called attention to a good piscina, and also to a gold chalice on the altar of Elizabethan work.

Gournay Court,

which stands opposite the church, was next visited. It is a large and handsome house of the time of James I. Mr. Parker pointed out that it had remained almost unaltered, and that the original fireplace and staircase were still there. The outside of the house was, he said, very good. On the caps of the two pillars of the outer door jamb are the words “ Altogether vanity.” At the time of Domesday the manor of West Harptree Gournay belonged to

Geoffrey Bishop of Coutances. It was annexed to the Duchy of Cornwall by Edward III. West Harptree was however afterwards granted to the Gournays, but on the failure of that family in the 15th century it reverted to the Duchy.

Tilly Manor

stands next to the church. The manor was held by the family of Tilly in the time of Richard I. Its various occupants are mentioned in *Rutter's Delineations*, p. 194.

Mr. PARKER, C.B., said that the inscription over the fireplace, 1659, gave the date of the present building. There used to be three stories, but the highest had been removed. It was rare to find so good a house of that date.

East Harptree

was next visited. The church is poor, but with a Norman door. It contains a fine tomb of Sir John Newton, kt., ob. 1568.

The VICAR stated that the church had suffered much hurt at the hands of an iconoclastic predecessor of his, who had destroyed the altar and font and had broken the windows. He said that there were five bells, two of which were of the earlier part of the 17th century, and one much earlier, with the inscription *Jesus Nazarenus Rex*. He asked for an explanation of the name of the parish.

The Rev. W. H. JONES (of Bradford-on-Avon) thought that the *tree* was only a name for the cross.

The Rev. Prebendary EARLE said that he had never met with an instance where *tree* was so used. He was inclined to believe* that *tree* simply meant a tree. In old times trees as well as stones formed landmarks and boundaries, and he referred to the well-known "hoar apple tree" of Senlac.

The Rev. W. H. JONES said that in the Charters the *tree* was spelt *trew*.

The Rev. Prebendary EARLE said that the oldest form of *tree*, which he knew of, was *treow*.

Mr. G. T. CLARK remarked that there was an important *tree* which sometimes gave its name to places : he could not in compliment to the inhabitants suppose that that *tree* gave its name to East Harptree, for it was the *gallowstree*.

About half a mile from the church is the picturesque site of Richmond Castle. Nearly every trace of the old building has disappeared, and the site was therefore left unvisited. In the *Gesta Stephani* there is an account of the surprise of Harptree by Stephen.

On the road between East Harptree and Litton some of the party examined a quarry of old red sandstone on Mr. C. Kemble's model farm, in which many of the stones bear evident marks of volcanic action. Passing Litton on the left hand the Society proceeded to

Chewton Mendip.

The beautiful church of this village stands on a commanding spot. It has during the last few years undergone extensive restoration under the superintendence of the Vicar, the Rev. R. S. Philpott.

By the request of the PRESIDENT the Vicar commented on the most remarkable features of the church. He said—

“The church is presumably dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. The plan, with the exception of the tower, and probably the porch, is Norman. *Norman work will be found in all the walls in one form or another externally. Internally, attention may be given to the following features :—Nave : the arcade is of the first and second

Pointed styles ; that portion which belongs to the first Pointed style includes the two easternmost piers, with the respond abutting on the south chancel wall, and the half-pier, No. 3, westward. This portion of the work is built on Norman bases ; the remainder of the arcade is 14th century work. The arrangement of the chancel arch is peculiar, and similar, I think, to that of Portbury ; originally a Norman triplet, and adapted, probably in the 15th century, for the advanced ritual of that day, by sacrificing the low, narrow, central Norman arch, and introducing in its stead a tall, wide, ungraceful opening, splayed into the south chancel wall, and such as you see now. Another feature of interest is the graduated recess observable in proximity to the rood stair. At the north-east angle of the nave there is the jamb of a Norman window, and some remains of the head of another, between the small 14th century window, over the rood stair, and its 15th century neighbour. Some remains of a decorative design of post-Reformation date may be distinguished at the springer of the chancel arch on the south side. The woodwork of the seats is to some extent old, and a fair example of 15th century work. The lectern is about the same date as the Bible which rests upon it ; they have both been used together, probably almost uninterruptedly. There is a MS. note in the inside of the title page of the Bible (which is the original authorised edition, published in 1611) to this effect :—" Chewton : Emmanuel. Memorandum, Primum Tempus : 1611, Oct. 27th. Autho. Eaglesfield, Vicker. John Stanfield, Curatt. John Jones, George Wyatt, Ch. Wardens. J: Jerobubom, Sexton." The altar is of the same date as the lectern. There were massive oak rails and gate, fixed as a septum before the altar, and a pulpit, all of Jacobean work. These were

(I think ill-advisedly) removed during the late repair of the church. There is a good example of the frith, or fridstool, on the north side of the sacarium. Our universal architectural guide, Mr. Parker's Glossary, tells us "This was a seat or chair, generally of stone, placed near the altar in some churches, the last and most sacred refuge for those who claimed the privilege of sanctuary within them, and for the violation of which the most severe punishment was decreed." Mr. Parker only mentions two examples, one at Hexham, one at Beverley Minster; and both in the north side of the chancel. There are three piscinæ, or aumbries. Bloxam mentions that there are two in this church. The third, however (the middle one), was discovered during the late repairs. It is of the same date as that to the west of it, 15th century. The easternmost is doubtless the original one in use in this church. It is of 13th century date. The other piscinæ were introduced, no doubt, cotemporarily with the sedilia. At that time this church and advowson, passing from the hands of the Benedictines of Jumièges, to those of the Carthusians, of Shene, in Surrey, a vast amount of new and costly work was carried out in this church. You will notice, how, in adapting the sedilia to their place, the beautiful respond of the 13th century arcade was ruthlessly sacrificed. There are a curious upright joint and cill in the wall over the piscinæ; the corresponding joint may be traced on examining the rear wall in the Chantry Chapel. There was evidently a door, or window, at that point. In the Chantry Chapel the jambs of the Norman windows are visible in the east wall. The same indications would be found underneath the plaster, and in the same position with respect to the east window, in the chancel.—The Effigies in the Chantry Chapel: The tomb, with its super-

recumbent figures, is popularly known as "The Bonville Monument." The Strachey MSS., page 11, says, 'both Lord Bonville and his lady are interred in the chancel.' Now the architecture of the tomb certainly accords with the date of the deaths of William, Lord Bonville, son of Sir William Bonville, of Chute, in Devonshire, viz., 1461. William, Lord Bonville, inherited the Manor of Chewton from his mother, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Henry Fitzroger (*vide* Strachey MSS., page 11). The dress and armorial bearings show that the effigies are not those of Lord Bonville, or members of his family on the male side. The arms of the Bonvilles are bends and mulets; those on the jupon of the male figure are three lions rampant, two and one. On the camail there is a small shield charged with the cross of St. George. These insignia seem to identify the effigies as those of Sir Henry Fitzroger and Dame Elizabeth, his wife. In the Inquisitions there is the following:—'Henricus Fitzroger pro ordine fratrum sanctæ crucis juxta turrin London' Chewton Maner, 3 acr' terr,' &c., Somerset.' This explains the cross on the small shield. In Berry's Dictionary of Heraldry there is found among the Fitzrogers one who bore for his arms 'gules, three lions rampant or.' (There is no colour now visible on the shield of the effigy in this church). This Fitzroger died in 1350. In 1388 his wife died. The inquisition taken at the time of his death runs—'Elizabeth uxor Henrici Fitzroger militis Cheweton Maner et hund,' Somerset.' The dress of the two figures accords with the date of the death of the female, 1388. Probably these effigies were sculptured in the dress of the period at which the survivor of the persons represented deceased, and placed on a tomb in the style of architecture of the day, by their grandson, William, Lord Bonville.

This would account for the incongruity between the tomb and its effigies. The Tower.—Mr. Eddrup, Chancellor of Salisbury, opines that the tower is of two dates, separated by at least 100 years. I have ascended the face of the tower, and observed the inferiority of the sculpture and other details of the uppermost stage, as compared with the lower stages. Mr. Eddrup is inclined to think that the ground and middle stages are work of the same date as the other 15th century features of the church, and that the uppermost stage was added in the next century. I owe to the courtesy of Mr. Serel an excerpt from the will of Thomas Halston de Chewton, made March 13th, 1541, and proved in the same year. It is to this effect—‘I bequeath to the bylding of the tower of Chewton, *xvid.* (sixteen pence). Item. To Saynt Andrews in Welleys *vid.* (sixpence).’ ”

Mr. FREEMAN, from the churchyard, pointed out the difference in outline, caused by the change which had taken place in the walls and roof of the nave. He said that when architects began to build Perpendicular towers, in the case of the smaller churches of the county, they often, as at Wrington, pulled down the old nave and had to make a new nave between the old chancel and the new tower. Here the tower had been built on to the nave, and was one of the finest examples they had of its own type. It was not the type which pleased him best.* He liked best the small class of towers, of which Wrington was the finest example, in which there was the greatest continuity. Here the lines did not run completely through as at Wrington, for there was a stage with two windows, and another with two windows over it. Still this was a much better

* See Mr. Freeman's paper on the Perpendicular of Somerset, Vol. II of the Society's Proceedings, p. 53, 1851.

and finer piece of work than the taller and more famous tower of St. Mary's at Taunton. There was not indeed perfect continuity, but there was a gradual increase of lightness and decoration towards the top, which the Taunton tower lacked. Here they had the plain lower part, then the blank panel-stage, and then the rich belfry-stage, crowned by a parapet, which had a slightly top-heavy effect. On the whole it was one of the best towers they had, and a most stately thing.

A large number of the Society took tea at the vicarage, and then drove back to Wells.

The Evening Meeting

was held in the Town-hall, the President taking the chair at about 8.30 p.m.

Dr. BEDDOE, of Clifton, read a paper "On the Ethnology of Somerset," which is printed in Part II.

Mr. F. H. DICKINSON said that Dr. Beddoe seemed to assume that the country about Taunton and Ilminster was but thinly populated before and at the time of the Norman Conquest, and that it was therefore less affected by it than were other and more thickly-inhabited parts. He doubted that strongly. Ilminster and Taunton were, he believed, at that time full of people, and the country was highly civilized.

Mr. FREEMAN thanked Dr. Beddoe for his paper. It was a great gain when two people came to the same conclusion by two different modes of argument. All that Dr. Beddoe had said, mainly from a different point of view to his own, came to much the same conclusion as

that to which he had been coming for some years. Any talk about "purity of race," "extermination," and so on must, in the very nature of things, be taken with very considerable modifications. There was no such thing as strict purity of race, it was impossible. All he claimed for the English was, that they were as strictly a Teutonic people as the Germans were. In Germany the Slavonic element was probably stronger than the Celtic element was in England. But in both cases the foreign element was so absorbed and assimilated by the larger Teutonic element that, while the inquiry into the difference still retained all its interest, as far as physical science was concerned, as an historical matter, it made no difference at all. Utter extermination could only take place in the case of savages. It was impossible, in any strict sense, to exterminate any people which had reached that state of civilization which existed in every province of the Roman Empire. It had been lately said that there was no evidence that there was ever an Englishman and a Welshman living side by side here or in Devonshire. A man could not say such a thing, if he had given a single thought to the matter, for he would have seen his mistake in the laws of King Ine. He wished he could make out how and when the English came into Devonshire. He thought it was just possible that they did not come our way at all—that they went, as he might say, not by the "Bristol and Exeter," but by the "South Western." If that was true it would get rid of many difficulties.

The Rev. E. L. BARNWELL (Melksham) said that in Wiltshire they had the strong substantial Saxon and the little black-eyed Celt living side by side, that he believed the two races were still virtually distinct, though of course there had been some mixture.

Mr. W. A. SANFORD said that Professor Huxley had suggested, that in a large part of the south of England traces might be found of the Basque or Iberian race. He wished to know whether Dr. Beddoe had ever found characteristics which he thought might belong to that race.

The BISHOP asked if Dr. Beddoe could tell the Society anything about a race earlier than the Celts.

Dr. BEDDOE said that Mr. Dickinson must have misunderstood him about the state of the population round Ilminster and Taunton, as he agreed with him in thinking that the country there was pretty well populated at the time of the Conquest, but he did not believe that the population was much disturbed. The President and Mr. Sanford had raised a very important question, and he was sorry that the want of time would prevent its being properly discussed. The question was, whether the Celts were anything like an homogeneous race : whether they did not include at least two strata ; the upper one consisting of a large, high-cheek-boned, stalwart people, probably with light complexions, who would be the true Celts ; the other consisting of a lower and servile race—the Iberian or Ligurian—small, with dark eyes and dark hair. It was a point which, it seemed as yet, was impossible to determine. He did not altogether agree with Professor Huxley ; he had some doubts on the subject, but he saw reason to believe that the Celts were not strictly homogeneous.

The Rev. Preb. EARLE said that there was one point of which no notice had been taken, it was, that after the withdrawal of the Roman legions, a great collapse of the population had taken place. He believed that the Saxons flowed into the country as into a vacuum, that when the legions left the island the whole status of the people col-

lapsed, and he very much doubted whether, when the Saxons came in, they found any British freemen at all in a great part of the country. In reference to what Mr. Freeman had said about the laws of King Ine, he said that the great drawback to their value as evidence that the Saxons and Britons lived side by side was, that they did not know to what district these laws applied, and that therefore he considered that they could not be used, as Mr. Freeman thought, to prove that the two races lived on together.

The next paper was "On the Statues of the West Front of the Cathedral," by Mr. B. Ferrey, F.S.A., the diocesan architect, and was read by his son, Mr. E. Ferrey. It was illustrated by a beautiful and complete set of photographs, which drew forth great admiration. The paper is printed, with a diagram kindly furnished by Mr. Ferrey, in Part II of this volume.

The Rev. W. HUNT then handed in an interesting account of some "Excavations lately made at Muchelney Abbey," which had been sent to him by the Rev. S. Baker, Vicar of Muchelney. Owing to the lateness of the hour this paper was not read, but is printed in Part II. He then announced the programme for the next day, and the meeting was declared closed by the President.
