Wednesday.

The morning was fine, and a large party assembled at the Public Hall at ten o'clock. About half-past ten the start was made, and after a pleasant drive the first stoppage was at Tickenham, where the Court was inspected.

Mr. GREEN said they had a very interesting old manor house before them. The building, it would be noticed, had not quite the same plan as Clevedon Court, although the hall was still the principal part. Clevedon Court was about a century earlier. This house was of the 15th century, and they would notice that a change had taken place in the arrangements. The present library at Clevedon was probably the original cellar or store room, and over that would be a living chamber and bed room in one. There was but one living room in those days, and the family, except for meals, lived and slept in it. In the present building, however, the lower room at the end of the hall, corresponding to the Clevedon library, was a handsomely-panelled dining room. This marked a change in domestic habits, and one of considerable interest; it marked the withdrawal of the lord from the hall, where the servants and household had before all dined together. This was the result of another change, the rise of the serving class, who now left the livery of their master for a separate residence. As the hall was disused more bedrooms were provided, and the wings of the house were built to three or even four stories high; and eventually the hall, instead of an open roof, had rooms built over it. The projecting stone brackets at the sides here were probably for suspending lights.

Mr. FERREY drew attention to the windows of the hall, which he said did not belong to the 15th century, but to late in the 14th. They were transitional between the Flowing-Decorated and the Perpendicular.

The Church.

Mr. FERREY said this was a very interesting building, in which several different styles of architecture were represented. There must originally have been a Norman church, but all that remained of it was the chancel arch, which was of a very rude description, and evidently early in the period. The church must, to a great extent, have been rebuilt in the 13th century, the nave and aisles being of that time. The arcade was of a

similar type to that of Clevedon church, without any capitals. The aisles had later additions, the windows being of the Perpendicular character, and the parapet also. The tower was also of the Perpendicular period, and was a good specimen of the plainer type of Somerset towers. It was what he might call the Wraxall type. One of its great beauties was the charming tone of the rough stone of which it was built. There had evidently been no fewer than three chapels in the church. The porch was Early English, and was very interesting indeed, and in entering they would observe the remains of an ancient stoup. There was here a good specimen of an Early English doorway, and among other Early English remains was the font. The church was restored in 1878, and then he believed the walls were denuded of plaster; but it was a moot point among architects as to whether the old churches were originally plastered or not. He did not say whether it was right or wrong to take off the plaster, but for his own part he thought that church was originally intended to have been plastered, from the rough stone which was exposed now the masonry was open to view. There was a rather curious specimen at the end of the aisle of the transition between Early English and Decorated styles, for that was about the period when the first dawn of tracery was arising; it was a beautiful example of a window of the period, and was particularly interesting as showing how changes of style were gradually effected. There had no doubt been a rood-loft, but the entrance had been walled up.

Mr. Green described the monumental effigies now in the north aisle. The first was a knight of very early date; as early as 1191. He was represented as a crusader, was cross-legged, in chain-armour covered by a surcoat, and had a very long sword with no visible sword-belt. That he actually went on the crusade is implied by his having his sword sheathed, at rest. His right hand, now mutilated, seemed to be holding open the surcoat as if showing a wound in the thigh. The other male effigy, now in the corner, was also that of a crusader,

but was just a little later in date. There was a difference in his coif or head-piece, his sword was shorter, his shield was smaller. He was represented as in the act of drawing his sword; which was evidence that he had promised and was ready to go the crusade, but did not. The third effigy is that of a lady. She wears a very long robe held up by one hand, and a plain whimple round the chin, marking the fashion of early in the 13th century, the date of the second crusader, who was possibly her husband. That they had something to do with the building or altering the church was evident from the fact that their heads were used as corbels to the fine roll moulding over the entrance door within the south porch. Possibly this was done as a substitute for the promised crusade.

Mr. Ferrey drew attention to the great changes which had been made in the north aisle. The square-headed windows were clearly not late Perpendicular, but transition between Decorated and Perpendicular. The roof of this aisle had been restored, but was a reproduction of the Somerset type of cradle ceiling, and there was a roof of a similar kind in the nave. There was a beautiful specimen of an Early English lancet at the west end of this aisle. He also called attention to a very interesting piece of the original stained glass in the south chancel aisle, representing the Crucifixion.

This is especially remarkable for the colour of the cross, which is a sage green, the æsthetic colour of our day, and which became a fashion in Italy early in the 13th century. Copied from a drawing most kindly and carefully made by Mr. R. W. Paul it forms the frontispiece to this volume.

Proceeding next to Wraxall, the "Tower House," "history unknown," as marked on the programme, was first visited.

Mr. Green, standing on the lawn, first acknowledging that he was indebted to the Rev. Fredk. Brown for the notices of early wills, gave its history as—

Birdcombe Court.

In early times there was seated here the family of Atte

More, or De la More, in Latin Ad Maram, literally By the More, by which name they were latterly known. In the Close Rolls as early as the 6th of King John, 1205, the name as Richard de Mora appears in connection with Somerset affairs, and in 2nd Edward III, 1328, Stephen de la More held lands in Yatton and Ywode. In the Diocesan Registers at Wells, under date at Banwell 1st Sept., 1331, a license was granted by the bishop to John Atte More de Birdcomb, to erect a private altar or chapel in his house, the same to be without prejudice to the parish church of Wraxall. "Licentia concessa Johanni Atte More de Bredcomb, quod possit erigere Tabulam ligneam infra Mansum suum prædictum, et posito super altari Divina absque prejud: ecclesie parochialis de Wroxhall facere celebrari, per 1 annum."

Amongst the manuscripts in the British Museum is a deed dated at Wraxall in this year, by which Nicholas de la More conveys to John de la More the lands, tenements, and reversions held under the manor of Wraxall, which Robert de la More had purchased of Elys de Frye of Nayllsey. In 1336, Christiana, widow of John de la More, passed them to Richard her son, they being then in the tenancy of Sibella Atte Halle and Roger Atte Fenne, at a pepper corn rent. Then there came a Nicholas de la More in 1337, and there is a deed of George de la More, to which his seal is attached—Barry, over all on a chevron 3 stars, for Bythemore, impaling a lion rampant,—and in 1408 there is another deed between Johanna widow of Richard Warre, and Johanna widow of George Bythemore, relating to the marriage and settlements of Johanna Warre and William son of George Bythemore. There is yet another deed, by which John Bythemore deals with the manor of Naylsey in the parish of Wraxall, and which is witnessed by John Newton, Kt., and Richard Arthur at Naylsey, 12th March, 12th Edward IV, 1472.[65] The family ended with Alice, the sister and heiress of John, who married David

(65). *Additional Charters*, Nos. 5450, 5453, 5466, 5467, 5472.

Perceval, who succeeded to the property shortly before or about 1500 and died in 1534.[66] David was a spendthrift and did his best to get through the property, when Elizabeth his mother-in-law attempted a rescue and bound him in a fixed sum, with conditions that he altered his conduct and handed over the wardship of his two sons to the said Elizabeth their grandmother. She seems to have quite reduced him to servitude, as David agreed not to eloigne himself, to well and truly and also honestly behave himself in word and deed and to ride and goo, kerve, sewe and give his diligent attendance at her table att all and eny tyme and tymes att the commandment of the said Elizabeth and her husband, unless by their especial license, without makyng of any hauntyng or usyng to any taverns, ale house, or suspect place or places. Also the said David was not to affye or marry himself to any person, onles it be by the speciall lycense advyse and counseill of the said Elizabeth and her husband, and that to such person as should be thought by them most convenient.[67] This interference came too late to save Birdcombe, which is next found owned by the Gorges family, so long prominent hereabouts. Sir Edmund Gorges by his will dated 27th April, 1511, bequeathed to his son William "the Hole House and the Mogge House," with appurtenances lying within the parish of Tickenham, to be held "with the manor of Birdcombe." No certain explanation of these names can be offered, but as a suggestion:—Hole was a game played with bowls, which were run into holes at the end of their course—a game in which ladies joined, perhaps represented in reduced scale for indoors by our bagatelle. A Mogge house, perhaps pronounced modge or mudge, *i.e.*, mud or plaster, was a detached building for idling and amusement. The two then may be now represented by our billiard-room, the place where idle time can be passed out of the way of the household.

(66). Collin's *Peerage*, vol. 7.

(67). *Close Rolls*, 25th Henry VIII, part 1, Mem. 17, No. 26.

In 1540 about, when Leland came to Wraxall, he notes that "Syr William Gorge hath there a meane old manor place in a valley, and on eche side of it on the hills is a fayre parke." By this word "meane," he does not quite mean what we mean by mean, but he means that it was a medium-sized middling sort of place. As at this time there appears to have been no other Sir William than the son of Sir Edmund, to whom Sir Edmund devised the manor in 1511, and as the situation of the place exactly corresponds, it must have been this house to which Leland alludes. The Gorges family in turn found it necessary to part with it, and it passed to a merchant of Bristol named Vawer, but apparently with a speculative title. William Vawer died in 18th James I, 1620, and by the enquiry as to his property it was found that he died seised of the manor of Birdcombe or Burdcombe, with all privileges and belongings, and that he left a son, Thomas, his heir.[68] In his will, dated Sept. 14, 1619, he says, "if there come any extent (*i.e.* seizure or execution) against my manor of Birdcombe for any debt of Sir William Gorges, there is a statute among my writings for £1000 for the warranty of one moiety of Birdcombe, and a bond of Sir Edward Gorges of London for another £1000, a warranty for the other half of the said manor of Birdcombe. Passing over Thomas and a generation or two, another William Vawer of Birdcombe Court, Wraxall, in the county of Somerset, Esquire, by his will, 28th April, 1748, bequeathed this manor to his only child Elizabeth, and she proved the will, 2nd March, 1750, as Elizabeth Hollester. So the property is traced sufficiently for our purpose. The valley in which it is placed is known as Burton Combe; Bourton being a part of the manor of Wraxall and the church still a chapel to it. A cursory examination of the house shows nothing of special interest, as the original plan has disappeared. Entering under the tower, beyond would be the hall, its space now filled with rooms or offices, but with some original timber in the roof.

(68). *Inq. P.M. Chancery*, 18th Jas. I, pt. 34, No. 20.

The part behind it is now a farm house, quite a distinct residence from the part seen from the front. But the tower, the prominent original piece, bears on the groined roof of its entrance porch a very curious puzzle. Immediately on the left in the corner is a female head wearing the small horned head dress, as seen better on the Newton monuments at Yatton. Diagonally opposite this is another female head wearing a different head dress, one which came rather later into fashion yet which was contemporary with the other, in the latter part of the 15th century. The carving in the corner on the right and that diagonally opposite to it do not seem to suggest any note; but the bosses on the groins are a great puzzle. Just over head within the porch is a shield bearing a heart, on each side is represented an animal which may be a sheep or a bear, but whether intended as supporters is not clear. Following the straight line, but omitting for the moment the centre boss, there is then a shield bearing nothing that can be described, but which would be heraldically three bars or barry of six if properly carved long enough to touch the sides of the shield. On the right of the centre there is what is known in heraldry as two triangles voided and interlaced, the middle being filled by a quatrefoil, to this there are necessarily six points all here ornamented, but, most curiously, four of the points bear the fleur-de-lys or trefoil and the two others each a heart, the division of ornament thus not being equal possibly simply the result of carelessness on the part of the then English workman. The centre boss requires a few moments examination to realise what it is, but it will gradually become clear enough. Although perhaps it represents rather the front quarters of four swans, it may be more quickly described as the front halves of two swans each with two necks: these halves being joined by the middle or back to back, one half facing outwards the other inwards, and projecting one foot on each side. The four necks, which are much twisted, are gorged with a link of a chain in the form

of a fret,—one void of the fret passing over each neck; these frets are connected by a quatrefoil forming one other link which rests in the centre of the back, the centre of the whole.

Not one of these things is heraldry and the intention must be rather symbolical. The heart is the emblem of sincerity: the interlaced triangles, on which appears the trefoil, is the usual emblem of the Trinity: and the two-headed bird may symbolise a constant watch within and without, one head of each pair being supposed to be always awake. The date of the tower is marked by the head-dresses, which are of the latter part of the fifteenth century, but it is curious and unfortunate that no heraldic bearing marks the owner who built it. It may have been built just within the time of the Bythemores, or possibly it was a "folly" of David Perceval.

Wraxall Church.

A short walk brought the party to Wraxall church. Speaking outside,

Mr. FERREY said this church was one of the finest in this part of Somerset, and was evidently originally a Norman foundation, although there was not much left which belonged to that date, the south doorway to the porch being the only Norman work remaining. There were traces of an Early English church which must have been built afterwards. The porch and parvise are of that period. To commence with the tower, this was a specimen of the middle of the Perpendicular period, of a very plain and massive type, and adapted for a village church. He drew attention to the beautiful pinnacles which were set upon the buttresses of the tower. As they entered they would see there was a very fine tower arch, with remarkably good mouldings. There was also unusually massive treatment to the nave arcade opening into the north aisle. The west window of the north aisle was of later insertion, and was of very much later date than the tower. There was a fine Perpendicular font. The bench-ends were of a type not unknown in that part of the country: they

were not square-ended and moulded, but shaped also, and of a somewhat similar type to those at Clevedon. There was a sanctus bell-turret—not very usual in England, although there were three or four in that neighbourhood. There was a figure at the top of the west side of the tower, dressed regally and wearing a crown; probably King Richard.

When inside, Mr. Ferrey said there was absolute evidence that the north aisle was of the early Perpendicular period, the date being about 1419. That would account for the massive way in which the work was treated; and he thought the whole effect of the arcade was very fine indeed. The roofs were partly new and partly old, although they were all founded upon the old roof, there being nothing conjectural about the matter, as no doubt a roof of that kind always did exist. The tomb of Sir Edward Gorges, on the north side, was late Perpendicular—date, 1512. There was a curious piscina on the south side of the chancel, which was one of the remains of the church built in the Early English period. He could not, however, say that the wall was Early English.

Mr. GREEN pointed out the peculiarities of the costume on the monumental effigies, and remarked that the will of Agnes Gorges, 1419, mentions the recent building of the north "yle." Her son, Sir Tibbald (Theobald), who died in 1468, lies under a plain stone in the church. He then drew attention to a curious little door and steps in the wall of the porch, which originally had some connection with a gallery above, but its exact use he would not pretend to determine.

The Rev. Prebendary SCARTH explained that he had a similar arrangement in his own church at Wrington, and having studied the subject, he was able to give them an explanation of the matter. There was originally a small chamber there which was used for the purposes of instruction; for catechising or otherwise addressing those not to be admitted into the church, and for occasional short services. The arrangement of the door was made so that the priest could go into the

church from the parvise, or into that little room. They would remember the words of Chaucer, who tells us of—

> A serjeant of law, learned and wise,
> Who often had been to the parvise.

The party next drove to Long Ashton, where they were hospitably entertained at Ashton Court. After luncheon, on the proposition of the PRESIDENT, a vote of thanks was accorded to Sir Greville Smyth for his great kindness and liberality, and acknowledged in his absence by the Rev. J. WAY.

Some time was then spent in inspecting the numerous family and historical portraits and other objects of interest.

Mr. GREEN noticed the portrait of the Marchioness of Northampton, who died in 1635, aged 86. She was a Swede, a daughter of Herwolfe Snachenburgh and came to England with Cecilia, wife of the Margrave of Baden, in 1565. She married first William Parr, Marquis of Northampton, and afterwards Sir Thomas Gorges, Knight. In the British Museum[73] there is a vellum roll with her portrait and those of Sir Thomas and their seven children, all neatly done in pen-and-ink, with the descents from them down to about 1640. There is much about her in Hoare's *Wiltshire*, under Longford Castle. In her will she bequeathed to her son, Sir Robert Gorges, £110, "to purchase land yielding £5 per annum, for the poor of Wraxall, where my late husband was born." Sir Thomas tried to settle the property in the family, even to the yssue or yssues yssue, to the eighth, ninth, and tenth son. To his loving kinsman, Sir Edward Gorges of Wraxall, and Sir Ferdinando Gorges, he left a token—a rapier, dagger, ring, a brooch, or pistol—to be accepted, not according to the value, but as a pledge of true loving affection. To his loving son-in-law, Sir Hugh Smithe, Knt., he left one of his best horses, with necessary "furniture;" to Lady Smithe, 100 marks, and Sir Hugh was appointed overseer of the will.

(69). *Lansdown Charters*, No. 9.

Ashton Church.

Mr. FERREY said this church, unlike some of those they had already visited, had nothing Norman remaining. The earliest remains were the effigies now in the porch, which had been removed from elsewhere, and which, he should say, were of the 14th century. The tower appeared to be rather earlier than the rest of the building, and was early Perpendicular. The nave arcade was certainly late Perpendicular—so late that one might almost call it debased. One of the most striking and remarkable features on entering the church was the splendid rood-screen, its date being about 1500. It had always been coloured, and when the church was restored the original colouring was reproduced under the direction of an experienced ecclesiastical decorator. It was not usual in churches in Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall, to see the screen stretched right across the whole width of the church, as in this case, but occasionally such instances were met with. This one, however, had remained singularly perfect. When the chancel screen was restored, at the expense of Sir Greville Smyth, other works of restoration were attended to in the church. The north wall was rebuilt as far as the porch; and a new vestry was built in place of the one then existing, which was quite modern. The chancel was rebuilt, and a new roof put to it; but there was no new work, except what was absolutely necessary. The roof of the north aisle was composed of the original oak, the best pieces being collected from the old roof and placed there. Formerly there were high pews and galleries. The roof of the nave, before the restoration, was plastered. He and his late father were responsible for the work done at the restoration. The chancel arch was very curious, the span being remarkably wide. There were some old fragments of painted glass to be seen in the church.

In reply to Mr. SLOPER, Mr. FERREY said there was no rood-loft, but merely a chancel screen.

Mr. JOHN PRICE prepared some notes (which were read by

the Hon. Sec.) relating to Sir Richard Choke, and drawing attention to his fine monument, which was repainted in the original colours when the church was "restored," in 1872. Sir Richard is first mentioned as an advocate in 1440, and was serjeant in 1453. In 1461 he was made Judge of the Common Pleas, but was never Chief Justice. In the British Museum there is a deed[70] of Sir Richard, dated 10th October, 12th Edward IV, 1472, by which he deals with lands in Stanton Prior and Marksbury. By his will he desires to be buried at Ashton, "in my chapel there," and that there should be made a sculpture recording the day, month, and year of his decease. The monument is there, but it is without date or record of any sort. He then leaves money for masses to be sung daily, "solemnly by note," for thirty days after his decease. This was the "month's mind," one of the superstitious observances forbidden at the Reformation. Then, after a custom at the time not uncommon, he leaves twenty pounds for amending feeble ways and bridges; and then to his son John, who succeeded him, the two basins and two ewers of silver with which he was daily served when strangers were present. His widow, dame Margaret, by her will, September, 1483, desired to be buried by her husband in Ashton. She left five pence to be given weekly to the poorest in Ashton, on Fridays, for twelve months after her death; and bequeathed to one Langley six marks (four pounds) a-year for four years, "to go to Oxford to school." She also left twenty pounds to be spent in Gloucestershire, in mending bad ways, "for the soul of my husband, William Gifford, and me." To Ashton church she left her gown of blue velvet, her kirtle of blue damask, and her "profession ring," and a coverlet of tapestry work with eglie to lay before the high altar on principal feasts, and at other times it was "to be occupied on a bed in the Chantry house to keep it from moths;" and she willed that the procurators of the church should see this done. To the friars of

(70). *Additional Charters*, No. 5473.

Worspring she gave ten pounds for the building of their place, "to pray for her husbands, Sir Richard Chokke and William Gifford, and herself." She then directs her executors to make a window of three bays in Ashton church, glazed with her husbands arms and her own underneath, concluding with the confused direction for "Saint Sunday to be the top of the image and Saint Gregory in the other."

The profession ring mentioned was the result of a semi-vow, sometimes made by widows, not to marry again; but which here proved of no avail.

The son, John, who calls himself of Stanton Drew, gives us in his will a good instance of the very old desire to have a good funeral, and the equally old custom of hiring mourners. He ordered his executors to provide twelve torches, and four tapers of a convenient weight, to be holden by twelve poor men, who were each to have a long gown of black frieze, and fourpence to pray for his soul. A public repast of meat and drink was to be laid out free to all; and every poor man and woman who came was to have a penny to pray for his soul. The remains of the twelve torches after the funeral were to be distributed to various churches, one going to Ashton. An honest priest was also to pray for his soul, and for the souls of his father and mother, and his brother Thomas, for four years. His son, Sir John, also shows us the old and lasting desire to live for ever; in 1495 he gave the church house or chantry and lands, in trust for the parish, on condition that on Sunday, for ever, prayer should be offered up from the pulpit of Ashton church for the souls of himself and of all his ancestors deceased. This house is now the Angel Inn.

Mr. Green said the original stone altar lies under the east window; it was found buried during the restoration. There was formerly near the north-east corner of the churchyard a chapel, called Meryate Chapel, founded by Nicholas and Henry Choke, and it was taken down in 1774. At the Dissolution there was in it a chalice weighing nine ounces, and it had

rents from lands and tenements amounting to £4 18s. It was found that the feoffees, being bound to find a priest, paid the vicar twelve pence per week, and "the residue they converted to their own uses." The chapel was covered with lead, estimated to weigh seven "fooder."[71]

Flax Bourton Church.

A drive of about three miles brought the party to Flax Bourton Church.

Mr. FERREY said there was no doubt the south doorway had been removed from the old Norman church, and refixed in the late Perpendicular nave. He would say at once, in order that there might be no misapprehension, that the whole of the north wall was quite modern, the aisle was entirely new, and a modern vestry had been added. Happily it had been possible, in that case, to add to the church without disturbing a single vestige of the mediæval work. The roof of the church was almost a reconstruction of what was there before, except that the former one was lath and plaster between the ribs, and that one or two new bosses had been supplied where such were missing. The date of the chancel arch and south doorway were about 1140. It was very rich work, with a peculiar kind of ornamentation. The side of the arch next the chancel was plainer than the side next the nave. The church was probably dedicated to St. Michael. The nave was of later date than the rest of the church; about 1450. It was a simple, plain type of a Somerset Perpendicular church; but was especially interesting on account of the Norman remains. The south chancel windows, from the outside, were remarkable, and worthy of notice, owing to the grotesque animals forming the terminations of the labels. The south doorway was very narrow and very high, but was no doubt in exactly its original proportion.

(71). *Chantry Certificates*, No. 42, 1st and 2nd Edward VI, Somerset, No. 118.

Backwell Church.

The next place visited was Backwell, the object of interest being the church.

The Rector (Rev. E. Burbidge) epitomised an account and description of the building, which will be found printed in Part II.

Mr. Ferrey said the remains of an Early English church existed here almost up to the west end. The well preserved rood-screen was a point of interest, and they would notice as a peculiar feature that the last bay of the nave roof next the chancel arch was made more decorated than the others. One feature of the Norman church not *in situ* was the much mutilated remains of the old Norman font, now placed under the tower. Mr. Street, the architect, had designed an entirely new font. Another curious thing was the double chancel arch, *i.e.*, two distinct arches side by side, of which he only knew one other instance, and that was at Kilmersdon in this county. The body of the building was Early English, and was very interesting, but it had been added to and altered in later times. One remarkable feature was the way in which the jambs on each side of the outer porch archway spread out. Some people thought they were built so; but he was of opinion that it was caused by a failure in the foundation. With reference to the tower some thought it was all of one date; but the upper portion was of later date than the sub-structure, which was clearly of about the middle of the Perpendicular period. Another remarkable thing was the way in which the last bay of the nave was cut in half, and it seemed apparently to have been built partly into the tower. The arcade of the nave was curious; the arches were of the Decorated period or possibly Early English, but the piers were of later date.

Chelvey Church.

This church was next inspected.

Mr. Ferrey observed that in this church, as in others they had visited, they found traces of a Norman foundation; but

there was very little remaining of that date, only the south porch doorway. The edifice was a very good specimen of one of the earlier Perpendicular churches, of such a type as they often found—plain, and suitable for a village church. Like many village churches (though not so much in Somerset as in Devon and Cornwall), the roofs were continuous, with no chancel arch, and the whole treatment showed that there had never been one. There was evidently formerly a rood-screen. The south aisle was a manorial aisle to the Tynte family, of which there was absolute evidence. He wished to draw their attention to a series of three beautiful canopied tombs, the effigies of which were wanting. There were some interesting remains of painted glass at the east end of the Tynte aisle, and a pew belonging to the Tynte family at the west end of the aisle was a good specimen of late Jacobean work.

Mr. GREEN drew attention to a receptacle for an hour-glass upon the pulpit.

Chelvey Court.

The party then visited Chelvey Court, the remains of the fine old mansion house of the Tynte family, the fine staircase being the great object of interest, while many inspected the secret chamber.

Dr. HARDMAN pointed out that only about one-half of the house was left, the upper storey being completely gone, although the fine porch, with twisted columns, called a Solomon's column, was left.

After a glance at the barn, the party proceeded to Nailsea; but owing to the lateness of the hour, it was considered unadvisable to visit the Court, and this portion of the programme was most reluctantly omitted. They, however, visited

Nailsea Church,

which Mr. FERREY said belonged to the Perpendicular period. There was a rather peculiar nave arcade, the rich work and the carving of which were unusual. Like Chelvey, this church evidently never had a chancel arch. There was a rood-beam,

which had been carried by the curious corbels. In the south aisle there was a chapel, and the piscina still remained. One of the remarkable features of the church was its pulpit, entered by a staircase in the wall. He scarcely knew a pulpit, in a parish church, entered in that way; the whole arrangement of the staircase to it was very interesting. The roofs to the church were modern.

The party were then entertained at tea by the Rev. J. Johnson, the Rector, to whom, on the proposition of the PRESIDENT, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded.

The return journey was made during a heavy storm of rain; Clevedon was not reached until after seven o'clock.

The Evening Meeting

was not commenced until nearly nine o'clock, when the President took the chair. There was a good attendance.

The Rev. HENRY G. TOMKINS gave some account of the work which Mr. C. W. Dymond and himself had been doing at Worlebury; but he had to return home that evening, and was limited by the train to ten minutes. It was much to be regretted that their lamented friend, the Rev. F. Warre, had not reduced to a systematic report his account of the explorations some thirty years since, in which the speaker had taken some part. Most of those then concerned were gone, and it was felt that no time should be lost in making as perfect a plan and record of all that was really known. Mr. Dymond had brought to the meeting a most careful detailed plan, in which every portion of the ancient construction was given, and every pit marked from actual observation. Mr. Dymond and he (Mr. Tomkins) had been occupied for a good many weeks of the last two years in this work, and they had examined carefully the ditches, which had been left in the old explorations untouched, and had made detailed drawings and sections of the ramparts and trenches; and they were about to prepare

for publication these drawings, with other illustrations, and the plan, accompanied by a memoir which should embody all the records which can now be got together on the subject. They had not found the scratch of a tool on any of the masonry discovered. It was earnestly to be hoped that every effort would be used to prevent the further destruction of these most interesting and ancient military works, which were from time to time much injured by thoughtless schoolboys and excursionists. In their researches, Mr. Dymond and he had taken special care to cover in again with the loose stones those portions of the wall-work which they had opened for examination and measurement.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD said he supposed that Mr. Tomkins, when he spoke of tools, meant iron tools, but there was no reason why tools might not have been used. They would not expect to find marks on the limestone. He congratulated the Society on having such an active Member as Mr. Tomkins, and observed that there were equally important fortifications in the neighbourhood of Clevedon, and he trusted that the Clevedon people would work them up as those at Worlebury had been worked. The hills round Clevedon were full of interest and full of work, if only somebody would take the matter up.

The Rev. Prebendary SCARTH then read "A brief Sketch of Parish History;" being local notes relating to the parish of Wrington.

The PRESIDENT observed that it was surprising how little was known among people about interesting things of the kind of which they had just heard, and he felt grateful to those who, like Mr. Scarth, had made these matters their life-long study, when they came forward and gave their knowledge forth for the public benefit.

Mr. GREEN next read a paper "On some Militia Levies in Somerset," in the time of Elizabeth, which will be found in Part II.

The PRESIDENT, on behalf of the Society, having thanked the gentlemen who had contributed papers, the meeting terminated.