

Wednesday's Excursion.

The weather was extremely unfavourable, a drenching downpour delayed the start until half-past eleven o'clock. At last getting away, passing by Wadeford, marked first on the programme, the first halt was made at

Combe St. Nicholas Church,

where the Society was received by the Vicar, the Rev. Hans Frederic Hamilton.

Mr. FERREY, the Society's architect, in describing the edifice, said it was very interesting, showing traces of three dates of architecture—the Norman, the 13th century, and the Perpendicular periods. What remained of the Norman period was the jamb of a doorway, now forming part of a pier to the northern nave arcade. There then seemed to have been a thirteenth century church, of which all that remained was part of the west end and the lower part of the tower, in one part of

which was a lancet window. There was a piscina of the same period built in the chancel, which was of a very much later date. One remarkable feature was the unusually low narrow tower arch, which he presumed was part of the original building. The rest of the church dated about the middle of the Perpendicular period. Two windows at the west end of the north aisle and another window were not original, but were inserted at the restoration of the church about 30 years ago. There were aisles on both sides of the chancel. There was one peculiarity of the churches here, and that was that the towers were of a remarkably severe type—very different from the churches in the Clevedon district, which were visited last year,—and so the buttresses and tower of this example were very plain. The porches had been restored. On the exterior of the outer archway was what appeared to be a blocked-up niche, and he had no doubt the image of the patron saint had been there. The other porch did not seem to be original, in fact there was evidence of its having been built recently. The roof had the appearance of having been reconstructed at the restoration. Only a portion of the rood-screen remained, but it had evidently been unusually beautiful, and the tracery was exceedingly delicate. The turrets toward the east end were very conspicuous objects in connection with the building.

MR. HAMILTON explained the details of the restoration, and supplemented Mr. Ferrey's description. He quite agreed in what had been said about the beauty of the screen, but it had been found in such a decayed condition that it was impossible to preserve more than the small portion which they then saw.

THE PRESIDENT said he had a piece of it in his house worked up in making a bookcase. He found it in the possession of some labourers, and he asked them where the remainder of it was. They replied that they had burned it, because it was old. The screen was in a very dilapidated condition, but it was very beautiful. There were some pieces of it in the chancel.

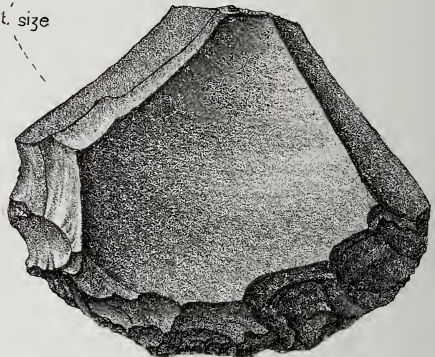


Bronze Dagger.



Flint Spearhead

nat. size



Flint Scraper



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Earthen Cup.

FOUND in a BARROW at NORTHAY, near WHITESTAUNTON.

After inspecting a very ancient carved oak settle in an inn near the church, another short drive brought the party to

Northay Barrow,

where some excavations had recently been made.

Standing in the "Barrow Field," where the remains of several *tumuli* have been discovered,

The PRESIDENT explained the position of the barrows and the nature of the works which he had conducted. The existence of these prehistoric sepulchres had long been known, although the ground on some of their sites had been levelled in the operations of agriculture. There was, he said, hardly a barrow in the country that had not been opened or disturbed in our own day by the farmer and the antiquarian, or in older times by the "saltpetre-men" or searchers after treasure. The lords of manors who enjoyed the franchise of treasure-trove had been very active in this way, and it had been said that this was especially the case with the ecclesiastical lords who attached great importance to the privilege of digging for "heathen gold." In ancient times it had been customary for the treasures of the dead warrior to be buried with his ashes and bones, and when Christianity was introduced the custom was replaced by the practice of devoting a share of the dead man's property to pious and charitable purposes. The barrows, of which the company saw the remains before them, belonged to the period called the Bronze Age, when the use of metal implements was first introduced into this country. The "long barrows" of the preceding Neolithic Age were of a totally different character, being long high mounds, sometimes containing vaulted chambers, which seem to have served as tribal burial-places, in which the skeletons are found huddled up in a crouching attitude without any other relics of importance. These earlier tombs however contained in some cases a few leaf-shaped arrow-heads of chipped flint, the bones of beasts and birds which had been eaten at the funeral feasts, and a

few fragments of a rough black hand-made pottery. The graves of the Bronze Age, of which the barrows before them were examples, contained implements of bronze as well as stone weapons of the ancient type, the employment of which must have long been concurrent with the use of bronze, which was a rare and expensive material imported with great trouble from abroad. The barrows before them afforded an example of the class called by Sir Richard Hoare "twin-barrows," of the bowl-shaped form. The two graves closely adjoined each other, but owing to the changes of the surface it was not easy to ascertain whether they had originally been surrounded by one ditch or whether each had its own excavation round the stone-circle at its base. He had commenced the excavations in the barrow nearest to the hedge, of which a part had already been cut off when the road was made between Northay and Betham. Near the surface, in a light dry mould which showed signs of the action of fire, he found a fine bronze dagger-blade of triangular shape, to which were loosely attached the rivets by which the blade had been fixed to its wooden handle. They would have an opportunity of examining this dagger, with the other objects found in the same place, when they reached Whitestaunton. Several of these daggers have been described and figured by Sir Richard Hoare in his great work on *Ancient Wiltshire* and by Dr. Thurnam in his papers on "Ancient British Barrows" in vols. 42 and 43 of the *Archæologia*. The present example has a sharp point and was intended to be used as an ordinary knife; the specimens which are rounded off were probably used for flaying hides or other special purposes. About a foot below the level at which the dagger was found they came upon crumbling remains of sepulchral pottery which had been almost incorporated with the soil by the action of surface-water. Nearer to the southern side of the barrow, where more of the original substance of the mound remained, they came upon the fragments of urns made of rough red terra-cotta, and soon afterwards obtained a perfect specimen.

This was a large cinerary urn of the barrel-shaped type, rudely decorated with an incised zig-zag pattern, apparently made by the impression of sticks and knotted cords. The urn was inverted and rested on a large tile or tablet of a whiter clay. On its being taken out the material appeared to be quite hard, but after a short time cracked and fell to pieces from contact with the air. It was nearly filled with ashes and pieces of burnt bones, among which were noticed portion of the skull, a jaw-bone, and part of a *femur*. This vessel also contained a small cup which was filled in the same way with bones and ashes, and was made of a somewhat finer pottery uninjured by exposure to the air. Cups of this kind had been variously described as food-vessels and incense-burners, but their real use appeared to be still unknown. Possibly the smaller urn might have contained the bones of an infant buried with its mother. At a considerably lower level the whole floor of the tumulus was covered with a thick deposit of wood-ashes and charcoal, and the bed of rock on which it rested and the flints which had been heaped above were all calcined and discoloured, as if by the action of a furious fire. In one part of the bed there had been a somewhat deeper excavation which was filled with a soft unctuous earth interspersed with bones belonging to bodies which had not been burned. He conjectured that this was the grave of the slaves or captives who had been sacrificed at the funeral obsequies. Near this spot he found a very well made spear-head of chert and a fine implement of black chalk-flint, intended apparently to be used in scraping hides. In the further barrow they discovered a well-marked peristalith or outside ring of stones, with a large rock set up on the eastern side, and on the west a small cist or vault, in which however nothing but a few ashes were discovered. Round the rock on the eastern side had been grouped a great number of the sepulchral urns inverted and standing on square tiles of the lighter clay; but though their form could be easily observed when the ground was cut with

the spade, the pottery itself had been resolved into the soil by the action of the weather.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD asked the President if he had searched outside the tumulus. If not it would be advisable for him to do so.

Mr. ELTON agreed and said that if they had had finer weather and more time they would have pursued their excavations further, but he intended to have the work continued at some future time. He informed the Society that the chalk came close up there, which might account for the presence of the flint scraper. He then pointed out the position of the iron-workings on a neighbouring hill, which were commenced by the Romans and were described in Domesday Book.

Keats's Mills, the county boundary, a place of considerable interest to archæologists, was expunged from the programme and the excursionists drove to

Whitestaunton Manor,

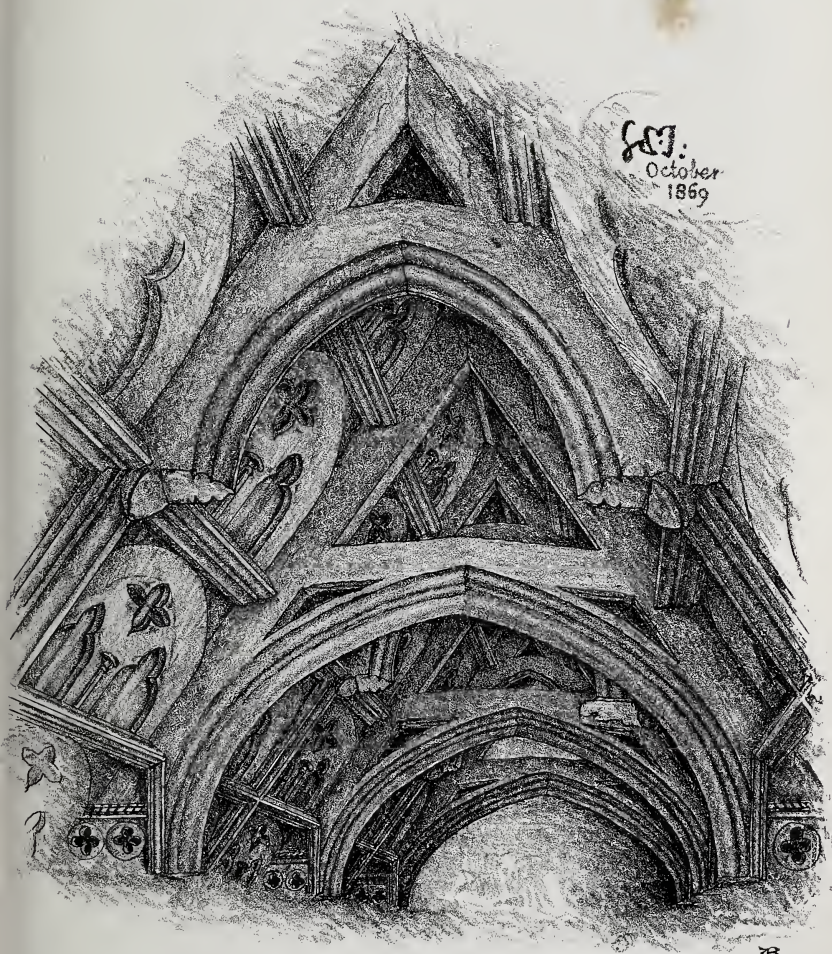
the seat of the President of the Society. Here, after a general survey, the Members were entertained at luncheon.

The DEAN OF WELLS then proposed a vote of thanks to the President for the liberality and hospitality he had displayed towards the Members of the Association. He asked them to drink the President's health and happiness, and prosperity to his work.

Mr. ELTON briefly acknowledged the toast.

The party then inspected the Manor House, an old structure partly of the 15th century, but enlarged by the Bretts in the time of Elizabeth, into the "fair stone mansion" often mentioned in the local records of that time.

In the library the PRESIDENT pointed out the piece of Combe screen worked into the cornice of the library shelves. In this room was an oak muniment chest, apparently designed for holding church-plate, in the front panels of which some figures were finely carved. It was found buried in the garden of an adjoining cottage, where it was doubtless deposited in



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Remains of Roof of Early Manor House,
WHITESTAUNTON.

the time of the Civil War. When discovered the panels still retained traces of gilding and blue and scarlet paint. He also showed a number of palæolithic implements which had been found in the Valley of the Axe. Amongst other interesting objects he drew attention to the short bronze dagger nailed to a bone handle, and to the scraper which had been found near the barrow visited that forenoon. Pieces of Roman slag and ore found upon the hill sides were also shown, and it was mentioned that one of the places in question was known as "Cinder Hill."

The PRESIDENT then called upon the Rev. F. Brown to give some information respecting the Brett family, who owned the Whitestaunton manor before the Elton family took possession of it.

Mr. BROWN'S paper will be found printed in Part II.

Mr. C. E. DAVIS, from the lawn, described the manor house, which he said was similar to Clevedon Court. The arrangement of the two houses was almost precisely similar. Part of the building appeared to have been erected in 1493. That was the date given him. He pointed out the parts of the building which, he believed, were of the earlier dates, and remarked that additions had evidently been made in the 16th century. A portion of the frieze in the library agreed almost in every particular with the ceiling in the hall at Chard. It had been done by the same workmen, and it would justify him in saying that the date given on the house—1604—was a very fair date. He mentioned that above the chimney-piece in one of the rooms were the arms of the Protector Somerset, but they did not really belong to the house.

Mr. GREEN said that to describe this house as similar to Clevedon seemed to him inexact, Clevedon already sufficiently noticed, being an early 14th century house, this a rather late 16th century one. The former was but little more than a "Hall," an open-roofed shelter: this was a house of many rooms, the use and intention of the entrance here being quite

distinct, and two centuries or more apart in date. The President had mentioned that remains of an earlier house were still to be seen in a piece of old roofing (as shown in the drawing), but this house, whatever it may have been like, was not before them. There could be no doubt that the frieze or cornice they had seen in the library was done by the same hands as the ceiling in the Hall at Chard; he had never seen it until then, but at a glance this was clear. The President had already told them that the date marked on it was 1577, and this date was entirely in character with the room in which it was. The fact that the date 1604 was on a stone somewhere, only showed that that stone was then placed to mark perhaps reparations, perhaps enlargement. The style of such a house, or of a church, was not to be determined by a date carved on it. After some general remarks on other examples of domestic architecture—apropos of the ceilings, he read an official document from the Plea Rolls of 44 and 45 Elizabeth, 1601–2, recording that Richard Dorchester, of Exeter, then sold to John Peryam, with a piece of ground called the Green for £272, the house in Chard known by the sign of the George, described as being on the north side of the street there that leads from Exeter towards London, between the lands of Lord Cobham on the east side, the land belonging to the Bishopric of Bath and Wells on the north side, the land of Philibert Cogan on the west side, and the said street on the south side,—and all such “seeling” utensils and household implements as of right belonged to him. That these “seeling utensils” had been used often would be certain; but it happened that no ceiling that they would see could be placed any later than about this time.

The PRESIDENT remarking that this question had been traced to a very fine point, then conducted the company to the holy fountain or St. Agnes Well, as it was called, where in the days of the early Britons and Romans the people propitiated the nymphs of the stream. Some Roman remains were

here to be seen with the tessellated pavement of part of a villa ; and these were explained by the President. A little stream which passed through it carried down the water to the mills, and when some time previously he engaged the services of several men, they found the mud full of fragments of pottery. He had one piece in the house. From what he could judge the chamber he was then standing on seemed to have been a very rough bath room with pottery walls and stone and pottery floors. He drew attention to two stone pillars which had been found in the débris. On the previous day one of the flues from the hot-air chamber underneath had been discovered, and some curious bricks and slabs of red sandstone.

After some time had been spent in examining these remains, all explanations and assistance being most kindly and thoroughly given—evidently a labour of love,—the Members proceeded to

The Church,

which stands secluded amongst some noble trees near the Manor House.

Mr. FERREY described it as a very good specimen of the Perpendicular style. The font was Norman, and this was the only portion remaining of that period. The building had been restored in recent years, and, he was happy to say, well restored : the Somerset type of roof had been kept up. The western tower was large for the size of the church, and very much of the same description as that of Combe St. Nicholas. The rood screen was a very beautiful example of the Perpendicular period. The chancel arch was a pure and good example of the character peculiar to Somerset, where the panelling was continued from the piers throughout the arch : the roof was of the same type as the nave. On the south side in the window sill, there was a piscina of some interest. There was a chantry chapel containing monuments, he believed, of the Brett family. In the nave were some of the original bench ends, bearing some very curious devices.

Mr. GREEN pointed out on one of these the animal he had at Chard ventured to call a "brock;" and on another what appeared, perhaps, the origin of the Chard borough arms, this however bearing two feathers instead of the nondescript birds. At Wardour Castle (2nd Report on Historical MSS., p. 36) there is a charter relating to Whitestaunton of the year 1333.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the very early heraldic tiles now around the communion table, which had been found in the floor of the church under the pulpit.

The Rev. H. A. CARTWRIGHT pointed out that one of these corresponded with one of the bench ends, and was the armorial bearing (fretty) of the Stauntons, one of whom had married a Brett. The other, *three fusils in fesse*, was the armorial of the Montacute family. It had been found on some old tiles at Poyntington, as noticed in our *Proceedings*, vol. 16, p. 72, these being now in our Museum; and similar tiles were mentioned in the *Proceedings of the Institute* at Bristol, 1851.

Owing to the unfavourable weather the programme was altered and Weston farm, an Elizabethan house, where there is another elaborate ceiling, was regretfully omitted. The Roman villa passed in the morning being substituted, the company proceeded to Wadeford where they were received by Mr. J. Brown, who had most kindly opened the ground to expose the remains.

The HON. SEC., who held in his hand a plan of the excavations that had been made, briefly described them, and gave a general idea of what these villas were, remarking that probably they were destroyed by the natives when the Romans departed.

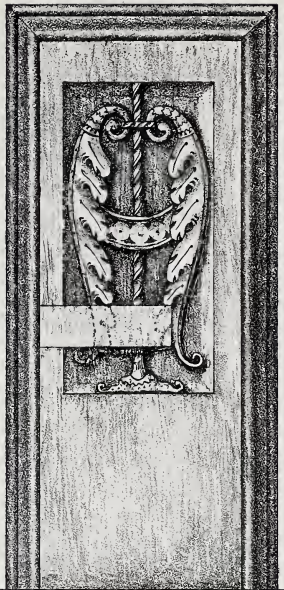
Rev. H. H. WINWOOD thought it was doubtful whether the people destroyed those villas after the Romans left; he considered it probable that they remained there until the new conquerors came in, and that then they were destroyed. There was another matter in which he took a great interest: the



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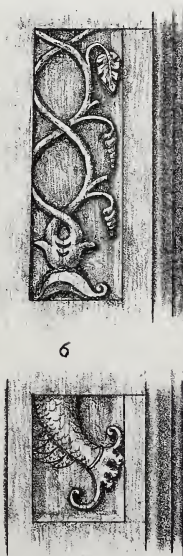
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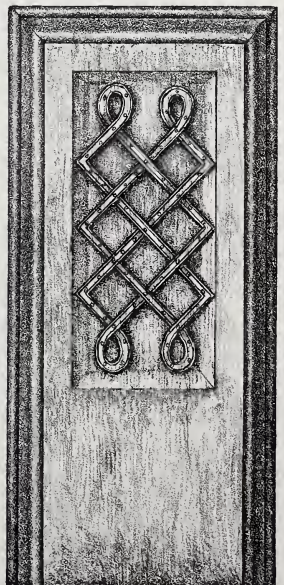


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БЕНДЪ-ЕМОСЪ ПЪЛІСЪТРАУНОН

Romans were, he thought, good geologists and knew a great deal about the various rocks. It was evident that the tesserae with which the floors of that villa were inlaid were of white lias, and he would like to know where such a stone could be found. An appeal to the natives standing around produced no reply.

The PRESIDENT said he had very little to add. As he explained at Chard on the previous day, the Romans went there to collect minerals. The person who lived here would probably be the local inspector of mines, who would have a country house with a farm behind it, and a large staff of labourers under him. Something was known of the sort of life they led in these parts. When they were not collecting taxes they employed themselves in hunting and field amusements. They hunted for badgers and foxes, and no doubt they would find red deer and perhaps the wild boar. In the villas they did very much as people did now-a-days with respect to amusements. They had their tennis courts, but they were probably not so large as ours; and they played at their various games, of which they were extremely fond.

After thanking Mr. J. Brown for the trouble he had taken in opening the ground, and for his kindness in allowing the Society to inspect these interesting remains, the party safely returned; the sole mishap being the collapse of a wheel on one of the breaks, no harm ensuing.

Evening Meeting.

There was again an ordinary at the George, after which a public meeting was held in the Town Hall. The HON. SEC. intimated that he had received a paper from Mr. J. B. Davidson of Secktor, on the County Boundary; and one from Mr. F. H. Dickinson, on a Charter relating to West Monkton. Both papers will be found printed in Part II.

The PRESIDENT much regretted the absence of Mr. Davidson

as he intended to protest against the destruction of antiquities in the neighbourhood of Otterford, and especially the walling up with strong walls of a very old road on the boundary of the counties of Devon and Somerset, called Land-shore-way, the public right, Mr. Davidson considered, being invaded. He would also have protested against the destruction of the barrows known as Robin Hood's Butts on Brown Down.

Mr. GREEN then read a paper on the History of the Borough of Chard, which will be found in Part II.

The PRESIDENT said he was sure they were all very much indebted to Mr. Green for his paper. There were two or three points in connection with it which struck him very forcibly. One was how very far they had advanced since the time when Chard started in life as a borough. It would shock them very much now to think that the lord of the manor had power to prevent people borrowing on mortgages or selling land. It was precisely the same with gentlemen in another respect, for they had to obtain permission from the King to hunt; even Savaricus himself, to hunt his own hares, had to get a charter of free warren. With reference to pheasants, he knew there was a theory that they had been in England since the Roman times: and certainly the Romans in some parts of Britain had introduced game, such as peacocks, white swans, and fallow deer. The question was of interest, but he doubted whether there were many pheasants in England before the time of Richard II. Mr. Green had upset the theory that "his Blessed Majesty" King Charles I had "taken his dejeuner" at his house at Whitestaunton, for he appeared to have slept at Chard, and to have joined his troops next day at Whitestaunton, as he passed on his way to Honiton. He noticed the mention of Crimchard, and asked for the derivation of the name.

Mr. GREEN said he found it in early times spelt Kynemerchard, later it became Kermer-chard, and so Crimchard. The second was probably the customary pronunciation of the first; and those accustomed to old writing, in which the "er" was

usually contracted, would see how easily the present name could be produced from it.

The PRESIDENT further remarked on the custom of the Court of Pie Powder, as granted in the borough charter. It was from the French—*pie poudre*,—or dusty foot, the mayor holding his court in the market and settling all disputes at once there.

The REV. FREDK. BROWN then gave an account of some
Star Chamber Proceedings of the time of Q. Elizabeth,
probable date 1568.

The Star Chamber, as some of them were aware, was a Court which existed in the days of Henry VII, but which was certainly in full force in the times of Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth. It was something like the Court of Chancery, but an irresponsible court, where suits might remain for years. It had the power of punishing riots which took place in different parts, which other courts did not appear to have, especially with reference to country gentlemen. He had gone very carefully through a great portion of the proceedings of that Court, which he found in the public Record office in London. Unfortunately the decrees are not extant. He was looking over those proceedings, not for anything specially local, when he came upon the evidence of a great disturbance that took place at the Tithe Barn outside the town of Chard.

The complainant, Humphry Walrond, was of Sea, in the parish of Ilminster, Somerset, Master in the Court of Chancery, who died August 17, 1580, and was buried at Ilminster. The defendant, Sir John Pollard, Kt., was of Ford Abbey, which had been granted by Henry VIII to his father, Sir Richard Pollard, Kt., who was the son of Chief Justice Pollard. Sir John Pollard sold the abbey to Sir Amias Poulett.

The quarrel seems to have arisen from a dispute as to the gathering in of the rectorial tithes of Chard, which Humphry

Walrond claimed as belonging to him, under a grant from William Turnor, Dean of Wells. The bill of complaint is not extant.

In the answers of Hugh Coplestone and Christopher Preston,¹ gentlemen, to the Byll of Complaint of Humphry Walrond, they say,—that the Byll is devised of mere malice, to the intent to put them to chardge and expences, without any good cause or sufficient grounde. To the supposed ryotts, &c., they are not guilty. Thus, they about the 26th of August, rode in companye with Sir John Pollard towards Donyatt Parke, of purpose to hunt, and so of necessitye rode near unto the House of the Complainant being there nexte waye, and not a myle out of the next waye as ys untruelye alledged, but at that tyme neyther was there any ryott or disorder commytted or pretended, for anything these Defendants knewe or sawe, and that Syr John Pollard, on there comynge and returnynge homeward from the said Parke, sent one John Preston, his servante, home before him for the stavynge his hawks; and afterwards Sir John Pollard seyinge R. Staunton and Atkyns fyrst in the highwaye before him, and afterwards to refuse the same highe waye and to run awaye in great haste over hedges from him, he doubted and suspected that they had mett with the said Preston, his Servante, between whom and the said Staunton before that tyme a quarrell had beyn fowght, and thereupon fearing, or at least neys doubting, lest they Staunton and Atkins had don John Preston som bodyly hurte, called after them to staye them, and he himself with Hugh Copplestone and Christopher Preston and others, followed on horseback to the house of Wolmington, named in the Bill of Complaint, where they found Staunton, who, in speche, gave verye prowde wordes of comparison in his Master's behalf to Sir John Pollard. At which tyme, after Sir John Pollard was departed oute of the howse, Hugh Copplestone, being thereof

(1). The Preston Family were of Crickett St. Thomas, their pedigree is recorded in the Somerset Visitation, 1623.

truely informed by others secretly through a wyndowe, sayd unto Staunton, "thy Master's sonnes," (meaning the complainant), "as I understand have said that Syr John Pollard hath never a kynsman or a gentylman that will fyght in his quarrel; yf they have so said, then I will fyght wyth them myself." And the next morninge following, Hugh Copplestone, having occasion to ryde to the house of on Mr. Sydenham, must neds passe by the dore of the said Complainant, so that his said house doth adjoine nere unto the highwaye there, at which place and tyme Hugh Copplestone dyd call and aske for the sonnes of the Complainant, but they not being in sight, he told the lyke tale to the complainant himself, as he, the next day before had sayd to Staunton, and sayd to the complainant, "that yf his sonnes had said, that Sir John Pollard had no gentylmen to his kinsmen that would fight for him in his quarrell, they had said yll, and therefore to prove that contrary, he, Hugh Copplestone sayd, that he durst and wold fight with them himself, yf they would so challenge him," and otherwayse he ment yt not.

In the sayd Byll it most untruely alledged, that Hugh Copplestone sayd in the presence and heringe of Sir John Pollard, unto Staunton, "thy master hath two skabbes² and knaves to his sonnes. I wyll fight with them, and tell them from me and requyre them in my name that they and on more do mette me and two more to morrow at Donyatt, where we will fight with them in manner and form."

The defendants pray then dismissal from the suit.

Leonard Tucker, another defendant, sayth he is not guilty of any ryoth. About the 9th of April, 9th of Elizabeth (1567), he was requested by one Davy Wallis to goe with him to Chard, there to doe his helpe and furtherance for Wallis about the obteyning of a certain sute which Wallis had before Sir Hugh Powlett, Kt., and Humphry Colles, Esq. (who before that had

(2). *Scab*—an ape, a baboon,—used metaphorically for a poor worthless fellow. Halliwell.

appointed them to have been at Charde for that purpose). At the request of D. Wallis, he, Leonard Tucker, accompanied with Thomas Clapp and Symon Sprake, being tow honest grave men of the town of Winsham, with William and John Awood, mentioned in the bill of complaint, went unto Charde, and there by chaunce, without any sett purpose and appointment between them, met with James Daubeny, gentlemen, Henry Daubeny, gentlemen, Christopher Preston, gentleman, William Orchard, and others, being all of them honest gentlemen and yomen, dwelling in or nygh the town of Charde, and thereupon for that the said Sir Hugh Powlett and Mr. Colles came not together at that tyme, as it was thought they would, they, according to the custome of the cuntrye there, toke occasion to recreat themselves in honest myrth, pastymes and exercises, and so spent the tyme there together, untyl yt was almost 4 or 5 of the clocke in the afternoon, about which time they peaceably and quietly departed, eche of them towards his habitation. And as L. Tucker, George Raymond, and John Awood were goynge together in the waye towards their houses, they mett with too or thre of the servants of the complainant in a strete of the towne of Charde, riding into the same towne, and L. Tucker, with G. Raymond and J. Awood, quietly passed by them, without meaning or offering any manner of disturbance or quarrell, and so L. Tucker toke his way directly homeward without any manner of staye, saving that he went into the house of one Thomas Raymond, dwelling nyghe the town end of Charde, and there dranke a cupp of beere, and so thence departed quietly to his house, not coming near unto the said Parsonage Barne, otherwise than in passing by the same on the Queen's highwaye, and he neither dealt, nor had to do with the said complainant, nor any of his servants, &c.

Whatever the decision in this suit, the quarrel was evidently kept up, and there was in the same Court, the Star Chamber, another suit in Nov. 1570, relative to the same subject, "the

Rectorial Tithes of Charde," only in this case Sir John Pollard is the complainant *versus* Humphry Walrond. The charge brought against Humphry Walrond was, that the said Walrond maliciously minding some further mischief before the harvest tyme, retained into his service one Briggs, a master of defence, and dyvers other ruffians to the number of 20 or more, whom he usually called "his fencers and cuttlers," delighting in nothing more than to se them showe their conning of their weapons to others his servants, with great prayses, untyll the one of them had stricken owt the eye of the other, and taking great pleasure and glory of the wilfull, insolent, and desperate courage and hardyness of his said retinence, and thinking to have encountered with Sir John Pollard, on the 27th of August last, assembled his forces to the number of 12 or 13, and being himself mounted on a moyle with a foot clothe, commanded them to follow him with their weapons, as swords, bucklers, and staves, and some such his servants as he met, having no weapons, he blamed, and commanded them to fetch weapons, which they did so and followed him, until they entered the parke of Donyatt, where Sir John Pollard had been hunting the Monday before, and where Walrond continued for six hours, and being puffed up with the strength of this company, openly and in sundry presences said, "that he would have and take the said tithe," and procured one Hacker of Sea, smithe, to make him a number of pycked staves with long yron pyke in thende, most unfit for harvest, and then forcibly entered into some fields of Charde and took away sundry loads of the tithe, and on March 4th, Walrond procured Richard Staunton and W. Smyth, two of his cuttlers with swords, to enter into the barne, and they did beat and wound Elizabeth Moore and the servants of Sir John Pollard, for which they were indyted at the sessions at Chard, &c.

Humphry Walrond makes a long answer to this complaint.

A commission was issued from the Star Chamber to enquire, &c., but, as above stated, the result is not to be found.

The PRESIDENT said some doubt existed as to the origin of the name—Star Chamber. Some seemed to be of opinion that it was taken from the room where that court sat, the tapestry of which was embellished with stars; but there was a probability that it originated from its being the chamber where mortgages were made, the word “eshtar” being the old word for mortgage. As a lawyer, he had very often read the accounts of the judgments in the Star Chamber, and he was quite of opinion that it was an illegal and tyrannical court. If a man were to go before a judge now and could only say there was a very important decision bearing on the matter in the Star Chamber, there would, he thought, be no necessity for calling upon the counsel on the other side.

Mr. GREEN gave a similar story, which he had found in Star Chamber proceedings, with reference to the Bonner family of Watson, now called Weston, whose house was omitted from the programme of the day. The case was, Wm. Gollope *versus* Bonor.

The petition begins with—“To the Kyng our Sovereigne Lorde your pore subjects Wm. Gollope and Thomasyn Gollope (late Bisse), widow of Robt. Gollope, deceased—that one Wm. Boner of Axminster, John Hill of Wambrook, Richd. Rowswell of Bradford in Somerset, and Tristram Sampford of Membury, were seised of the Manor of Waterleston, *alias* Watson, and in some messuages and lands in Comb St. Nicholas, and being seised by deed, dated 18th May, 5th Henry VIII (1513), leased the same to Robt. Gollope, and Thomasyn, then his wife, and to said Wm., the petitioner, for their lives, and Thomasyn jointly with said William, during her widowhood, if she “over-lived” Robert, her husband. Thomasyn and William “over-lived” Robert, and then held the premises by title of survivorship. But “now of late,” that is to say on 16th July last, one John Bonner of Charde, the younger; Thos. Syms of the same, tucker; John Attkyns, John Barges, and Wm. Sprake, with dyvers other “ryotouse and mysruled”

persons, to the number of eight, whose names were unknown, with force of arms, that is to say, bills, bowes, arrows, swords, and buckelers, and other weapons, invasyve in riotous manner by the procurement of John Boner the elder not only entered the said premises, and expulsed and put out your said subjects, but also took divers oxen, kyne, horses, and steres, and impounded them in houses and other unlawful pounds, by the which "dryvyng, chasyng, and impoundyng they break the legges of dyvers of the said cattall, and the residue utterly destroyed, to the perilous example of all such like other offenders, onlesse condyng punysshement be nott provyded." They prayed therefore for a writ for the offenders to appear before the court.

As with other cases, no judgment is on record, but it is a curious picture to imagine these people going out thus armed for the fray, and it is curious also that such cases were not uncommon; our ancestors seem to have resorted to the law as a last resource: the law was the resource of the weak.

In the *Herald's Visitation for Somerset*, 1623, there is much recorded relating to these Bonners, dating from Ed. III. Their arms were, *gules* a crescent *ermine* within an orle of martlets *or*, and these will be found on the ceiling of Weston Farm. There were other families of the name in the neighbourhood, as at East Chinnock and South Petherton, and we can see from the will of William Bonner, who died in 1613, that their house ornaments were valued then as we should value them now. He made a special gift of "all the tymber work in the Haule of my house in Shepton Beauchamp, and the glasse of the windowe of the Haule."

Henry Bonner of Waterleston in Combe St. Nicholas, whose will was proved 15th March, 1669, left lands in Sherborne. It was this Henry, probably, who was concerned in a law suit in the Exchequer, Hilary, 19-20 Charles II, the depositions in which were taken at the sign of the George, in Combe St. Nicholas. The question was relating to the pur-

chase of the King's third share in the enclosure or disafforesting of Neroche. Mr. Henry Bonner, with Mr. John Symes of Pounsford, who was one of the commissioners for the sale, so arranged matters that Bonner "got great benefit" by getting possession first, and then reaping the crops. He was succeeded by his eldest son Henry, whose will was proved 26th March, 1719.

The HON. SEC. then announced the proceedings for the next day, and the company separated.