

Third Day's Proceedings.

Thursday, the third day of the proceedings, was devoted to an excursion through a great portion of the charming and picturesque district of West Somerset. The weather, how-

ever, had undergone a change overnight, with the result that the rain, so much wanted at the time by agriculturists, but not just then by archæologists, came down freely when the party left Taunton Station by special train to Crowcombe. About 140 people had intended to take part in this excursion, but the change in the weather had the effect of reducing the numbers to about 100. At intervals throughout the day the rain ceased, and at times the weather was quite pleasant. On reaching Crowcombe Station carriages were in waiting, and the members drove to Crowcombe village.

Crowcombe Church.

A halt was made to inspect the beautiful church, which the rector, the Rev. H. C. YOUNG, described. He said: Crowcombe Church, dedicated to the Holy Ghost, was an ancient regular fabric of hewn stone, eighty-four feet in length and thirty-three feet in breadth, consisting of a nave, chancel, and n. and s. aisles. At the west end was an embattled quadrangular tower (containing a clock and six bells), on which there formerly stood an octagonal spire of nearly eighty feet which in December, 1725, was struck by lightning. In the Churchwarden's Book of that date there was recorded the following resolution—"That the Minister and Churchwardens do forthwith represent to the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells that the tower of the said parish church is so shattered and weakened by means of a late dreadful tempest of thunder and lightning that it is unfit and unable to sustaine a spire or steeple of the ancient height or weight without endangering the fall of the said tower by the erection of such a spire or steeple, and thereof humbly to begg leave of his Lordship that the said parish of Crowcombe may be permitted to cover the said tower with lead or to erect a spire or steeple of such a height only as the said tower is capable to sustain and uphold or otherwise to do as his Lordship shall think fit do direct and

appoint which direction and appointment is humbly requested of his Lordship." [The tower was repaired at a cost of £540 15s. 0d.] The stone (it being all hewn) of the spire some years after was employed in flooring the Church. The south aisle was named after Sir Godfrey de Crocumbe, who lived in the reigns of John and Hen. III—and who at his death gave to the Nuns of Studley, Oxon, his manor of Crowcombe with the advowson of the church. The north aisle was the private chapel of the Carew family and was rebuilt by Thomas Carew, Esq., A.D. 1655. There was originally in the old windows much painted glass, but it has been sacrilegiously destroyed. The carved bench-ends were a noticeable feature of the Church and, as one bench-end bears witness, were carved in the year 1534. The inscription runs—"Anno Juliani Millesimo Quingentesimo Trigesimo Quarto." On another bench-end the devil was represented as a two-headed dragon of a most repulsive and hideous appearance in combat with two naked figures (symbolical of lost souls), and at the bottom of the panel in the left-hand corner a monster with wide-open jaws (symbolical of hell's mouth) was waiting to receive them. In the opposite corner was a bird. The octagonal font was a splendid example of XIV Century work. It was made of yellow sandstone and the faces of the bowl were panelled with hollow squares containing different subjects. The occurrence of the convolvulus leaf and flower was uncommon. Above the font was a good Jacobean pyramidal cover. Mr. H. Pridham explained the subjects as follows :

South (1) The Father Almighty, hands raised on high, (2) A nun in prayer ; West (3) Vision of Zachariah, father of John the Baptist in the temple, (4) St. Anne instructing the Blessed Virgin Mary ; North (5) A bishop, (6) The Blessed Virgin Mary crowned and enthroned ; East (7) A bishop, (8) A knight in prayer.

The chancel screen was interesting owing to its late date, having been erected in the year 1729.

In the Churchwarden's Accounts for that year there was the entry: "Paid to Mr. Thomas Parker for making the skreens, flooring and wainscoting the Altar, £73 10s. 0d.

To Mr. Fry for painting the Altar piece, £4.

To Mr. William Parker for the frames of the Altar piece, £4."

In the year 1785 a new singing gallery was erected in the west end.

In the year 1856 the body of the Church was altered according to plans and specifications of Messrs. Pearson and Ralter; singing gallery done away with—choir stalls erected—pulpit removed to north side—font removed.

In the year 1869 a new roof was put to the Church at a cost of £720.

Leaving the Church by the south porch, they would notice the beautiful fan-roof and the fine XIV Century churchyard cross, octagonal, placed on a calvary. The original head was destroyed, but in 1720 it was replaced by another, which had also been damaged. On the shaft were three figures, the central one on the west side was that of a bishop, habited in episcopal vestments and wearing a mitre, with a pastoral staff in the left hand and the right raised in the act of benediction. At his feet was a remarkable animal's head, crowned. On the north side was a figure of St. John the Baptist clothed in a garment of camel's hair, and holding the wand tipped with a cross in his left hand. On the south side was a female figure, supposed to be that of a prioress of the convent of Studeley, to which convent Godfrey de Crocumbe, for the health of his own soul and the souls of his two wives, Alice and Joan, gave all his manor of Crowcombe, with the advowson of the Church, and directed the same to be applied towards the clothing of the nuns. The battlements of the south walls were decorated with quatrefoils and shields, on one of which might be seen the emblems of the five wounds. Also worthy of remark was the gargoyle at the west end—an animal nursing its legs be-

tween its arms; also the little door at the east end, the arch of which runs up into the window.

The Rev. E. H. BATES, in thanking Mr. Young for his interesting account of the history of the Church, remarked that the nave was askew, which pointed to the fact that the Church was of different dates. When it was rebuilt some time in the XV Century, they were determined to save the north aisle, and re-built the nave all askew. The south aisle was, he really thought, the finest and most beautiful south aisle of the Perpendicular period in Somerset.

After the description of Crowcombe Church, the Rev. W. H. P. GRESWELL added a few remarks of a topographical and historical character. Crowcombe was given in Saxon times to the shrine of St. Swithin, at Winchester, by the wife of Earl Godwin "for the repose of his soul," and in expiation for crimes committed against the monasteries. Like Bishop's Lydeard, given by Edward the Elder to Asser, and still in episcopal patronage, Crowcombe was originally part of the Royal Saxon demesne.

At the Conquest, Crowcombe was taken away from the Church, and given to "Robertus" to be held under the Earl of Mortain, the Conqueror's half-brother, forming henceforth part of that great "Fee of Mortain," with the Castle of Montacute as its centre. Out of ten Hides it is said six were exempted from Danegeld, possibly as Royal demesne and the land of Queen Gytha. The manor remained with a family taking their name from Crowcombe with the allusive seal of a Cross between four crows (12 Edw. III). These Crowcombes had lands at Broomfield, holding under the Mohun Barony. There is a place-name "Crowcombe Bank" still surviving. They also had land at Beer-Crowcombe named after them. The family name of Crocombe is still known in the neighbourhood.

The manor of Crowcombe was divided between a Ralph and Godfrey de Crowcombe, sons of a Simon de Crowcombe, *temp.* Henry III. It was about 1268 that Godfrey de Crowcombe,

then a well-known character filling public positions in the reign of Henry III, gave the manor of Crowcombe and the advowson of Crowcombe Church to Stodeley or Studley nunnery in Oxfordshire (see Dugdale's *Monasticon*), "ad vestiendas moniales." This nunnery was founded, c. 1176, in honour of St. Mary by Bernard de St. Walery, and lies in the parish of Bickley about five miles north-east of Oxford. Horton-cum-Stodley was made a separate parish in 1880. After Godfrey de Crowcombe's gift that section of Crowcombe was always known as Crowcombe-Studley, and was the chief manor. We have seen that, in Domesday, Crowcombe parish fell roughly into two portions, six Hides untaxed and four Hides taxed. Could Godfrey de Crowcombe have given back to the Church that portion which had belonged to the Church, thereby making some satisfaction for the Domesday alienation? What Gytha gave was really expiatory and particularly sacred.

The other section (presumably the four Hides of Domesday) remained with Ralph de Crowcombe and his descendants and was eventually known as Crowcombe-Biccombe, descending afterwards to the Carew family. In the Exchequer Lay Subsidies both sections appear. Crowcombe Studley (among the Williton Freemanors) is taxed at 16s. 6d., Crowcombe Biccombe at 10s., which proportion seems to tally with the Domesday division of six Hides and four Hides. In the reign of Henry VIII (1524), when Robert de Biccombe, a descendant of Ralph de Crowcombe, died, his estate consisted of forty messuages in Crowcombe (showing the extent of the parish in those days), one hundred acres of meadow, two hundred acres of pasture, three hundred acres of tillage, also four hundred acres of heath which would have been in Crowcombe Heathfield. If we subtract these four hundred acres of barren heath, which would not have been counted in Domesday, we have six hundred and forty acres as the share of the descendants of Ralph de Crowcombe. This exactly corresponds to the four Hide portion of Crowcombe if we take the Glaston-

bury standard of one hundred and sixty acres to the Hide.¹ This was exactly a knight's fee.

It is worth noting that the farms mentioned in the Exchequer Lay Subsidies (Edw. III) for both sections of Crowcombe parish are all recognisable at the present day. The two manors remained practically the same in extent until quite recently, when "Crowcombe Studley" portion was sold by Sir Robert Harvey, the owner. But they both seem to date back to pre-Domesday times.

The Biccombe family came from Biccombe, in the neighbouring parish of Timberscombe, and the name still survives in Bicknoller and the neighbourhood. John de Biccombe married Isolda, daughter and heiress of Simon de Crowcombe. In Bishop Ralph's Register licence was given to a Simon de Crowcombe in 1329 to have divine service celebrated in his oratory at Leigh for a year. "Leigh Mills" is well known; so is "Leigh Crossing" on the Minehead Railway. Below "Leigh Mills" and at "Water Farm" was the old dower house of the Carew family. Both Leigh and Water would be at some distance from Crowcombe parish church and hence the request of Simon de Crowcombe for an oratory. It is said that the railway cuts right through the site of the old dower house.

The first Court Leet for Crowcombe-Biccombe was held 27 Edw. III (1354) by John Biccombe, who had a presentment of estrays in his wood at Leigh.² But long before this the Prioress of Studley had held the Crowcombe-Studley Court Leet. Her pound was near the Church and on the same plot as the old Church House (no. 67 on the Tithe Map). The dwelling place or *mansio* of the Biccombe family in Crowcombe was down by the Stogumber brook, not near the Church.

1. "Liber Henrici de Soliaco Abbat: Glaston.," 1189. Edited by Canon Jackson.

2. See "Som. and Dorset Notes and Queries," vol. vi.



THE CHURCH HOUSE, CROWCOMBE, 1908.

From "The Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist," October, 1908. Photographer, H. H. Hole, Williton.

In the Tithe Map of 1842 the present building, known as Crowcombe Court, is described as a Court Barton with a lawn of seventeen acres, a park of eighty-one acres, and an enclosed part of Quantock of one hundred and fifty acres, which is included in the present park. The present Court House is said to have been built towards the end of the XVIII Century. In Collinson's time James Bernard, barrister of the Middle Temple, was the owner (c. 1790). The male line of the Carew family ended in 1766.

Crowcombe Heathfield is the name of a well-known section of the parish near the railway station. In 16 George III, 73, (1776) there was an act for dividing and inclosing certain open and uncultivated lands and tracts of waste ground called Crowcombe Heathfield and a parcel of Quantock Hills within the parish of Crowcombe.¹

Crowcombe was anciently a borough. In 5 Edw. I (1297) there is a mention of "Villa Burgi de Crowcombe" and Roger Russell gave half a Burgage to a Simon de Crowcombe of that date.² In the Exchequer Lay Subsidies there is mention of the borough, also of a burgess (A.D. 1327). In the Tithe Map of 1842 there is a Zydicksborough and there is still a field called "Burgages." Crowcombe is now a small and depleted village. The old Borough House used to be opposite the present rick-yard belonging to Crowcombe Court, some distance below the present post office and the west side of the main road.

Crowcombe Church House.

The Rev. H. C. Young and the Rev. W. H. P. Greswell also gave some interesting information as to the Church House, which has recently been restored, and which was afterwards visited.

1. See also Hist. MSS. Commission, VIIth Report, p. 699, Wells.

2. "Som. and Dorset Notes and Queries," vol. vi, p. 160.

MR. GRESWELL said : The church house, now happily restored, was a great feature of Crowcombe parish. There were reasons for supposing that its foundation dated back to some year before the partition of Crowcombe between Godfrey and Ralph de Crowcombe (c. 1250). Formerly there were always two "lords rents" arising from the place as a kind of old world and feudal acknowledgment, not, of course, involving actual ownership. Now, if the prioress of Studley had founded this church house out of her own bounty, this nominal rent would surely have been paid to her alone, as lady of the manor. Similarly, if any representative of Crowcombe-Biccombe had founded it, he would naturally have asked for an acknowledgment due to himself alone. But both Crowcombe-Studley and Crowcombe-Biccombe had a "moiety in the church house, which they surrendered towards the repair of the parish church of Crowcombe," in 6 Henry VIII (1515). Surely this points to the conclusion that the church house, standing close to the manorial pound of the prioress of Studley and near the church itself, was handed down as a parish institution *before* the manor became divided at all. The fact of the *two* moieties and the *double* "lords rent" could thus be satisfactorily explained, and we arrive at a date. If he might hazard a conjecture, he should say that the church house was founded by Godfrey de Crowcombe in the reign of Henry III. The second prioress of Studley was Alice de Craucumbe, presumably one of the Crowcombe family (Dugd. *Mon.* iv, 250). It might be the prioress whose figure is seen on the old church cross still standing near the south door.

In 1897, upon the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, it was proposed that the old church house should be restored. Certain objections were raised, which caused the project to be abandoned for a time. Not until a strong outside committee was formed consisting, amongst others, of the Archdeacon of Taunton and the Rural Dean, could any progress be made. The whole question of Crowcombe church



THE ROOF OF THE CHURCH HOUSE, CROWCOMBE.

From "The Reliquary and Illustrated Archæologist," October, 1908. Photographer, H. H. Hole, Williton.

house was referred to the Charity Commissioners. It was discovered that the church house actually appeared in "The Parliamentary Return of Charitable Donations" (1786-8), at which date the building was used as a school house, with two houses adjoining for six poor people. In the Crowcombe tithe map (1842) both these almshouses and the church house were marked as one property, viz., no. 67, being on the portion of Crowcombe belonging to the senior manor of Crowcombe-Studley. There was also another mention of the Crowcombe church house in the Charity Commissioners reports, covering a period of years from 1819 to 1837. The present Charity Commissioners, therefore, had no difficulty before them in considering and sanctioning a scheme of restoration. After all its vicissitudes the church house now stands restored, having already fulfilled the purposes (1) of a mediæval church house, (2) a shelter for the aged, (3) a school-room for the young. Further particulars of the church house will be found in *The Reliquary*, vol. xiv, Oct., 1908, the publishers of which have kindly lent the blocks of the two accompanying illustrations.

Mr. YOUNG, who had been largely instrumental in raising money for the restoration of the Church House, also made a few remarks. He said that from *An Abstract of the Returns of Charitable Donations for the benefit of Poor Persons made by the Ministers and Churchwardens of the several Parishes in England and Wales*, 1786-1788, we learnt that the building was given to the parish in the year 1515 by Hugh Biccombe, Lord of the Manor of Crowcombe-Biccombe, and by the Prioress of Studeley, Lady of the Manor of Crowcombe Studeley. The annual income derived therefrom was to be given towards the repairs of the parish church. At a later date, about the beginning of the XVIII Century, the building was used as a school house, and other houses for six poor people—the schoolroom being above and the almshouses on the ground floor. In the year 1786 the building yielded an annual

income of £1 11s. 6d. This transformation of the church house into a school and almshouse caused considerable alteration to the building. Additional chimneys were inserted, there being originally only one at the west end with a huge open fireplace, and two large baking ovens. The ground floor was divided up into four compartments, and to the two original doors were added two more—a window being converted into one door and the outer wall pierced through to form the other. In the present reparation only the two original doors had been retained, the third being reconverted to a window and the fourth being made into a new window. The building continued to be used for these two purposes until the year 1870, when new schools were built—since which time the church house was allowed to gradually become a ruin.

Halsway Manor House.

The drive was continued to Halsway Manor House, which was inspected by kind permission of the tenant, Mrs. Charles Booth, and of the owner, Mr. W. C. Rowcliffe. The oldest portion of the structure is the right wing stated to have been a hunting-seat of Cardinal Beaufort.

The Rev. W. H. P. GRESWELL read some notes on the history of the place. The name itself like Halse, Halsewell and Hazelbury was probably derived from “hazel.” The “wei” or way may allude to the old Quantock pack-road, which, passing close to the old well, ascends the ridge and is traceable across to the fields to the west as far as Willet and beyond. Halsway has always been a somewhat important *membrum* of the large and scattered parish of Stogumber, the old Stoke de Gomer. “Halsway Aisle” is on the north side of Stogumber Church. This aisle was restored by the late Mr. Rowcliffe who purchased Halsway Manor in 1875. The present owner is his nephew.

Halsway Manor appears in Domesday as “Halsweie” with

three plough-lands cultivated by three servi, four villani, one bordarius, the holding of a Saxon sub-tenant Alric, under the great Roger de Corcelle, a large Quantock landowner in Domesday. Some of "Halsway" lies in Crowcombe parish and appears in the Crowcombe Tithe Map as, *e.g.*, Middle Halsway 60 acres: Lower Halsway 12*a.* 1*r.* 24*p.*: and 117*a.* 0*r.* 19*p.*, also Cookly 24*a.* 3*r.* 5*p.* The extent of the Stogumber section as purchased by Mr. Rowcliffe in 1875 was about 300 acres with hill-rights over Quantock of 500 acres. The original manor may have been about 450 acres down in the vale. The Quantock Common or Waste attached to Halsway Manor extends along the hill to "Halsway Post." In the XIII Century there was a large wood at Halsway, as we gather from a notice in the Somerset Placita (see *Som. Record Society*, vol. XI, 668), when a certain Nicholas Avenel was attached to answer to Matthew de Furneaux, lord of Culve or Kilve, why he had sold a certain wood called "Halewaye Wood" to Thomas de Halewaye. There is a field still called "Halsway Wood," 24*a.* 0*r.* 22*p.*, now pasture, where this wood may have stood. In the Elizabethan musters Halsway stands as a tything by itself (*S.R.S.*, vol. xx, 171).

In Kirby's *Quest*, 1286, a John de Haweye (Halsway) held the "Villa de Haweye," and the family also held Combe Hay or Haweye, in Somerset, and Compton Hawey in Dorset, all these manors being named after them, for several generations. They ended in an heiress Juliana who married Sir Peter Stradling and took with her the Somerset manors of Halsway and Combe. In *Feudal Aids* (1346) Edward Stradling held Halswei and Coleford "quod John de Penbrugge quondam tenuit," in Stogumber, for half a knight's fee. The family of Stradling (le Esterling) belong to St. Donat's Castle, South Wales, and descend from William le Esterling who accompanied Robert Fitz Hamon in 1090 for the conquest of South Wales.¹

1. See "Stradling Letters," edited by Rev. John Traherne, 1840.

In the reign of Henry V (1413-1422) a Sir Edward Stradling married Jane, daughter of Henry Beaufort, Cardinal and Bishop of Winchester, "by whom," so Collinson writes (vol. iii, p. 335), he "acquired the manor of Halsway in this county." But why should the gift have been necessary if it was already a Stradling inheritance? Collinson explains it thus (vol. iii, p. 346): "The families of Stradling and Hewish of Doniford maintained a contest concerning the legal inheritance of the lordship of Halsway, but, 12 Henry VI (1434), Oliver Hewish, in consideration of a certain emolument granted all his right in Halsway and lands in Doniford, Watchet, and in the parish of St. Decuman's and at Coleford, Ripyn and Carslake in Stogumber to Sir Edward Stradling."¹ In the account given of the family of Hewish or Huish² there are two of the name of Oliver, about this date, one married to the daughter and heiress of Simon de la Roche, the other to Johanna, daughter of John Avenel of Blackpool, South Molton. If it was the latter the claim to Halsway may possibly have been traced back to the Avenel family, one of whom had sold Halewaye Wood. However this may be, the all-powerful cardinal seems to have helped Sir Edward Stradling back to his inheritance, even if he did not assist him to "acquire" it, to use Collinson's expression.

The Stradling family held Halsway till the reign of James I. Three of the family went in succession on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem; (1) Sir William, who received the order of Knight of the Holy Sepulchre (*temp.* Rich. II, 1377-1399). (2) Sir Edward who married Jane Beaufort. He may have accompanied Cardinal Beaufort who went on the pilgrimage in 1417.³ (3) Sir Harry Stradling who went to Jerusalem and died in Cyprus on his return. He was taken prisoner in the Bristol Channel by Colyn Dolphyn, a pirate, "as he was passing to

1. "Close Rolls," 12 Henry VI.

2. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, vol. XLIII, p. 7.

3. Hutchins' "Dorset," Vol. IV, p. 42.

his house in Somersetshire (Halsway) from St. Donat's." His ransom stood him in 2000 marks.

In Meyrick's *History of Glamorgan* (c. 1584) there is an allusion to a book "which is yet to be seen with a letter which Sir Harry's man brought from him to the lady his wife." His wife was Elizabeth, sister to Sir William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke. The book is now lost.¹ From the above we may gather that the Stradlings occasionally visited Halsway on the Quantocks. Collinson says that Sir Harry had to sell two manors in Oxford and other property to pay the ransom.²

In the reign of James I the manor of Halsway was sold to a family of the name of Cade "whose old seat, with a chapel in ruins, still exists." So wrote Collinson about 1790. There is a Cade tomb in the Halsway aisle, Stogumber Church. In Charles' reign (c. 1630) Gerard says that Halsway or Hawey Manor belonged to the heir of Sir Francis Hele. Sir F. Hele was of Wembury, Devon, and was connected with the family of Rogers of Cannington, his wife being Jane Rogers.³ Neither the Cade nor Hele family were long resident at Halsway, but the house seems to have stood as Collinson saw it until restored by Mr. Rowcliffe. The hall and minstrel gallery remain as they were, and tradition has said that Cardinal Beaufort inhabited a portion of the old building on the south side, above the picturesque old doorway. But where was the old chapel? Possibly on the north side of the house. The stones of this chapel with coigns, window-tracery and doorway were taken away and erected anew, according to a strange fashion of Georgian times, in a small kind of ornamental recess in Crowcombe Park, not far from the present Court house. The moulding and style seem to date back to the latter part of the XV Century and are in agreement with the old portion still left of Halsway House. Near the south

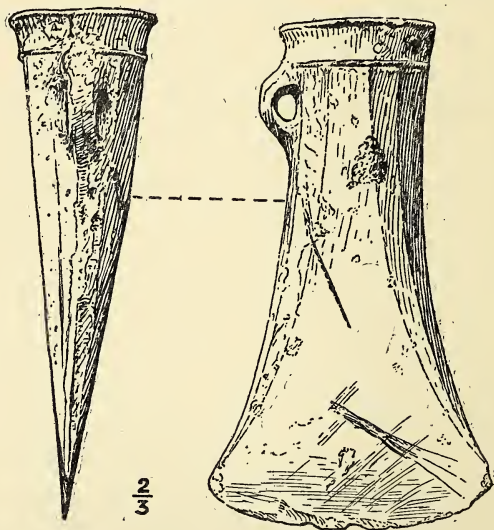
1. See Collins' "Baronetage," Vol. I, p. 30, ed. 1720.

2. Collinson's "History of Somerset," Vol. III, p. 335.

3. See Brown's "Somerset Wills," 3rd series, p. 89.

doorway is a newly panelled room with a tastefully restored ceiling reproducing the old pattern of the plaster-moulding found at Halsway. This moulding was noticed in 1868-9 when the members of the Society visited Halsway. Even then the house "had been much altered," but "the three towers, one in the centre and the others at the ends of the front, give it a picturesque appearance, being battlemented and pinnacled," are now gone. Mr. Rowcliffe's plan of re-building the house involved their removal. The statement made in 1868 that "there were no heraldic insignia on any part of the building bearing testimony to the Beaufort tradition" may surely be reconsidered by the light of the discovery of the Tudor Portcullis.¹

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE afterwards expressed the thanks of the party to Mrs. Booth for her kindness in permitting them to see the house, especially in such wet and dirty weather.



Bronze socketed Celt, found near one of the
"Battle Gore" mounds at Williton.

1. See *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. XV, pt. i, p. 5; also the Pigott Drawings, Halsway Manor House.

[The accompanying illustration represents a well patinated bronze socketed celt, of the Bronze Age, dug up about forty years ago during draining operations near one of the "Battle Gore" mounds, near Williton. The celt has a circular socket, and a single loop. It is $4\frac{3}{16}$ ins. long; the width of the expanded cutting-edge is $2\frac{5}{16}$ ins. It belongs to Mr. T. H. Andrew, of Minehead, who is exhibiting it in the Society's Museum.—H. ST. G. G.]

The journey was then resumed to Williton, where the members partook of luncheon at the Egremont Hotel. The drive was afterwards continued to St. Decuman's Church, passing on the way "Battle Gore," a field with tumuli, between Williton and Watchet, where the slain Danes who invaded this part of the country in A.D. 918, were said to have been buried.

St. Decuman's Church.

On arrival at the Church, situated on a hill overlooking the town of Watchet, the party were received by the Vicar, the Rev. T. Hawkes.

The following notes on the tower, by Dr. F. J. ALLEN, were read :

"This tower is quite distinct from the Quantock group. It belongs to a class which is apparently more widely distributed than any other in England, since it is found in all the district s.w. of the Quantock Hills, throughout W. Somerset, Devon and Cornwall: it may therefore be called the 'Devon,' or 'Devon and W. Somerset' class. Other instances in Somerset are Norton Fitzwarren and Minehead. In this class the outline is usually good, but the details plain. The buttresses are rectangular; pinnacles are sometimes omitted. There is usually a scarcity of windows: the top windows are generally single, the only other windows being the large w. window, and a tiny window, scarcely enough for ventilation, in the ringing loft; the rest of the wall is blank. The only fine detail is

in the gargoyles and grotesques, which are often most ingenious."

The former vicar, the Rev. C. H. HEALE (now vicar of Williton) described the chief features of the Church. Referring to story and tradition he said that the Church was of interest in story for many reasons: (1) Coleridge in his *Ancient Mariner*, referred to the Church as the starting-point and finish of his poem. (2) Robert Blackmore made the churchyard the burial-place of the mother of Lorna Doone. (3) Watchet was also mentioned as one of Chatterton's Rowley poems respecting one "Aella." There were also certain legends connected with the Church. St. Decuman was the name of the parish and the saint to whom the Church was dedicated. The date in which he lived was uncertain, some said A.D. 400, others about A.D. 700. He was said to have been a Welsh prince, who becoming tired of court life, crossed the Bristol Channel on a wattle or hurdle and lived a hermit's life in the neighbourhood of Watchet. Whilst praying one day, a native of the place, not caring perhaps to have such a good man in the district, came behind him and cut off the upper portion of his head. Tradition added that when this was done, the body raising itself up, took the head in its hands and carried it to the spring just below the Church, and washed all traces of the blood away from the severed portion of the skull. Probably the body was buried within the church of the time. One of the figures in the West Front of Wells Cathedral showed him holding the upper part of the skull in his hands. As there was a somewhat similar story of St. Denys, the patron saint of France, it was suggested that as the names were not unlike in sound, tradition had credited St. Decuman with equally miraculous powers. There was yet another tradition relating to the Church. The inhabitants desired to build it nearer to Williton than its present site, but a certain gentleman who objected to churches and church work, carried night after night the stones which the workmen had laid during the day

for the foundation of the new church from the selected site to the present one. The conflict went on long enough for the inhabitants to give up all thought of building on the spot they desired, and they ultimately erected it on the site selected for them. The Church was also connected with the murder of St. Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, and one of the murderers, Robert Fitzurse, lived at Orchard in the parish. He gave the presentation of Williton to the Vicar of St. Decuman's. Simon de Brett, another of the murderers, who lived at Sampford Brett, gave the Church of St. Decuman's, etc., to found a prebend in Wells Cathedral. The present Church was Perpendicular, composed of parts and fragments of older churches, alterations having been made from time to time instead of erecting a new building. The Church was repaired and restored in 1886, at a considerable outlay, and in 1896 many other improvements were made.

Describing the interior of the Church, Mr. Heale pointed out that on the south side was the Holy Cross Chapel, separated from the aisle by a screen, one object of interest in it being the old font, which had been removed to the chapel, a new one taking its place near the south door. The old font was the only one of that design in Somerset. The bosses in the roof of the chapel were very elaborately carved, the stone tracery on the windows being worthy of notice. Originally there was a central tower, but it appeared to have fallen, and the present tower was built at the west end, c. 1490. Originally also there had been a rood-screen across the whole width of the Church west of the central tower. The doorway to the rood staircase was still to be seen in the south wall. On the north side was another staircase, which was erected after the central tower had fallen, but which had been closed up when the monument with the kneeling figures had been erected, about 1634. The present doorway was a modern one. The original one was behind the table-tomb erected to the memory of the last Earl of Egremont. Referring to the screens, the one across St. Peter's

Chapel, on the north side, he said, was demolished, and the central screen sadly mutilated, by order of one of the Earls of Egremont, about sixty years ago. A good deal of the present central screen was new; the cresting was modern, but copied from a piece of the original. The west arch was distinctly Early English, and on all the pillars (which were not alike on the north and south sides) on the north side were niches which once contained figures, one of the pillars still having a figure on each of its sides representing a bishop in the act of blessing.

The stone seats were *in situ* along the south wall. The south-west window had been blocked up when the tower was erected. It would be seen from the exterior that one of the tower-buttresses comes nearly half-way across the window.

Mr. Heale proceeded to point out the handsome canopied tomb and brasses of the Wyndham family, erected to the memory of :

Elizabeth Windham *née* Sydenham, 1571.

Sir John Windham, 1574.

Two upright brasses—

John Windham, 1572.

florence his wife, 1596,

a daughter of John Wadham of Merifield and
sister of Nicholas Wadham.

Cast brasses, half figures—

John Windham, 1645.

Joan Windham, 1633.

Edmund Windham of Kinsford, 1616,

whose wife has a small brass erected to her memory
· in Stogumber Church.

In speaking of the chancel, Mr. Heale said the organ was a chamber-organ, formerly belonging to the Princess Amelia. In the floor of the chancel were a large number of ancient encaustic tiles, which, however, were not in their original position, and they bore designs similar to those of Cleeve Abbey and Dunster Church, some representing coats of arms

and other fancy designs; two of the latter, typical of the country—one a stag running with an arrow through its body, another, a running hound. The window in the north wall of the chancel, from its antiquity, was of great interest, and the painted glass bore many designs, including the Royal Arms, the Plantagenet Crest (a spray of broom), and “Edwardus, 1273,” respecting which there had been considerable conjecture. The altar-table was a fine specimen of a “Laud” table. The church plate included two chalices, the oldest of which was of beaten silver, without any hall-mark, of Elizabethan date. The pulpit of the Church, with canopy, was Jacobean, and the waggon-roof of the nave and a portion of the north aisle were very fine.

Outside the Church, the tower was one of the best specimens of Early Perpendicular work, and the stone used for the exterior was conglomerate, the inside being principally blue lias. It contained a peal of six bells, one of them being a pre-Reformation bell (Norton). The churchyard contained an ancient cross, the top of which was modern. St. Decuman’s Well was just below the Church tower, and its water was said to be famous for its healing powers. It was also known as a “wishing-well,” and is to this day.

Nettlecombe Court.

The place next visited was Nettlecombe Court, which was inspected by kind permission of the owner, Sir Walter J. Trevelyan, Bart., and described by the Rev. Preb. F. HANCOCK, F.S.A., Rural Dean and Vicar of Dunster. He said :

We must all regret that Sir Walter Trevelyan is unable himself to receive the Society to-day. His loving study of the records of his family would have enabled him to give a much more interesting account of this ancient house than I am able to do.

There is a peculiar fitness in the Society visiting Nettlecombe during their Diamond Jubilee year, as it was the home of one of the founders of the Society, and your first president, that scholarly and cultured person the late Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan.

In the time of Edward the Confessor Earl Godwin held Nettlecombe, and it was no doubt the interest he and his family held in West Somerset which tempted his sons, Harold and Leofwine, to make their unsuccessful descent upon Porlock.

Temp. Henry II the estate of Nettlecombe was granted by John, son of Gilbert, marshal of England, to Hugh de Raleigh, of Raleigh, co. Devon, on the condition that he should find one soldier in time of war for two months, and forty days in time of peace. Thus the de Raleighs and their representatives, the Trevelyans, have held this estate for nearly eight hundred years. John Marshall's wife and four sons joined in the grant, and Hugh de Raleigh gave to John Marshall eighty marks of silver and a sorrel nag; to his lady an ounce of gold; to his son Gilbert a horse and two dogs; and to his two other sons a talent of gold each. The estates were confiscated in the reign of King John, as the de Raleigh of the day sided with the Barons; but they were re-purchased by his brother Warine de Raleigh. Sir Warine's wife declares herself to have been much blessed by the possession of a piece of the true cross and a ring of St. Lazarus, which, with the silver casket containing them, she bequeathed to Lady Avise de Raleigh.

Coming down to the time of Richard II, we find that the lord of Nettlecombe of that date, Simon de Raleigh, was a great soldier. In 1387 he took part with the Duke of Lancaster in the Spanish campaign; seven years later he was fighting in Guienne; and in 1403 he was present at the battle of Agincourt. Later, battered and worn out, he returned to Nettlecombe, and having founded a chantry to St. John Baptist on the south side of Nettlecombe Church, and en-

dowed, as I believe, and as the date-letter quite allows, the Church with its famous plate, he died, leaving Nettlecombe and all his other estates to his niece, the daughter of Thomas Whalesborough of Whalesborough in Cornwall. He lies buried in his chantry beneath his shield, which bears the five fusils of Raleigh. There is a tradition that he died in Devonshire, and was brought up to Nettlecombe to be buried, and that at the two last points where his body rested a cross was erected. Thus three miles above us is Raleigh's Cross, and a few miles further away Lowtrow Cross (*l'autre croix*). Thomas Whalesborough had an only child, a daughter, who married, in 1453, John Trevelyan of Trevelyan in Cornwall. With the earlier history of the Trevelyan family—the traditional escape of its founder on his strong white steed from the submerged land of Lyonesse, and so on—I need not trouble you.

But Sir John Trevelyan himself was a man of much note, and a devoted adherent of Henry VI. He attached himself to the Lancastrian party, and was one of those whom, after the murder of the Duke of Suffolk and the rebellion of Jack Cade, the parliament petitioned should be removed from the king's presence. The petition was politely refused, and Trevelyan frequently appears in the political satires of the time. One satire describes him as "*The Cornish Chough,*" who "*oft with his Trayne doth make our eagle blind*" (Henry used as his private seal the device of an eagle). His name occurs as one of four intimate friends of the king who applied for permission to establish a garrison at Windsor for the protection of the royal person.

Most of Sir John's friends and associates died by the sword or the axe during the Wars of the Roses, but he survived those troubled times unhurt, and succeeded by means of a series of pardons, obtained no doubt at great cost, from various kings and governments, in holding his estates together. He lived to see the Red Rose triumphant, and Henry VII on the throne, and died in peace at Nettlecombe in 1489.

His funeral was a very stately one ; forty pounds of wax were consumed in tapers at it ; the priests celebrating it were paid the enormous fee of £4 10s., that is nearly £100 of our money, and a great feast was held to comfort the mourners.

Sir John's son, like his father, was a court favourite, and obtained amongst other posts the rangership of the Forest of Exmoor. This appointment was the cause of a quarrel which soon arose between him and the lord of Dunster of the day, Sir Hugh Luttrell, whose hounds he seized when hunting on the border of the forest. Sir Hugh Luttrell was brother-in-law to Lord Daubeney, who had obtained the office for Sir John, and Lord Daubeney writes to him desiring him to "let my said brother take his desport." This little "grugge," as it was called, was followed by a more serious game dispute which took place soon after at Nettlecombe. On Sir John's death, the house was let to one of the Sydenhams of Combe Sydenham, whose sons and servants turned out to be arrant poachers. They coursed the deer in the park with their greyhounds ; they pulled down the deer park fence, and dragged the deer out and killed them ; they were bold enough to come at night into the park "a byrd-battin," and set wires in the park fence for the rabbits. The inventory prepared for this unsatisfactory tenant still exists ; and we get from it an interesting glimpse of the furniture of a West Somerset manor house in the year 1526. The house was evidently as it was when re-built by Simon de Raleigh. The hall was the only sitting-room ; there were kitchens and offices and ten or so chambers besides. Let us look into the hall. It has its trestle tables, which could be moved after meals, many forms, and one cupboard, and the fire-dogs on the hearth are no doubt those which you see on the hearth of this room to-day. They bear the arms of Trevelyan, quartering Cockworthy and Champernowne. The walls are hung with red "say." Let us open the door into "my master's chamber." Here is an arras coverlet, but it is acknowledged to be "counterfett." The walls are again hung

with red "say," but the bed hangings are of taffeta, and the cushions of silk. The room seemed to have been used as a general store room, for here were found numerous tables, forms, thirteen pairs of sheets, eleven of blankets, a holy water stoup, a Spanish basin, a picture of St. John (the patron saint of the Raleghs and Trevelyans, after whom the eldest son of many generations of the Trevelyans was named), and one of "King Harry," (*i.e.* King Henry VI), a sword, twelve large chests and four small ones, etc. In the room called the "clossyt" there are, besides much furniture, a pole axe, an ewer of latten, and again a picture of St. John.

In the "ynner chamber" the bed is hung with green "say," and the coverlet is of yellow. The walls are hung with red "say." Other hangings are of silk, and there are a basin and ewer of tin, brought up no doubt from Cornwall; and yet another painting of St. John; a great chaffer, and a fire pan, and two sets of horse harness, and so on. Richard Rogers keeps in his chamber some agricultural implements and a store of javelins.

The house in which you are assembled to-day was built by the seventh Trevelyan of Nettlecombe, who married Urith, daughter of Sir John Chichester of Raleigh, in North Devon. The dates 1599 and 1601 appear on parts of the building. Trevelyan's cousin, Richard Hill, writing to him from London, in October, 1602, concludes a gossiping letter on political matters with: "I do heartily leave you with happy end of your buildings, a long continuance in enjoying the same, to your own desired comforts." This wish was fulfilled, for Trevelyan survived his two wives and his eldest son, and lived until 1623. As regards his rebuilding of Nettlecombe, it would be interesting to know how much of the old house he retained and incorporated in his new one.

The house was soon to see stirring times. The Trevelyans were strong Royalists, and at the outbreak of the Civil War the squire of the day at once threw in his lot with King

Charles. In 1642 he was in command of a regiment of horse, and in the next year Charles desires "his trusty and well beloved George Trevelyan" to raise a regiment of twelve hundred foot. To do this Trevelyan had to part with much of the great estate in South Wales he had inherited from the Raleighs.

Whilst her husband was serving away from home, Mrs. Trevelyan was in danger at Nettlecombe. The rector of the parish was a bitter Parliamentary, and early one morning he appeared with a host of ragamuffins, and burnt down the outbuildings, and endeavoured to destroy the house.

Luckily the Parliamentary owner of Dunster of the day was Trevelyan's uncle; and when Charles I's cause became hopeless, Mr. Luttrell writes to his nephew begging him to come to terms with the Government, and assuring him of the safety of his person. Luttrell, however, says he cannot get the large fine imposed upon him reduced, as he was looked upon as a "principal malignant." "You would long ago have been restrained," Mr. Luttrell writes, "if my earnest persuasions had not hindered that course." The fine was paid, and Trevelyan obtained a protection for himself. Notwithstanding this, however, a detachment of Parliamentary horse swooped down one day upon Nettlecombe and plundered the house and carried off all the stock. It was necessary to obtain a full pardon, and this Mrs. Trevelyan determined to do for her husband. But all her husband's horses had been seized with the rest of his stock. She therefore obtained a team of plough oxen, and with them made the weary journey to London. She obtained a pardon for her husband on the payment of a further £1,560; but alas, on the way home she caught smallpox, and died at Hounslow.

George Trevelyan's sufferings for the royal cause were rewarded at the Restoration by a baronetcy being conferred on his son, another George. This Sir George died young, leaving a son, John, ten years old, who held the estate for nearly seventy

years. This Sir John built the south wing, and the principal staircase with its distinctive early XVIII Century decoration. Pagodas, classic heads, and Louis XV wreaths, are here mixed up, much as we find them in the woodwork of Chippendale, and the date 1733 and the initials "J.T." appear on the plaster work.

This second baronet's grandson, although he did not succeed to the estate until he was thirty-four, held it for sixty years. He redecorated the dining and drawing rooms in the fashionable "Adams" style of the period. The carpets too, which he put into these rooms, and which existed until recently, were woven in the Aubusson looms to match the ceilings.

Some rooms on the east side of the house were built by the late Sir J. Trevelyan, in the hope that his wife, who during her later years lived at the other family house, Wallington, in Northumberland, would return to Nettlecombe, but she could not be induced to forsake the bracing air of the north.

At the end of the XVIII Century a maid-servant in one of the upstairs rooms dropped her thimble, which rolled away down a crack between the oak boards of the floor. A board being taken up to recover it, a treasure of Elizabethan plate was revealed to the astonished eyes of the seekers: tall salts, bowls, cups, etc., a list which makes one's mouth water. It had no doubt been hidden by Mrs. Trevelyan when the Round-head troopers sacked the house, and its existence forgotten.

Amongst the treasures of the house is a magnificent collection of china, largely Oriental. A large portion of it, an interesting contemporary letter informs us, was at Nettlecombe before 1660, and considerable additions were made to the collection subsequently by the late Sir Walter, and his grandmother, Lady Maryon Wilson.

The muniment room and the library possess much of value, although some of the more unique documents have been given to the British Museum; many too were destroyed by a former baronet, whom the late Sir Walter describes in his diary as

being found sitting in front of the fire in this room, with a pile of deeds and papers about him, of which he was burning those he could not read. There are also a collection of family letters, which illustrate in a very interesting manner Irish history in the time of Elizabeth and the Civil Wars.

In the muniment room was found by the late Sir Walter Trevelyan a curious forged charter, purporting to be by Athelstan to Exeter Cathedral, but dated 670, nearly three hundred years before that king's time. Here too, Sir Walter found a leaf of the Exon Domesday, and had the pleasure of seeing it re-inserted in its proper place, from which it had been missing for more than four hundred years. Here too was discovered that curious document recording the divisions of seven English dioceses, which in 905 Pope Formosus, moved, he says, with much anger, sent to King Edward the Elder.

Here too is a bede roll seven feet long, containing, for the most part, hymns and prayers to Henry VI. It is an interesting proof of the veneration in which the murdered king was regarded by the old Lancastrian families. Henry was supposed to have wrought many miracles after his death, and was to have been canonised by Pope Julius II, who, however, died before he could carry his intention into effect.

But perhaps the chief glory of Nettlecombe consists in its magnificent oaks, to which our President alluded on Tuesday last, and which he spoke of as being described by Professor Buckland at the first outing of your Society as being the finest oaks in England, and as having been sold at £105 apiece. They were not, however, sold, but an interesting story is connected with them. When oak was very valuable in the early part of the last century, the baronet of the day accepted an offer of £30,000 for them. The day arrived for their being cut. Sir John heard that the men had arrived prepared for the slaughter and straightway he drove up in his pony carriage and drove them out of the park. What settlement he made with the purchaser history does not relate.

Most of the more valuable pictures were bequeathed by the last baronet to his widow and daughters, but there is a good Romney still remaining. The original of the portrait was unhappily so stout, that he had to be lifted up over the screen by a windlass when he retired to rest; and a panel in front of the screen is still removeable which was taken up to allow him to pass.

A good description of this room occurs in *Country Life*, February 1, 1908. The writer considers that probably the main structure of Simon de Raleigh's hall was retained, for the mediæval position for oriel and chimney-piece are kept. If so, the whole room was remodelled, whether as an adaptation of old forms or as a completely new building, and made consonant to the ideas of the day. Instead of going up to the roof, as it would at first have done, it was ceiled at two-storey height, and elaborate plaster work was introduced. This ceiling, which is very pleasant and picturesque, and the strapwork of which is very bold and decorative, was evidently the work of country craftsmen. The stag hunt above the central panel of the chimney-piece is curious and amusing. There are several other fine ceilings in the house. In the china room, in the centre of much bold ornament, is the swimming horse of Trevelyan, and above the chimney-piece of that room are the arms of Trevelyan impaling Wyndham. In the "little parlour" is an excellent ceiling of nine panels with wreaths and arches, and there is a somewhat similar ceiling in the room within it.

Nettlecombe Church.

Nettlecombe Church, which stands close to the Court, was then visited, and described by the Rector, the Rev. C. S. DUPUIS. He said:

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Nettlecombe, seemed to have been much altered and modernized at the time of its

restoration some forty years ago. The nave and north aisle alone constituted the parish Church. The south aisle was a chantry, dedicated to St. John Baptist, and known to-day as the "Ralegh aisle," the two recumbent monuments being those of crusaders belonging to that family. The chancel was to a great extent re-built by Bishop Jermyn, then rector, the arch being entirely new. The clerestory windows, as now seen, were of the same period, but no doubt replaced those already existing. They were regarded as an unusual feature in a church of that period. The rood-loft stairs now give access to the pulpit, a contrivance not unusual in those parts. The most interesting object in the Church was the font, with its elaborate sculpture representing the Seven Sacraments, in excellent condition, and retaining much of its old colours. The base was modern, of unusual height and rather dangerous in use. The windows in the north chancel aisle, which belonged to Nettlecombe Court, were of great age and interest, if somewhat grotesque, the selection of saints represented being very uncommon. St. Urith was no doubt chosen because it was a family name. The monument in the Ralegh aisle to one of that name contained a remarkable example of the taste and fashion in epitaphs of its day.

The registers dated as far back as 1540, and had been deciphered and transcribed with great care and labour by the late Sir Walter Trevelyan.

One glorious possession Nettlecombe had, however, which caused the name to be known all over the world. It was the Nettlecombe chalice and paten, said to be the earliest plate with mark in existence, and of priceless value. In excellent state of preservation, it was in regular use at the present time. Its design was of singular beauty, and well known from many modern copies in use. The colours of the enamel in centre of the paten were still quite brilliant. That this plate escaped the hand of the spoilers was said to be due to its having been walled up.



COMBE SYDENHAM, SOMERSET.

An interesting article on the history and date of the Nettlecombe Church plate appeared in a recent number of *Country Life*.

The upper portion of the churchyard cross was renewed by the late Sir Walter Trevelyan upon the ancient calvary. It had been for years covered with ivy.

The Rev. Preb. F. HANCOCK remarked that the two articles of plate remaining were part of a set of six pieces, the other four having disappeared after the Reformation, when they were perhaps sold, or more probably melted down to make the existing Elizabethan chalice. He believed the chalice and paten to have been the gift of Sir Simon de Ralegh, who died in 1439.

Mr. Hancock and Mr. Dupuis were cordially thanked for all the information they had given.

Combe Sydenham.

Proceeding up the narrow valley the party came to the ancient manor house of Combe Sydenham. The situation, at the very roots of the Brendon Hills, which rise above to the height of twelve hundred feet, and the unusual feature of a tower standing out of a confused group of roofs and gables at different angles, combined to give a distinctly foreign appearance, more resembling a scene in Switzerland or the Tyrol. The house itself was built in the form of L, with a tower set in the inner angle. Owing to the absence of the owner, Mr. Marwood Notley, the interior could not be inspected. The Rev. E. H. BATES said the present building was mainly Elizabethan, and the date over the porch was 1580. There were also architectural features of the XV Century. The farm buildings in front of the house were certainly of that earlier period; and, as at Cothelstone and Brympton, might be the original home of the owners. The arms over the porch were Sydenham and Stourton (Murray, 1882 edit., p. 447);

they referred to the marriage of John Sydenham and Johanna Stourton, *c.* 1430.

Sir George Sydenham, the owner in 1580, second son of Thomas Sydenham of Brympton, left an only daughter, the wife of Sir Francis Drake, the circumnavigator, and afterwards of Sir William Courtenay of Powderham. Afterwards Combe formed part of the dower of Alice, widow of John Sydenham of Brympton (who died 1627), and wife of Sir Francis Dodington. Her second husband being a strong Royalist, Combe was sequestered and much dilapidated. Her second son, Major George Sydenham, succeeded. His monument might be seen in Stogumber Church, where his effigy reposed between those of his two wives; but whether from want of money or want of room, the ladies were, to use the heraldic term, dimidiated, so that only one half of an effigy appeared on either side. Murray records a Stogumber tradition that the ghost of the major on a spectral horse might be met with in the Combe lane. In *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, v, p. 299, is a long account of the actual appearance of his ghost to Captain W. Dyke, as recorded in *Pneumatologia*, by John Flavel, 1685.

Tea was afterwards partaken of at the "Notley Arms," Monksilver, time only permitting subsequently for a rapid inspection of Monksilver Church, which was shown by the Rector, the Rev. C. F. Chorley, the chief feature of the building being the beautiful south aisle.

The return journey was then made to Williton Station, from whence the party proceeded by special train to Taunton, which was reached soon after seven o'clock.

Lace and Needlework Collection.

In the evening the Museum and Library at Taunton Castle were open, and the Collection of Needlework and Lace, collected and presented by Miss Laura Metford Badcock, was exhibited.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A., senior Hon. Sec., formally opened the collection, and took the opportunity, on behalf of the Society, to thank Miss Badcock, the originator and generous donor of the collection. Mr. Weaver said that Miss Badcock had been engaged for two-and-a-half years on what was to her a genuine labour of love. She had received presents of lace and needlework from friends not only in England but from various parts of the world. He added that each article was ticketed on the back with an excellent description of its locality, composition, etc., and hoped that at some future time a catalogue might be made, and that others would add to the collection so admirably begun. Mr. Weaver proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Badcock, which was heartily seconded by Colonel Cary Batten.

Fourth Day's Proceedings.

Trull Church.

The first place visited on Friday morning was Trull Church (the Rev. R. Y. Bonsey, Vicar), which Mr. BLIGH BOND described as a peculiarly interesting little church—he said ‘little,’ because, though very complete in all its parts, it was on a small scale. The greater portion of it was XV Century work, or advanced Perpendicular, but at the tower end they had a much earlier archway and a window which was XIII Century. This seemed to be all that was left of the earlier Church, and he believed all the rest was Perpendicular. The main roof contained some fairly good work, but the chief glory of the Church was the rood-screen, with the continuing screens north and south,¹ and the beautiful set of bench-ends of the XVI Century, one being dated 1510.

The rood-screen was very massive and of the Devonshire

1. See Mr. Bligh Bond's paper on "Screens of the Taunton district," pt. ii of this vol.