

Third Day's Proceedings.

Thursday, the third and concluding day of the proceedings, was again devoted to excursions in another direction, the party numbering about eighty. The unsettled weather at the start, which was responsible for the diminution in the numbers, soon became more favourable, and throughout the day the drive proved to be of a most enjoyable description. Leaving the George Hotel at 9.30, and passing the Abbey Barn, the first halt was made at Ponter's Ball.

The Rev. Prebendary GRANT described this spot as a British earthwork, about 15ft. high, surrounded by a ditch, and it formed a protection against invasion to Glastonbury. Its name was a corruption of Pontis Vallum.

West Pennard Church.

The drive was continued to West Pennard Church, the vicar of which is the Rev. Prebendary Gresley, formerly vicar of St. Andrew's, Taunton, who was unable to meet the visitors, he being at the time on a holiday in Norway. In his absence the Rev. G. H. Bown, of St. Andrew's, Taunton, was present to give any information.



GLASTONBURY TOR.

From a Photograph by Dr. F. J. Allen.

Mr. BUCKLE, in describing the main points of interest in the church, remarked that not only had it been a gradual rise along the roadway leading to the church, but in addition to there being several steps, the floor continued to slope right up to the east end of the church. The levels of the window slopes were on a slant, and in the same way the levels of the capitals of the arcade were more or less parallel to the floor line. The roof of the south aisle seemed to be put on a level, with the unfortunate result that the east end of the aisle seemed to be quite low, compared with the west end. Outside it had just the same effect. It was a rather curious church in some ways, the arcades being set out in such very strange fashion. The two arcades were built at different dates, and the building appeared to have been begun at the building of the tower. Probably before the tower was erected the church consisted of a plain nave and chancel, and when the tower was built the beginning was made of the arcade on the north side. He pointed out that the west portion had the same style as the west arch. If they followed the lines up to the top of the capital, they would see the sudden change where the arch was put on, as the arch did not fit at all. The whole of the north arcade and the chancel arch were worked in the same detail and done at the same time; so that it rather looked as if no south aisle had been intended at the beginning of the rebuilding, but that by the time the chancel arch was built it was determined to have the second aisle. The first arcade consisted of four arches of equal width, but the arcade on the south side was totally different. The first pillar from the east on the south side was a good deal further west than the first pillar on the north side. Then there came rather a narrow arch, and next a wider one, opposite the door, and finally a little arch next the tower. As regarded the wide arch at the east end, it was another matter. That seemed to point to there having been a chantry chapel before the south aisle was built. It was a church which was built very much by degrees, although

it was all Perpendicular in style. The windows showed very great variety. As a result of the projection of the turret staircase, the west window of the north aisle could not be got nearer to the centre of the aisle. He pointed out how the two sides of the window were different in plan, so that the light should come as far as possible into the church. The doorway occupied the space of two lights of one side window. The clerestory windows were also rather peculiar, being filled in with something which looked more like Decorated tracery than anything else, and these windows must be of a later date. In one side window was some painted glass, representing a Prince of Wales; but the piece of glass was a curious mixture of old and new, and was certainly not intended for that position; for the glass which was there was a great deal wider than the original width of the window, which had been cut away to make room for it. The leading figure was a copy of the glass in a church at Great Malvern, and was of the same design. The original glass represented Arthur, Prince of Wales, son of Henry the Seventh. The screen of the church was an old one.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER remarked that the Manor House which they had passed, on coming out of Glastonbury, was built by Abbot Selwood, but there was not much of the original building left, so they had not lost very much in not visiting it.

The Communion vessels, consisting of a chalice, dated 1610, and a tankard, silver gilt, of the time of James the First, were beautiful specimens of workmanship, and were inspected with much interest. The Registers dated from 1673. In the churchyard was an old cross.

Mr. BUCKLE, speaking of the cross, said that, although the head had been lost, it was a very fine shaft. On the three sides were represented the emblems of the Passion, and on the fourth side was a monogram; it appeared to be that of Richard Bere, Abbot of Glastonbury. Remarking on the exterior of

the church, Mr. Buckle pointed out the difference between the ordinary XV Century parapet, and that used in the XVI Century. The tower was exceedingly beautiful, and its timber spire was covered with lead. As in the famous Chesterfield example, the timber of West Pennard spire was newly cut, and having been then covered with lead, it was subject to enormous changes of temperature. The result of that was that the whole of the spire had got a corkscrew twist. That was the cause of the much more twisted spire of the church at Chesterfield. It was simply the result of the natural movement of green oak exposed to the variation of temperature. Mr. Buckle called attention to the lower part of the tower wall, with its uniform freestone finish. He believed that it was historically known that that facing was put there towards the end of the XVIII Century, in order to make a tennis court. They knew the Somerset folk had been fond of playing at fives.

Baltonsborough Church.

After leaving West Pennard, West Bradley, which was down on the programme, had to be omitted, in order to keep an appointment for luncheon at one o'clock, at Butleigh Court. The next stop was accordingly made at Baltonsborough, where the church was visited.

Mr. BUCKLE again acted as *cicerone*, observing that the church in one respect was a rather remarkable one, for they had there a thing which was very rarely found—a complete design for a new church of the XV Century. There seemed to be nothing whatever left of the previous building; but, on the other hand, there had been no alteration of the fabric since, with the exception of the addition of a modern vestry. It was so rare that a XV Century architect had a chance of designing a new church, that it was a matter of interest. The width and openness of the nave of the building was interesting.

It had been suggested that the walls might be Norman, judging by the nave ; but he did not see the slightest ground for supposing that at all. The tower, nave, and chancel were of the same date. There was considerable elaboration of the roof in the chancel which was wanting in the nave. A feature of the nave roof were the additional ornaments supplied for the rood screen. Of course, there was a great difference between the church now and the original building, as the great rood screen was missing. The windows in the chancel were more elaborate than in the nave, and in the east window on the south side of the chancel the window ledge was brought down a good deal lower, so as to form a base for the *sedilia*. That church was built just like the church at West Pennard, with the floor on a slope from the west end upwards to the east end. The tower was very simple in character, built with the church. The belfry storey had been cut about to allow two openings, besides the original windows, which was the habit of the XVIII Century, as they apparently thought there was not sufficient opening to allow the sound of the bells to be heard. Another striking feature of the church was that the original seats remained. They were perfect in number on both sides, and, as in so many instances of old seats, the fronts and backs rise a little higher than the ends did above the top of the ordinary levels of the seats. There was also attached to one of the seats a "penance stool," which was a subsequent addition. It was apparently placed there, in the centre of the nave, where any member of the congregation who did not know how to behave elsewhere was brought out by the churchwardens, to sit in view of the congregation until he could behave better. The tower had a small spire, if it could be called such, and at the church they had been obliged to miss at West Bradley, there was another small spire. That was a little church, like Baltonsborough, consisting of a west tower, nave, and chancel.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER remarked that the top of the

churcyard cross, representing the crucifixion, was old ; the rest was new.

The Registers dated from the year 1537.

Butleigh Church.

From Baltonsborough the drive was continued through picturesque country to the pretty village of Butleigh, where the church was the first object of inspection.

Mr. BUCKLE remarked that there was not very much to be said about the sacred building, because, as they would perceive, a great part of it was quite new ; including the aisle and the two transepts from the tower. The old part of the church consisted of the nave and the porch, the central tower and chancel ; and all the outgrowths were quite modern. The plan of the original church was Norman, with a central tower, without transepts ; which was the ordinary form of a small Norman church in country districts. At the entrance to the church porch there were some very curious jambs to the door, and as to what date they belonged to he did not pretend to say. They had been considered to be Saxon ; at any rate, they had an early appearance about them. The arch above them was of very much subsequent date. There might be Norman masonry in the massive central tower ; but what was seen in the pillars was XIV Century work, and the nave and chancel seemed to be entirely of the same date. The two windows near the door were ancient. There was a large Perpendicular window inserted over the west door, and it contained a few fragments of ancient glass at the top. There was the Glastonbury shield at the left hand. In the chancel was one old bench end left standing, which was now put on one side ; otherwise the whole of the furniture of the church was, he believed, modern. There were some modern monuments to the Neville and the Grenville families. In the stalls of the chancel were two bench ends of the same pattern.

The Vicar, the Rev. G. W. BERKELEY, gave some additional particulars respecting the church, stating that one of the transepts was built in 1608, by Christopher Simcox, who was the son of Thomas Simcox. He believed that it was built as a family burial place. In the north-west corner of the church was a Jacobean monument to Thomas Simcox, but at the restoration of the church it was removed to the chancel. In 1850, when the church was completely renovated, the monument was taken out altogether ; but through the action of the squire it was put back. The roof was quite modern. In 1750 there was an order in vestry to rebuild the roof in elm, because of the scarcity of oak. In 1728 the present bell cage was put up, and in 1758 the clock was put in the tower, and cost £19 19s. In the Court House was a drawing of the chancel as it appeared when the Dean of Windsor came into the property, at the beginning of the XIX Century. The Registers were not of much interest, but one of them was kept in the vicarage some years ago, and used by the then vicar's daughter as a copy book, because the name of Agatha was scribbled all over it. The Registers dated from 1578, and the one which had been used as a copy book by the young lady before mentioned was inspected with much interest.

Luncheon at Butleigh Court.

By the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Neville-Grenville, the party were afterwards entertained to luncheon at Butleigh Court, which adjoins the church. After the repast,

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER apologised for the absence of the Dean of Wells, the President, and also Col. Bramble. On behalf of the Society he heartily thanked Mr. and Mrs. Neville-Grenville for the warm welcome they had given to their guests, and for their kind hospitality. He thought he might say that they were all *bonâ fide* archæologists. The members would

understand what was meant by that allusion ; as it was sometimes urged against them that they went in merely for delightful picnics and luncheons. Mr. Weaver added that he was happy to introduce to the company one of their latest members—their host—who, he was pleased to announce, had joined the Society. Mr. Neville-Grenville had a very strong objection to their calling it a “ Somersetshire ” Society, as he contended it ought to be called “ Somerset.” The speaker informed Mr. Neville-Grenville that the members had had a discussion on the subject during the proceedings, and Mr. Taylor, of Banwell, who was a great authority on the subject, had expressed the opinion that there was a good deal to be said on both sides. In conclusion, Mr. Weaver, on behalf of the Society, and in his own name, offered their sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Neville-Grenville for the very hospitable way in which they had received them.

MR. NEVILLE-GRENVILLE, on behalf of his wife and himself, said that it had given them both very much pleasure to receive them that day as their guests. It was perfectly true that he had at last joined the Society ; but he had always said, years ago, that he would not join until they knew their proper name. The fact was, Somerset was not a “ shire,” and had never been a shire. A shire, as he understood it, was a part which was “ sheered ” off from another district ; but Somerset was always a place of its own. As regarded archæological research, he mentioned that he had done a little of that himself in cider-making ; for cider-making went back long before the Somerset Archæological Society was founded.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER next proposed votes of thanks to those who, by their efforts and services, had helped to make the excursions so pleasant. He thanked the clergy of the various churches they had visited for their kindness ; also the owners and occupiers of manor houses inspected ; Mr. and Mrs. Austin, for their hospitality on Tuesday afternoon ; and likewise Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Clark, who were to entertain

them to tea that afternoon. He also thanked the Rev. Canon Scott Holmes for his interesting lecture on Glastonbury Abbey; Mr. Morland, for his remarks on the Lake Village; also Mr. Buckle, who had been good enough to come there again and give them his valuable services; likewise the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society; and to the Rev. Prebendary Grant, the Local Secretary, who had given both Mr. Gray and himself a great deal of help. He coupled with the vote the names of Mr. Buckle and Mr. Grant, who were present.

The vote was heartily passed, and

Mr. BUCKLE and Mr. GRANT suitably acknowledged the compliment.

The Rev. Prebendary GRANT proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. F. W. Weaver, remarking that it had been chiefly through his exertions and energy, and also those of Mr. Gray, with whose name he coupled the vote of thanks, that the proceedings and excursions had been so successful.

This vote was also heartily accorded, and

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER, in responding, remarked that it had been a real pleasure to him to do what he had done, and he was happy to think that the meeting had been a success.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY also responded, observing that he merely looked upon it as his duty—and a very pleasant one—to do the best he could for the Society in every way.

The interior of Butleigh Court and the beautiful grounds of the mansion were afterwards inspected, under the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Neville-Grenville.

Ivythorne Manor House, in the neighbourhood, an interesting building of the XV Century, was the next object of interest visited, and the proceedings were brought to a close with a halt at Street, where Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Clark kindly entertained the party to tea, and were afterwards heartily thanked for their hospitality.

After tea, the members met at the Street Museum, and were received by Mr. William Clark, Mr. Frank Clark, Mr.

Roger Clark (Secretary), Mr. Alfred Gillett, and other gentlemen interested in the Museum.

Dr. HENRY WOODWARD, F.R.S., F.G.S., was requested to say a few words in explanation. He pointed out that the Museum, and the cases, had been provided by Mr. W. S. Clark, and also some of the specimens; that a set of duplicates had been presented by the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History); that Dr. George J. Hinde, F.R.S., had presented a series of N. American Palæozoic fossils, all carefully named; that the greater portion of the collection had been presented by Mr. Alfred Gillett, who had also devoted some years of work to the naming and arrangement of the whole of the Museum specimens. Mr. Gillett had also given £100 to be invested, and the interest used to buy books or necessary fittings for the cases. The collection comprised a number of Lias Marine Saurians, framed and mounted upon the walls; a collection of cave-remains and flint implements; a series of recent shells (named and arranged); a series of named fossils, stratigraphically arranged and labelled according to their formations; an excellent collection of minerals, and various other objects of interest. The Museum also possessed a collection of stuffed and mounted Birds, in a separate room. In this room was also preserved a machine of a most elaborate character, invented by one of Mr. Clark's ancestors, for the manufacture of Latin verses. Mr. Frank Clark mentioned that on one occasion it had produced a verse much approved by the Society of Friends, namely, "Long *Meeting* tends to sleep."

After a hearty vote of thanks was given to Dr. Henry Woodward for his explanation of the Museum, the members dispersed to their homes, after a most enjoyable Meeting.