Third Day's Proceedings.

On Thursday the weather was again very beautiful, and the members left Gillingham at 9.30, *viâ* Milton, for

Silton Church,

where the party was met by Major E. G. Troyte-Bullock, who had offered to describe the church, owing to the recent and lamented death of the Rector, the Rev. F. R. Sidebottom.

Interesting notes had been prepared by Major TROYTE-BULLOCK. He said that the church consisted of a nave, south aisle and chancel, with an embattled tower at the west end, a porch on the south side and a chantry chapel—formerly used as a vestry—at the north-east corner. It was dedicated to St. Nicholas. The church was mostly of Perpendicular character, but some portions probably dated back to the XIII Century. The nave was divided from the aisle by three plain arches, supported on Early English pillars with circular fluted capitals. The roofs were open timbers of massive oak with carved bosses and plates. The church was restored in 1869, chiefly by William John Percy, rector 1867-77. The old pews were replaced by oak benches; the church was re-decorated throughout; and five of the windows, including the east one, filled with stained glass at the cost of Mr. Alfred Kell who was born in the parish. The west window, the gift of Miss Chafyn-Grove, was a memorial to her brother William Chafyn-Grove, who died at Poona, November 13th, 1865. The little chapel on the north side of the chancel was interesting; it contained a beautiful fan-traceried roof. (This portion of the building is mentioned in Hutchins' *History of Dorset*, Vol. IV, 104). Hutchins said that during the restoration of the church quantities of old coins were found, as well as a curious stone coffin, which was discovered about a foot below

the floor of the church and contained a skeleton. Many encaustic tiles were also found having the royal arms upon them.

The most striking thing on entering the church was the huge monument to Judge Wyndham. It formerly stood against the south wall of the chancel, and when removed disclosed a Perpendicular window which had been restored and filled with stained glass, the gift of W. J. E. Percy, rector. Below this window were discovered sedilia and a piscina. This fine monument was thus described by W. Barnes in 1833:

"Against the south wall of the chancel is a handsome monument, put up to the memory of Judge Wyndham by his executors, Sir George Strode, sergeant-at-law, and his brother, Thomas Strode, sergeant-at-law, by the Judge's 'own will and desire.' This monument is executed by a masterly hand and represents the Judge as standing in his robes holding in his right hand a roll, and in the other a bag of papers. At his feet sit his daughters weeping: the one with a sand-glass in her hand, and the other a skull. These figures are under an arched canopy supported by wreathed columns, at the bases of which are two flaming urns and against their capitals two cherubims with folded wings, over and under which are hanging wreaths of flowers. On the base of the monument, between the emblems of justice (the sword and balance), is the following inscription:

"'Here resteth the body of Sir Hugh Wyndham, Kt., late one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster (under King Charles II) for 13 years. He was the eighth son of Sir John Wyndham of Orchard Wyndham in ye County of Somerset, Kt. He dyed in his circuit at Norwich ye 29th of July in ye year of our Lord God 1684, and in the 82nd year of his age. He had three wives. Jane, his first wife, was the daughter of Sir Thomas Wodehouse of Kimberley in ye County of Norfolk, Baronet. She also lyeth here interred. By whom he had two sons, viz., John and Hugh, and three daughters viz., Blanche, Joan and Rachael. John,

Hugh and Joan died young. Hugh lyeth here interred. Blanche was married unto Sir Nathaniel Napier of Moore Critchell in this county, Baronet; and Rachael was married unto John, Earl of Bristol, of Sherborne in this county. Elizabeth, his 2nd wife (who also lyeth here interred) was the widow of Sir Henry Berkely of Wymondham, in ye County of Leicester, Baronet, and one of ye daughters of Sir William Minn, of Woodcot, in ye County of Surrey. Catherine, his 3rd wife (who survived him) was ye widow of Sir Edward Hooper of Boveridge in this county, Kt., and one of the daughters of Thomas Fleming of Stoneham in ye County of Southampton, Esquire. By his two last wives he had no issue.' "

Major Troyte-Bullock having been thanked for his address, the party proceeded *viâ* Bourton to Penselwood.

At a point a quarter-of-a-mile south of Penselwood, and at a distance of one furlong west of the high-road, an earthwork called " Balland's Castle " was passed.

Penselwood Church.

The party was met here by the Rector, the Rev. N. Parsons, who later in the morning kindly acted as guide through the woods and tortuous paths that surround the Pen Pits and Orchard Castle.

The church was briefly described by the Rev. E. H. Bates as follows:

" There is not much to be said about the building. The nave was rebuilt in 1805 (Phelps); the north aisle is modern; and the chancel has been renovated. The only part of the original design still standing is the Norman doorway on the south side of the nave. The semi-circular head has a border of zig-zag moulding surrounded by a bold roll; the ends of the roll rest on the capitals of two neck shafts with a dancettée moulding worked on the outer edges of the necks. The tympanum is blank; the flat lintel bears the *Agnus Dei*

between two nondescript animals. The ends of the lintel rest on two corbels representing the heads of a king and queen, but the whole thing has been terribly scraped. On the outer gable of the porch a stone has been inserted which may be the head of the cross which Mr. Pooley records to have once existed here, and to have 'probably been destroyed and its ruins carted away when the nave was rebuilt.' It contains in a cinquefoiled recess a female figure bearing a child between two kneeling figures. The tower at the west end is rather squat, with a turret on the south side. There is a Norman font, of which, as well as of the doorway, Phelps gives an illustration."

Pen Pits.

The members then proceeded to walk through wooded paths traversing many of the pits; they were brought to a halt when a good example was approached.

Here Mr. J. SCANES said that the typical "Pen Pit" was a circular depression of variable diameter and depth (up to 30ft. by 10ft), devoid of all traces of an adit, and always following the shape of an inverted truncated cone. Numbers of such depressions, frequently associated with others of a different character and obviously of recent date as was implied by their pronounced adits, occurred upon the two escarpments of greensand lying between Penselwood Church and Gasper, and intersected by Rose Combe. These depressions had been excavated over the basset surface of the upper greensand plateau, which in the neighbourhood of Penridge formed a huge sandbank, certainly not less than 150ft. thick, the ingredients of which mainly consisted of quartz grains and a good sprinkling of dark green grains of the mineral glauconite, a subsequent development of the micaceous beds of the gault series—the whole being capped to an average depth of 10ft., with oxidised débris derived from the breaking down of the

once overlying chert beds. At varying depths within the uppermost 40ft. of this sandbed, and at irregular intervals, lenticular patches of hard glauconitic sandstone Penstone occurred, from which querns or hand-mills had been made, existence of which had played an important part towards the advocating of the prevailing quarry theory.

Mr. Scanes' address was followed by an interesting discourse delivered by the Rev. E. H. BATES, who brought forward the theories regarding the origin of the Pen Pits which had been propounded by well-known archæologists. Further details will be unnecessary here, as Mr. Bates has written a paper on the subject which is printed in Part II of these *Proceedings*.

Castle Orchard.

A walk of half-a-mile brought the members to Castle Orchard, the outline of which was much hidden by high bracken. The majority of those present having climbed to the top of the *motte*, Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY gave the following address:—"Fifty years ago, the Rev. F. Warre wrote that 'Orchard Castle is Castle Neroche in miniature.' He was right so far; but he considered them to be of British construction, whereas we have now little, if any, hesitation in stating that they are Norman. The rough domestic pottery found at both places is precise in quality, and the decoration on it is of a similar character.

"Orchard Castle is a type of earthwork very different to anything of British construction, and is moreover distinguished as being an earthwork with a citadel. It is an earthwork which consists of two parts, a courtyard which is banked and ditched and a fairly lofty round mound, with a platform on the top, this mound also being surrounded by its own ditch. The mound has the remains of an ancient breastwork round

the top. This type of earthwork, instead of being situated on the top of isolated and lofty hills, is usually planted in lower ground, in or near villages, and most frequently near a church. They are not only found in various parts of England, but also all over France and in other continental countries. They arose probably with the establishment of feudalism in the X and XI Centuries. Several historical notices of these moated mounds have been found. In Norman-French they were called *mottes*, and we find this word *motte*, or its Latin equivalent *mota*, used in charters, chronicles and poems from the XI to the XIV Century. There can be no doubt that this form of fortress had become the typical one in Normandy in William the Conqueror's time; it is evidenced by the Bayeux tapestry, that remarkable piece of work whose value has been so much emphasized by Mr. Freeman. It represents William attacking one of these *mottes* and setting fire to the wooden buildings on top of it: while another picture shows his army erecting a similar *motte* at Hastings. This *motte* is still to be seen at Hastings Castle. All the castles in *Domesday Book* which have been identified have these *mottes*, except in the case of the Tower of London.

"There is no evidence obtainable that the Anglo-Saxons built these *mottes*; there is, however, *certain* evidence that the Normans built *mottes* both in Normandy and in the British Isles. The type belongs to the age of feudalism, and is an earthwork of a class one would expect the Normans to use at an early period in their conquests."

Vespasian's Camp or Kenwalch's Castle.

Time did not permit of the Society making a visit to this camp, although it was included in the programme.

Mr. Gray contributes the following notes on the camp:—"Kenwalch's Castle is situated at a height of 784ft. above sea-level and is intersected by the road from Penselwood to

Blackslough. It is bound by Blackslough Wood on the north-west, Castle Wood on the south-east, and Newpark Wood on the south-west. Vespasian's Camp is in Somersetshire, the nearest point to Wiltshire being Blackslough Lodge at a distance of nearly half-a-mile to the north. The camp is one-and-three-quarter-mile as the crow flies from Stourton Church and the same distance north-west of Castle Orchard, one-and-a-half-mile north from the earthwork known as 'Balland's Castle,' nine furlongs only from Stavordale, and about six furlongs north of the so-called 'Remains of a Castle' in Cockroad Wood. In form Vespasian's Camp is somewhat of an irregular oval, being more rounded in outline at the north than at the south end. The earthworks enclose an area of four acres; the rampart is of considerable strength, and before denudation commenced, it must have been some 15ft. above the surrounding level; the width of the well-marked ditch is about 20ft. The camp is probably of early British construction.

"Jack's Castle is at a distance of only one mile from Vespasian's Camp and 330 yards north-north-east of Alfred's Tower. It is also in Somersetshire, but only 230 yards from the Wilts boundary.

"Balland's Castle,[1] a quarter-of-a-mile south of Penselwood, is apparently a *motte* of Norman origin. The so-called 'Remains of a Castle' in Cockroad Wood, close to, I have not seen."

The Bristol Cross at Stourton.

The arrival of the party at Stourton was late, and luncheon at the Stourton Inn having been hurried through, the members proceeded to inspect the Bristol Cross.

Mr. A. E. Hudd, F.S.A., who some years ago was mainly

1. There are two objects in Taunton Castle Museum from "Balland's Castle," see p. 62, pt. i, of this volume.

instrumental in trying to get the cross restored to Bristol, read a paper on the subject, from which we give the following extract :—"The beautiful cross formerly one of the greatest treasures of ancient Bristol, now a striking if somewhat unsuitable ornament of a Wiltshire park, was not removed from Bristol with the consent or at the wish of the citizens, but was given by a gentleman *to whom it did not belong* (Dean Barton) to a Wiltshire antiquary, who happened to be a great collector of such 'unconsidered trifles,' Mr. Henry Hoare of Stourton. This was in 1766. The previous year, Mr. Hoare had removed from Bristol to 'Stourhead' the XVII Century building known as 'St. Peter's Pump' (called also 'St. Edith's Well') formerly on the site in Peter Street, Bristol, of a XV Century cross erected by a Bristol mayor in 1474."

Stourton Church.

At the picturesquely situated Church of Stourton the party was received by Sir H. H. A. and Lady HOARE and Mr. E. DORAN WEBB, F.S.A.

The latter described the church and pointed out the fine tombs of the Stourton family and some old glass in the windows; one of the coats represented was Stourton impaling Wrottesley (*or three piles sa. a canton erm.*)

Many of the visitors availed themselves—as far as time permitted—of Sir H. H. A. Hoare's kind permission to walk round his unique gardens, in which are situated many rare trees, temples and grottoes.

The PRESIDENT thanked both Sir Henry Hoare and Mr. Doran Webb.

Mere Church.

At 3.45 the Society left Stourton for Mere, where the Vicar, the Rev. J. A. Lloyd, met them at the fine church of St. Michael.

The Rev. J. A. LLOYD, F.S.A., gave the Society a full and interesting account of the church, from which the following has been extracted :—"The massive tower 94½ft. to the top of the parapet, with pinnacles rising another 27ft., was built about 1460. The oldest part of the church is to be seen in the interior on the eastern side of the tower, where on the rubble wall there still remains the drip-course of the old roof of a church which existed before the year 1220, when it was destroyed by fire. The high altar is dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury. There is a fine screen of transom type like those at Queen Camel and High Ham.

"The Bettisthorne chantry on the south side of the church contains some fine old glass representing St. Nicholas, St. Martin, St. Christopher and an Archbishop; in the same chapel are hatchments, funeral helmets, and a gauntlet of the Chafyn-Grove families. The chapel was built in 1350 by Sir John Bettisthorne on the site of a smaller one dedicated to St. Mary. The roof of the chancel was raised and the clerestory windows were added about 1460 by Dr. Gilbert Kymer, Dean of Salisbury, 1449-63. His arms are carved on the ends of the choir desks.

"The north chantry was founded by John de Mere in 1324. The chief feature in this chapel is the squint or hagioscope in one of the mullions of the screen: here 'Gerard the Bedeman' used to take his stand to see the proper moment to ring the sacring bell."

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Lloyd for his interesting lecture, and congratulated him upon the restoration of the church. (The church has since been described by Mr. Lloyd in two excellent Guide Books).

Woodlands House.

The Society was met at "Woodlands" by Mr. T. H. BAKER, who kindly described this interesting house. Since the meeting he has sent the following notes for publication :—

"The Woodlands estate came into the possession of the Dodington family about the middle of the XIV Century, by the marriage of Thomas Dodington of Dodington, co. Somerset, with Jane, daughter and heiress of John Guphaye or Gupphey of Mere Woodlands. The exact date of the marriage is not known, but the father of this Thomas Dodington died before 1364, and his grandfather, Philip Dodington, in 1345. Probably Thomas Dodington built the house, as the arms of Dodington (*3 bugle horns sable, stringed gu.*) are inserted in the porch. Christopher Dodington, who died 1584, was a man of importance in his day and one of the leading J.P's. in the county; he married Margaret Francis of Combe Florey, co. Somerset, and as the arms of Dodington impaling Francis with the crest (*a stag lodged to the sinister side argent, in his mouth an acorn or, stalked and leaved vert*) may still be seen on a chimney-piece in a room under the chapel, this is undoubtedly the period when great alterations were made in the structure. The arms of Francis are *argent, a chevron between three annulets gules, pierced of the field.*

"Mr. C. E. Ponting, F.S.A., says 'The manor house (of which only the hall remains) and the chapel appear to have been erected in the latter half of the XIV Century, probably 1370-80, during the period of transition from Decorated to Perpendicular. The work presents the curious mixture of the details of both styles; thus the east window of the chapel has mouldings, which are characteristic of the earlier period with the tracery of the latter fairly fully developed. The window on the north side of the sacrarium has similar mouldings, while the tracery is of an earlier or *flowing* type, but there is no lack of evidence that both are coeval with the rest of the building.

"'The building forming the chapel is of two stories, but as there are no original windows in the lower storey, nor a doorway as early as the walls, I conjecture that it was only constructed for the purpose of raising the chapel to a higher

level than that of the hall, and it appears not to have been otherwise utilized. The chapel proper remains structurally in its original condition, the walls, roof, two square-headed windows on the north, and a pointed one on the east, the doorway opening into it from the hall (as well as the one leading to the chapel) with its *door and hinges*, and the piscina in the south wall of the sacrarium, are all parts of the original building. It has also a coeval outside built-up doorway in the north wall which could only have been approached by external stairs, and there are traces of a west window which were removed to make way for the Elizabethan chimney-piece. The first alteration in the building appears to have been the insertion of two windows and an inside doorway in the walls of the apartment beneath the chapel; this took place about 1530 when the north door of the chapel was doubtless built up and the stairs removed. About the year 1600 the chapel was converted into a living room, and a chimney-stack built against the outside of the wall (as the construction of the masonry shows). A chimney-piece of rich design was put up at the west end of the chapel, and a similar one, bearing the arms of Dodington impaling Francis, in the room beneath; the latter also had the addition of an elaborate plaster ceiling, part of which has been destroyed, over the portion screened off.'

"The Dodingtons held Woodlands till 1705, when the estate was purchased from Stephen Dodington by Sir Matthew Andrews, Knight, who resided there till his death. He died 1711 and was succeeded by his son Henry, who sold the estate in 1753 to Richard Wotton, apothecary, of St. George, Hanover Square, and William Kay of the same place, gent., and in 1756 it was purchased by Thomas Pitt, Earl of Londonderry, from whom it descended to his son, who bequeathed it to his sister Lady Lucy, who married Pierce Meyrick. Lady Lucy died 1802 and Woodlands fell to her daughter, Elizabeth Meyrick who died 1816 unmarried, and being entailed the estate devolved upon her cousin, Owen Lewis Meyrick,

Rector of Holsworthy; he died 1819, and was succeeded by his son, Rev. William Meyrick. From him the estate came to Meyrick Bankes, Esq.,[1] of Winstanley Hall, Wigan. He died 1881, and his representatives still hold the property."