Thursday.

At the time fixed for starting the rain was descending in torrents; the start was consequently delayed. During the wait Mr. SCARTH, whose health would not allow him to venture further on such a day, read his notes on Cadbury and Portbury camps, both, on account of the weather, to be omitted from the day's work.

Cadbury Camp.

There are three Cadburys in Somerset. It was now with the camp of Cadbury over Tickenham that they had to deal. The situation was on a high ridge running parallel with the estuary of the Severn from Clevedon eastward to the river Avon. It commanded a view southward over the valley bounded by the Mendip Hills, terminating in the promontory of Brean Down and the bay of Weston, which lay to the west, with the camp on Worle Hill at the north-east extremity of the bay. On the east, at a distance of ten miles, were the two camps of Bower Walls and Stoke's Leigh on the opposite sides of Nightingale Valley, and a road seemed to have communicated with these. On the north-east was the earthwork over Portbury. On Stoke Leigh Down were two small circular earthworks, and two miles further west were appearances of three inconsiderable circumvallations, which lay on the direct road to the fortress of Cadbury Camp. The name was probably derived from an allusion to war; thus we had Cædmon or Cadmon, meaning war man or warrior. But it had been also thought a corruption of Coed wood, as Cadbury the fort in the wood. Cadbury was in the country of the ancient Belgæ.

The extent of ground within the camp was 7 acres, 1 rood, and 25 poles, and the area was 594 feet by 561 feet. The

inner rampart varied from 16 to 6 feet in height, and the outer one from 10 feet to 6 feet. There were three main entrances, though six might be counted, but three of them were apparently of modern date. The two to the north and west had each a return of the inner rampart to give additional strength, and on the east the entrance was slanting so as to render the defence more easy. The ramparts were composed of earth and stones worked out of the trenches, and put together without order or arrangement. They were very irregular in construction, not being in right lines as in Roman work, but in an irregular circular form. It had been stated that there were about 23,321 cubic yards of earthwork thrown up in making the camp, and supposing a man to throw up four cubic yards in 12 hours, it would take 6,000 men to do it in that time; it had evidently been executed by a race who had some idea of the principles of defence.

Along this same ridge of hill, where it touched the Avon, opposite Clifton, they found the camp of Bower Walls, now unhappily destroyed in preparing plots of ground for newly-built villas. This had three ramparts, and the core of the inner one was composed of concrete formed of run lime and stone. He did not think this had been the case with the rampart of Cadbury, neither were there appearances of dry walling as in the Worle Hill and Dolebury. Roman coins had been found within the camp, and a Roman villa on the level ground below on the way to Clevedon; lately some coins were found in Griffin field, in the Victoria-road. There was a very good plan of this camp in the Archæological Association *Proceedings*, vol. xxxi, 1875.

About half-past eleven the rain abated somewhat, and a fair number started in various conveyances which during the delay had been covered. Cadbury, the first visit marked on the programme being omitted, the first stoppage was at Clapton Court.

Mr. Green said the greater part of the house was new,

some small almost invisible portion being of the old foundation of the time of Edward II, the middle of the 14th century. The screen now outside was the original formerly in the early hall and was the earliest wooden screen in England. It was a pity that it was not in our Museum. Three spherical triangles formerly in the top had disappeared.

The Rev. Fredk. Brown, f.s.a., contributed the following notice (read by the Hon. Sec.) on

The Two Ladies of Nash.

In the *Life of Bishop Ken*, by a Layman, the author mentions that from time to time, especially at Christmas, the Bishop retired from the gaieties of Longleat, from "the noise and hurry of the world," to Nash House, where dwelt two maiden ladies who reverenced him for his piety and who sympathised with the non juring clergy. The author knew nothing of these ladies and regrets that a more detailed account of them was not to be found. They were the two Misses Kemeys, Mary and Anne, daughters of Sir Charles Kemeys, second baronet, of Cefn Mably, Glamorganshire, who died in 1658.

These two ladies are often mentioned in his letters by Bishop Ken, who called their house "a kind of nunnery where I usually abide during my Lord Weymouth's absence," and as having a better title to the name of a religious house than those places usually so called. Both ladies died in 1708 and were buried in the Kemeys Chapel in Michaelstone y Vedw, Monmouthshire. A tablet there, erected to their memory, reads—

Mary, Ann, Kemeys, sisters who both chose
The better part, wise Virgins, Here repose,
Mary first crowned, Anne Languished till possessed
Of ye same Grave, of ye same Mansion blest.

Mary	55		October 5th	
	Aged	Dyed		1708
Anne	51		December	

By their Freind.

Who this "Freind" was must remain unknown probably, but a fair guess may be made that it was Bishop Ken.

Mary, by her will, Dec. 11, 1701, gave all her mansion of Nash and lands in Clapton and Wraxall which she had purchased of Edward Gorges, Esq., and other property, to her sister Anne. Anne, by her will, Nov. 8, 1708, after desiring to be buried with her sister, made many bequests. "To my honoured and respected friend, Dr. Ken, £100, which I humbly entreat him to accept as a small token of the great duty and affection which my sister and I bore to him." Again "to my much honoured the late deprived Bishop of Bath and Wells, £200, to be distributed by him among the deprived and non jurant clergy." Again, after all legacies were paid, £100 more were left to the bishop and £100 more amongst the deprived clergy.

These ladies became so well known that Mrs. Mary Morgan of St. Georges, by her will, March 14th, 1699, bequeathed them rings of the value of twenty shillings each, under the names of "The two Ladyes of Nash."

Sir Charles, third baronet, a brother of these ladies, died in 1702, and by his will, proved 5th May, 1703, he provided that if his son Charles died without issue his manors should descend to his daughter Jane. This Charles, the fourth baronet, died unmarried, 29th June, 1735, and the estates then passed in accordance with the will to his sister Jane, who, by her marriage with Sir John Tynte, Bart., in Clapton Church, on the 25th Dec., 1704, carried the property into that family.

Bishop Ken was in no way connected with the Kenns of Kenn; the idea is "a fond thing vainly invented." I have the whole history of this family through their wills, and have thus married and buried almost all of them. The two families were entirely distinct. The Kenns of Kenn invariably spell their name with the double *n*; the family of the Bishop always with only one.

Mr. GREEN then gave a short notice of another matter, a dispute on the question of tithes to which Miss Mary Kemeys

was a party, not without interest as giving us an insight into parish life at the time. As Miss Kemeys refused to pay the demands made upon her the rector brought his action and a Commission sent down from London took the depositions of many witnesses at Fayland's Inn, Wraxall, on the 15th April, 1696. Several interrogatories were put on both sides, but, reduced for the present purpose, there were really but two, viz.:

1. Do out-dwellers renting land in Clapton, pay their tithes in kind, or, is there a modus or composition for them?

2. Doth the messuage or mansion house inhabited by Mary Kemeys stand in Clapton or in Wraxall?

Miss Kemeys had lived now about three years at Nash. In Wraxall she owned but thirty acres, and in Clapton one hundred and thirty-nine, a portion of which was arable; all, with the exception of two small pieces was in hand and farmed by a bailiff. There were fifty-seven acres of meadow in Clapton; about thirty acres worth fifteen shillings an acre, fourteen or thereabouts were worth seventeen shillings an acre "before they were ploughed," and ten others were worth about eighteen shillings an acre.

The witnesses called for the rector said that the manner of paying tithes by out-dwellers was for corn, grain, apples and fruit in kind, and a shilling an acre per annum for meadow land. The in-dwellers paid two pence per acre for meadow, two pence for a milch cow, a penny half penny for a heifer, and for all others as corn, grain, apples and fruit, as also for calves, wool, lambs, and pigs, they paid in kind. The question of the difference between out-dwellers and in-dwellers had often been discussed, and the payment of twelve pence for meadow was "scrupled at by some." One witness called for the rector said that he had lived in his own house in Portbury, within ten yards of Clapton, and had paid the shilling per annum for meadow rented in Clapton, but he considered that he paid "above the rate."

The great house, it was stated, stood in Wraxall; the little

house, called the dairy house, was in Clapton, but the defendant was taken to be of Wraxall. She often went to Wraxall church, had built a pew there and had buried Mr. Kemeys her uncle there. Her sister who lived with her was rated for her personal estate as an inhabitant of Wraxall. Edward Gorges, Esq., aged 60, who had dwelt at Nash and who had sold it as a trustee of Henry Winter, in giving his evidence said it was in Wraxall; and Wm. Winter of Wraxall, gent., said it was always so reputed in his father's lifetime.

The collector of the King's tax stated that the mansion house stood in a piece of ground called Nash's; he had rated the defendant and her sister "or both or one of them," as inhabiting Wraxall, but they had refused to pay and he had distrained and taken some goods; the money was afterwards paid by Mistress Kemeys, or Mr. Lewis Kemeys, or one of them, and he had then returned the goods seized. The defendant and her servants had always "paid for their polls" in Wraxall, and she had paid there for a fifth part of a militia horse in 1694. For some eight or ten years past, since the office of churchwarden and overseer had become burthensome "by reason of the few men to serve," some one had been paid from the rates for those duties, but out-dwellers and in-dwellers for such purposes were rated alike and contributed only according to their holding.

In answer to the interrogatories put for the defendant Miss Kemeys, one witness stated that in Clevedon and Kingston Seymour the payment for meadow tithes was a penny an acre for inhabitants and four pence an acre for out-dwellers. Others deposed that they knew the messuage or farm called Nash and that Mr. Henry Winter had lived there, but sometimes he lived at Clapton Court. About five or six and thirty years ago he had pulled down the old house and built the present one; both houses were wholly in Wraxall, but the ancient house called the Dairy, with the barn and two little houses belonging were in Clapton. Some of Mr. Winter's

servants lodged in the dairy house as did some then, and one Mr. Kemeys, a relation of the defendant's, had lived and died there. There was only a backside or yard of about twenty yards between them and Nash. They were never separate from Nash except for a time when Mr. Winter's widow rented Nash of the trustees, and when one Mr. Burges, a minister, with his family "taught school there for about a year." The cattle used in ploughing were kept in Clapton, but calved sometimes in Clapton and sometimes in Wraxall. Mr. Winter whilst he lived at Nash was always reputed to be of Clapton "for that he generally went to that church"; he had always "so owned and writt himself," and had paid his tithes of corn, lambs and pigs as other inhabitants, but how he paid for his meadow and pasture they "knew not." It was never "esteemed" or taken that Mr. Winter ought to pay as an out-dweller. The custom was in Clapton to pay one penny per acre for meadow above the Yeo and two pence per acre for meadow below the Yeo; they never knew of any difference although complainant had claimed extra from out-dwellers. One witness living in Portbury had paid the demand to "keep peace;" another an in-dweller had paid two pence for all his meadow both above and below "because the complainant had demanded it, and it was not worth his while to contest it." On behalf of Miss Kemeys it was deposed that she had offered an account, as sent in by her bailiff, with payment of one penny and two pence per acre for her meadow according to the custom for in-dwellers, but the rector refused to take it or "to make an Easter book." Her tithes in corn and grain had always been "set out," and these had been taken. She had also "set out" her tithes of wool and gave due notice, and had "kept it in her hands for several years, and when the same was decayed by long keeping and moths, she had sold it and weighed out the like quantity of new wool and kept the same for above a year"; she had also sent a pig and one witness said two pigs, but the complainant declined to accept them,

declaring that he would have agistments and would not not take this tithe in kind.

It was clear enough from this evidence that a resident in Nash was an out-dweller, and that out-dwellers paid a higher tithe. No decree relating to or following this enquiry has been found: possibly Miss Kemeys was advised that further proceedings would be useless.

The Rev. C. Wood, the Rector, then called attention to some curious and rare paintings—portraits on wall panels—representing his own ancestors. They were stated to belong to the time of Queen Anne, when it was a decorative fashion borrowed, it was supposed, from Holland. Mr. Wood also exhibited two supposed pre-Reformation altar candlesticks, but the President declared them to be of the time of Archbishop Laud, and made under his "Orders." They evidently fitted the Early English bosses at the east end of the church.

The church was under "restoration."

The Architect, Mr. Barnes, of Bristol, said the earliest part of the building was the tower; he believed the jambs in the tower arch were insertions, some of the stones being evidently upside down. He drew attention to a window in the north wall, discovered during his present work.

Mr. Green pointed out the bench ends, the earliest in England; they were not handsome, but he hoped that they would not be "restored" out of sight.

Mr. Wood said they would be retained; they were too precious to be cast away, although they were apparently made before saws and planes were known. He had noticed the singular, unusual termination of the chamfer; this being the same as on the stone doorway in the porch, and also the doorway leading to the rood-loft, both now for the first time exposed to view. By this he had determined their date as the time of the enlargement of the building—about 1442. The re-consecrating cross over the hagioscope would also remain.

The Wynter monument, with effigies, temp. Charles II, was examined.

Mr. SCARTH kindly sent the following note on the sanctus bell, which hangs in a cot between the nave and the chancel, and which he thought ought not to be passed without remark. This bell, says Mr. Ellacombe, in his *Church Bells of Somerset*, p. 39, being pre-Reformation, is probably unique. Around the sound bow it bears for legend—

SIGNIS CESSANDIS ET SERVIS CLAMO CIBANDIS.

This legend has led to much correspondence.[72] The translation may read: *Signis cessandis* (When the great bells stop), *et servis cibandis* (and when the servants take their meal), *clamo* (I sound). As this bell was used probably only at the elevation of the host, it was to this food to which the legend alludes. Signa was the word for great bell, and perhaps if the other bells also remained, some similar or rhyming legend would be found on one of them. A great bell called servants and workers in the fields to their noontide meal—the bread and butter bell, bread and cheese bell, or some equivalent, as it is called on the continent.

The party now proceeded to Portbury, where luncheon was served in the schoolroom.

The PRESIDENT having thanked Mr. Tyler, the Vicar, for his kind attention and arrangements,

Mr. GREEN gave the history of

Portbury Priory.

This was a grange or cell belonging to the priory of Bremmer, in Hampshire; a priory of Austin or Black Canons, a fraternity introduced into England by Henry I, soon after the year 1105.

In 1243, on the death of Baldwin de Ripariis (Rivers),

(72). See *Notes and Queries*, 1st series, vol. x. pp. 332, 434; vol. xi. p. 150. It is also noticed in Mr. Ellacombe's *Bells of the Church*, p. 263; and a further account of it will be found in the *Journal of the Archæological Association* for 1875, p. 225.

Earl of Devon, he was found possessed or seised of the manor of Breummora and the manor of Portbury.[73] After him Portbury is found held in common, in equal shares, by Isabelle and her brother, Baldwin. In 1268, the King, always jealous and watchful in matters relating to the land, and perhaps in this case, as will be seen, not without a personal interest, summoned the Prior of Brommore to Winchester, to show his title to certain lands named, when with him came also Isabelle de Fortibus, Countess of Albemarle and Devon, and her brother Baldwin de Insula,[74] and she then acknowledged that she had given, and there and then confirmed the gift, to the said Prior, besides several manors and other lands in Hampshire, of twenty librates of land with belongings in Portbury.[75] A librate was a sufficient quantity to produce one pound per annum; the word was used when the acreage was not known, or perhaps sometimes when it was desired not to state it; twenty librates were here half the manor.[76] On the death of Baldwin de Insula (Lisle), Earl of Devon, his half of Portbury fell to the King, and it was declared worth £20 per annum.[77] Here the value only is again directly stated as in early writings generally, the acreage was not considered, hence it is always difficult to determine it.

An entry in the *Red Book of the Exchequer*, of a rather earlier date than the above, shows the connection of Isabelle with Hampshire, as she is there called Isabelle de Fortibus de Insula Vecta. By this, too, it is seen that the island from which her brother Baldwin got his name, was the Isle of Wight. On the death of Henry III, Edward I, his successor, found that during Henry's long absence abroad the tenants of the Crown had been alienating properties and withholding other dues; they had, too, in many cases claimed the profits from

(73). *Inq. P.M.*, 29th Henry III, No. 47.
(74). *Placita Abbreviati*, p. 172.
(75). *P. Coram Rege*, 52nd Henry III, No. 136, Roll 1.
(76). *Testa de Neville*, p. 171.
(77). *Miscellaneous Books, Q.R.*, vol. v. fol. 751.

markets and fairs, and then oppressed the people by exacting heavy tolls and rents. By patent, 11th October, in the second year of his reign, Edward ordered an enquiry in every hundred, and the evidences returned are now known as the *Hundred Rolls.* It was found that the Prior of Brymmer took wreckage and made other claims in Portbury, but by what warrant the jury knew not—that is, he had no warrant.[78]

The next step was a commission, known as Quo Warranto, to learn by what authority these claims were made. At a Court held at Somerton, 8th Edward I, the Prior of Brummore was summoned to answer how or by what warrant he claimed wreckage, waifs and strays on his land, without a license from the king; but "he came not, and otherwise made default," whereupon the sheriff was ordered to take these liberties or privileges into his hands, and hold them for the king.[79] In 1291, the Prior of Brommore was estimated to have nine marks or £6 from Portbury.[80]

The King granted his half of the manor of Portbury to Maurice Berkley; and in 1345, Maurice de Berkley had a knight's fee as owner of the hundred, and half a knight's fee in Portbury, valued together at 60s.; and the Prior of Brommore had half a fee in Portbury, valued at 20s.[81] In 1397, on the death of William de Monte Acuto, Earl of Sarum, amongst the large number of fees belonging to him, was a fee in Portbury, half due from Thomas de Berkley and half from the Prior of Bremmore, held under the manor of Shepton Montague, and valued at 50s.[82] Thus the value or rental gained from it is seen to have been increased from 40s. to 50s.

A continued quiet possession for over a century must now be supposed, as no other special record is found. With a

(78). *Hundred Rolls*, p. 130, 4th Edward I.

(79). *Placita Quo Warranto*, p. 698, 8th Edward I. *Assize Rolls*, M$\frac{5}{14}$, 1, Roll 65 *d.*

(80). *Taxatio Ecclesiastica.*

(81). *Exchequer, Q.R., Miscellaneous Books*, vol. iii. p. 254, 20th Edward III.

(82). *Inquisition, Post Mortem*, 20th Richard II, No. 35, Mem. 6 *a.*

lifeless life around them these institutions gathered their harvest; with poverty and wretchedness, oftentimes actual famine without, the cloister alone offered wealth and power, comfort, certainty, and ease—all that wealth can bring. The retribution came, and sharply. An Act of Parliament, passed in 1536, decreed the "abolucion" of this system, which it declared with its "pompe, glory, avarice, ambition, and tyranny uppon the bodyes and goodes of all Christen people," had "spoyled this realme yerely of ynnumerable treasure," so that "being overweried and fatygated with thexperience of its infynite abhomynacions and myschiefs," it should be "extinguysshed." The dissolution of Portbury followed, in the same year. On the 9th November the survey showed the advowson, which belonged to the Austin Abbey in Bristol, with the (priory) manor part of the Priory of Brymmer, as worth in rents £9 10s. 3½d.; the Manor Farm, £5; perquisites of Court, £2.[83]

These were then granted to Henry, Marquis of Exeter, and Gertrude his wife, to be held by military service.[84] But the Marquis being attainted in 1539, and losing his life for correspondence with Cardinal Pole,[85] Portbury reverted to the Crown; the advowson was then given as part of the endowment for the new bishopric of Bristol.[86] The Priory Grange, with belongings, and thirty-five acres of wood, passed by payment of £64 19s., to Robert Goodwyn.[87] The Grange or Priory was valued at £15 5s. 3½d.; the rents of assize in this amount being £9 11s. 11½d. The wood, from which the farmer had the right to "hedgebote, fyerbote, ploughbote, and cartebote," that is, sufficient allowance for repairs and general use, was valued at 17s. 4d. In the wood were one hundred short, shrubbed oak "pollyngs" of forty years' growth, valued, at

(83). *Augmentation Office*, Roll 31, Henry VIII, *Ministers' Accounts.*

(84). *Pat. Roll*, 28th Henry VIII, part 1, Mem. 26.

(85). *Statutes*, 31st Henry VIII.

(86). *Augmentation Office, Miscellaneous Books*, vol. ccclxxxii. p. 13.

(87). *Patent Rolls*, 34th Henry VIII, part 12.

two pence each, at 16s. 8d. The "sprynge" of the wood and wastes, and other sundries, were put down at 100s.[88]

This manor of Portbury Priors passed with the marriage of Margaret Goodwyn to the Wakes of Clevedon, and so to Digby, Earl of Bristol, in 1630. With his other property, it was sequestrated and sold for his adherence to Charles I. On the 27th July, 1652, the commissioners for sale of these lands assigned it to Lady Brooke, with the names of Hugh Hodges, Thos. Chafe, and Wm. Sansom, and with it a messuage and land called Goat Hill Farm, whose locality is not defined.[89]

It will be seen from this account of the Priory that the Berkeleys, to whom its foundation has hitherto been attributed, had really nothing whatever to do with it.

But the other half of the manor of Portbury which was granted with the hundred of Portbury to Maurice Berkley after the death of Baldwin de Insula, remained in the family for some time.[90] Maurice died in 1281, possessed of the hundred and of half the manor.[91]

In 1336, Thomas de Berkley founded the Chantry of the Blessed Mary in Portbury, and received a license to give a messuage and forty acres of meadow land, and forty shillings rents in Portbury, for a priest to celebrate therein daily, for the good of his own soul and of the souls of all his ancestors and posterity.[92]

In 1344, on the death of Thomas, the Prior of St. John of Jesusalem appears in the inquisition as part owner with him,[93] but in what way is not clear; whatever the intention, this gentle hold was not sustained. In 1348, Maurice Berkley received a grant for a market at Portbury.[94] The Berkley

(88). *Particulars for Grants*, 34th Henry VIII.
(89). *Royalist Composition Papers*, 1st series, vol. x. fol. 559.
(90). *Charter Rolls*, 8th Edward I, part 1, Mem. 11.
(91). *Inq. P.M.*, 9th Edward I, No. 27.
(92). *Patent Rolls*, 11th Edward III, part 1, Mem. 31.
(93). *Inq. P.M.*, 18th Edward III.
(94). *Charter Rolls*, 22nd Edward III, part 1, Mem. 19.

line ended in 1417 with Sir Thomas, who died on the 13th July,[95] leaving an only daughter Elizabeth, married to Richard de Bellocampo (Beauchamp) Earl of Warwick, who died in 1439.[96]

At the Dissolution, the chantry or free chapel, within the church, was granted to John Aylworth. It was found to be endowed with rents from a toft called a "Roveles thing"; a close of land of three acres, called the Orchard, and three other acres, valued at	4s.
A messuage and an acre of land at Dikelake ...	12s.
Rents and messuages in Hamgrene, with all other belongings	6s.
Rent from five acres of pasture	5s.
Total[97] ...	27s.

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* this property was returned as worth 37s., less tenths 3s. 8½d., leaving clear, 33s. 3½d. The chaplain received a pension of £2 13s. 4d. per annum.[98]

The above name, "Roveles thing," must mean a roofless thing, as by the kindness of the Rev. Fredk. Brown, will be seen in the following extract from the will, dated 1567, of Thomas Morgan, of Failand, in Wraxall, gentleman, and who was buried in Portbury church, in 1572. He leaves to Edmund Morgan, his eldest son, the house at Failande, called Medes Court; the ground called Colonel Tucker's, and Sennars' Court, with another "roufles bargain," held of Sir George Norton, in Portbury. To his third son, William, he left his house in Portbury, with another "roufles tenement," lying in the cross tithing called Bullibroke's More, and another bargain in the tithing of Caswell, called Bulkey.

There was here also the free chapel of St. Katherine,[99]

(95). *Inq. P.M.*, 5th Henry V, No. 50.
(96). *Inq. P.M.*, 17th Henry VI, No. 54.
(97). *Particulars for Grants*, 2nd Edward VI.
(98). Willis's *History of Abbies.*
(99). *Close Roll*, 19th Edward III, Mem. 28 *d.*

founded by Thomas Berkley, and which was probably close to or in Pill, as near the hamlet of Ham Green there is a piece of land called Chapel Pill. At the dissolution it was found that there was no land belonging, but that there were some endowments in Bristol for "obits and trentalles." The rent of the chapel and the parcel of land belonging, called a stiche, was valued at 16d. A stiche was a west country word for a small enclosure; in this case it was "a rod of land on which the chapel stood." There were in the chapel two chalices, weighing 18½ ozs.; ornaments, praysed at 2s. 5d.; lead, three fooder—about three tons (a fother of lead is 19 cwt.); and bell metal from two bells, ½ cwt.[100] The chapel, with the lead and bell metal, was granted to George Payne of Hutton, gentleman; the Bristol land to Richard Roberts.[101]

Except through some mention in a will or deed, there is no record, as would be the case with us, as to when the Priory buildings were first raised. Possibly some traces of early character might be discovered, but visibly the architectural style of the present ruins would seem to be of the fifteenth century, that century of prosperity when so much similar work was done in Somerset. It would thus have been comparatively recent at the time of the Dissolution.

Leaving the Priory, a short walk brought the party to the church, where the Rev. Edward O. Tyler read some notes on the

Church and Churchyard.

We can hardly pass through this venerable churchyard without noticing the two fine old yew trees, which show an unusual quantity of timber. The larger of the two measures 19 feet in girth 7 feet from the ground, and is nearly as high as the church tower. They are supposed to be about 500 years old.

Many of our country churches have been built or had additions made to them at different periods, and so, like this

(100). *Chantry Certificates*, Somerset, 42, No. 116.

(101). *Particulars for Grants*, 3rd Edward VI, section 2.

one, have details about them of various styles of architecture.

In the porch we have a fine specimen of Norman work, very perfect. The niche above clearly had a figure in it; probably that of the Virgin, to whom the church is dedicated.

Before the Reformation, considerable portions of the marriage and baptismal services, and also much of that relating to the churching of women, were performed in it, as shown in the rubric of the service book according to the use of Sarum. There is a priest's room or parvise over the porch in very fair preservation, the doorway to it being within the church.

The south aisle was restored in 1875, and is now fitted up and used for our services in Advent and Lent, saints' days, and children's services. The roof is an exact copy of the old one; the walls were scraped and pointed as now seen. By the door are the remains of the old stoup for holy water. The windows are Perpendicular, of the 15th or 16th century. At the east end is a sedilia with three seats, a piscina, and credence shelf. This part of the aisle was often separated from the rest of the church by a screen, similar to that between the chancel and nave, and thus formed into a private chapel or chantry.

It was anciently the custom for lords of manors and persons of wealth to build small chapels or side aisles to their parish churches, and these were endowed with lands sufficient for the maintenance of one or more priests, who were to celebrate mass at the altar erected therein to some favourite saint for the souls of the founder, and for whose remains these chantry chapels served as a burial place. At this service no congregation was required to be present, but merely the priest and an acolyte to assist him. In the reign of Edward III, Thomas, Lord Berkeley, gave certain lands in this parish to the Vicar for this purpose. Lady Eve Berkeley, wife of the 3rd Lord Berkeley, with many of the same family, were buried in this church.

Some allege that a second altar in a parish church is illegal:

whether it be so or not, I will leave others to decide; all I can say is, we have our Bishop's permission for placing it here, and it would be unseemly to conduct a saint's day morning service without one, and the manner in which this aisle is fitted does away with any objection that could be urged against it. The oak seats are very old, and were removed here from the lower part of the nave at the time of the restoration.

The nave was restored in 1871 in perfect keeping with the original. Including the aisles, it is a square of 64 feet. The whole building is totally void of any ornamental work. The arches are very plain; the mouldings run from the base of the pier all round, without any capital. Those on the south side are very much out of the perpendicular; whether they were originally built so or not seems to be a matter of dispute; they show no signs of giving way at the base, and the tie beams kept them secure at the top.

The font is Norman, very plain; it was removed from the west end to its present place in 1875. The shaft was lengthened, and the step or stone platform was added.

The chancel arch shows the transition style from the Norman to the Early English. In the restoration of this arch there was some deviation from the original: the shafts on the south side were much shorter, and although at the time I was an advocate for the alteration I have regretted it ever since. Doubtless there was a rood-loft, as the place in the wall over the pulpit shows. Underneath it was an oak screen, but as this did not fit the arch after the restoration and there being no funds for enlarging it, it was removed to the tower arch, where it now stands. The chancel is the property of the ecclesiastical commissioners, and was restored by them at the same time as the nave, 1871. Here again we have a different style to the nave. The windows belong to an earlier period—the Decorated. On the north side there is a pretty little triple lancet window, and the tracery of the window over the sedilia is very perfect and good.

The sedilia, piscina, and credence shelf, far surpass those generally met with in country churches.

The brackets on the walls are preserved; on these, lamps or lights were formerly placed and kept burning in honour of some saint.

In restoring this part of the church the walls were found painted with different designs and figures of saints, but these were too much mutilated to make anything of them.

The vestry room or that which is now used for it, was, I have been told, called the Holy Sepulchre, where at Easter certain rites commemorative of our Lord, were anciently performed with great solemnity. On Good Friday the crucifix and host and altar furniture were deposited here, and watched the following day and nights, and early on Easter morning they were removed with great ceremony and replaced on the altar by the priest. In some churchwardens' accounts of the 15th and 16th centuries, notices of payments are made for watching the sepulchre at Easter.

The north aisle is a fair specimen of what the church was previous to the restorations of 1871 and 1875. The windows are of the debased English style. One peculiar feature of this church is the stone sitting all the way round it.

We have also the poor man's box, *i.e.*, a strong chest with three locks, and a hole in the lid. This was ordered to be set up and fastened near the high altar, for alms and fines, out of which the poor were maintained. In the reign of Elizabeth there was a canon (1571) that if any child ten years old did not know the Catechism, his or her parents should put ten shillings into the poor box.

The brass on the wall by the north door is erected to Sarah, wife of Walter Kemish, and family; date, 1621. There are no monuments of any family remaining, and the only other memorial of note is the arms of Berkeley on one of the windows in the north aisle.

The oldest gravestone in or about the church, with any date,

is that of W. Godwin, of Wookham (a farm in this parish), buried 1584, aged 95. The cup in use every Sunday is over 300 years old, bearing date 1575.

Mr. Sloper suggested that the singular slanting wall and hagioscope which had been enlarged into a doorway, were so made to give an approach to the sepulchre without entering the chancel.

Mr. Green said that in a survey of the time of Edward VI, the vicarage was returned as worth £12, and the "partakers of the Lord's Holy Sooper 300 persons."

Portbury Camp, just above the Priory, was omitted, but Mr. Scarth said there had once been a fort there which originally protected the entrance to the river. There was a single ditch and a vallum running round it which could be distinctly traced though broken through and defaced in many parts. It was an irregular earthwork, not so well formed as Cadbury, but was no doubt sufficiently strong for the simple defence needed. He thought it was occupied by the Romans, but it was doubtful whether the Romans constructed it at first. It did not look like their work.

A drive was made direct for Portishead Church, where Mr. Green pointed out its various styles of architecture.

Dr. Lionel Weatherly then called attention to the porch, where there was another example of the steps or stairs in the wall once leading to a gallery, now gone. The niche formerly above it had been removed into the left wall of the porch when the wall over the doorway was drawn to form the small organ loft. He also drew attention to the east window, the stone pulpit, and to the Norman font, now disused, which had formerly been buried in a garden.

The Manor House was then viewed from the outside, Mr. Green explaining that it was of the time of Henry VIII, the towers probably Elizabethan. He did not bring them there to find anything worth copying, none of these old things were so, but a knowledge of them enabled us to realise the

habits of our ancestors, and also to realise how uncomfortable they must often have been. As the party left, Mr. Green mentioned the important position of Portishead in the river defence of Bristol. During the Civil War there was a fort here which was held for the King but which was taken by the Clubmen for the Parliament in August, 1645. A little before this, about the middle of July, a rather curious incident occurred, when 600 Irish landed to act for the King. This attempt of the King to bring in such aid did not suit the English of either party, so Royalists and Roundheads rose united against them, drove them off and compelled them to get away by Pill. It was resolved that no others should land again, a resolution which could be kept as after the fall of the fort Kingroad was guarded by five or six ships, several of the King's transports on their way to Bristol being taken by these unexpected visitors.

Portishead Quarries.

On account of the rain these were not visited ; but, speaking at Portbury, sheltered by the Priory roof, the

Rev. H. H. Winwood said that in obedience to the request of their Secretary he had put a few notes together on the geology of the district through which the Members had lately passed, with especial reference to the Portishead quarries. He had hoped to have taken the Members to the quarries themselves, but the extremely unfavourable state of the weather prevented this, and he thought they would prefer remaining where they were at present under shelter, whilst he briefly described the general physical features of the country around. Having spoken of the Coal basin of Gloucester and Somerset and described its form and boundaries, he said they must not expect to find true coal beds spread throughout the whole of this basin, for owing to the irregularities of the surface and the crumplings which the crust of the earth had gone through since the deposition of these beds, the coal only lies in certain depressions or troughs. It was then on the

westerly rim of one of these, the Clapton in Gordano trough, that they were standing. Describing this ridge as extending in a N.E. and S.W. direction from Battery point at Portishead to Clevedon, a distance of about six miles in a bee line, it would be found on looking at the geological map before them that the Mountain Limestone beds assume the form of the letter V, with the sharp base turned toward the S.W. The features of this ridge were very similar to those of the Mendip Hills—a saddle back of Old Red Sandstone runs from one end to the other, terminating in Leedy or Lady Bay. From this back bone the Carboniferous Limestone dips away towards the centre of the trough in an E. and S.E. direction. The New Red Marl and Alluvium form the low lying grounds, with a patch of Coal beds proper occuring here and there, but not of sufficient commercial value to pay for the working, being so much disturbed, tilted up and dislocated. A boring had been made near Clapton Farm (no doubt well known to their President), with the details of the section however he would not trouble them. Two small patches of these measures may be seen at the most N.E. point dipping towards the Channel and probably extending beneath it, thus connecting this basin with the much larger basin of S. Wales on the opposite side. Fringing and overlapping the Old Red Sandstone all along its western margin, and likewise the Carboniferous Limestone on the east is an old beach deposit of the Keuper age, called the Dolomitic Conglomerate. Rarely exceeding 30 feet in thickness, it varies in texture, composed in some places of very coarse fragments of the older rocks on which it rests, in others passing into a fine grained rock, making good building stone as at Clevedon, where it forms the so-called Magnesian Limestone. Having made some further remarks on the divisions of the Old Red Sandstone, with especial allusion to the section on the beach, from which within the last few days whilst preparing these notes with his son, the latter had been fortunate enough to find a portion of Holoptychius bone; he

concluded by reminding the Members that the map hung up to illustrate these notes was made by the late Mr. Saunders, who worked at it for many years with masterly skill and indomitable energy. The first geological map of the district it had remained ever since correct in its main outlines, notwithstanding the labours of numerous geologists who have since worked over the same ground. Of this eminent geologist they might well feel proud.

The last visit marked on the programme was Weston in Gordano. In the porch is another of the galleries already noted in other churches, but this the most interesting as the original actually exists *in situ*, although like the others evidently erected after the door was built, as it cuts off the top of the arch. In the church Mr. GREEN observed that the door to the rood loft still remained, and he called attention to the curious low stone pulpit in the south wall or angle of the tower.

The Perceval monument and the ironwork round it were critically examined, the latter being good although modern. This monument is remarkable for the late French inscription which it bears. This reads:—

Cy. gyste. le. corps. de. Rychарde. Percybale.
le. quel. morut. l'an. de. boinet. Jesus. mcccclxxxiii.
Dieu. ay pitie. de. son. ame.

Mr. GREEN mentioned that Rutter records two visits here of Charles II, but he gave no authority, nor could he find any, for the statement. The King being at Bath with the Queen in 1663, visited Bristol, but returned to Bath the same day.

The PRESIDENT, standing in the porch, said they had now come to the end of their meeting. He was sorry the weather that day had been so very unfavourable, for otherwise they would have had a very pleasant excursion. Under the circumstances, they had got on uncommonly well.

Bishop CLIFFORD proposed a vote of thanks to the Pre-

sident for the manner in which he had presided and conducted the excursions, and this having been heartily accorded,

The PRESIDENT briefly responded, expressing the pleasure it had given him to take part in their meetings, and referring to the great assistance which had been rendered him by Mr. Green.

Mr. GREEN then proposed a vote of thanks to the Local Committee, coupled with the names of Messrs. Braikenridge and Ford, who responded merrily, both speaking at the same time.

"The Ladies" were next honoured, the PRESIDENT, "as a bachelor for the day," responding; the party, all well pleased, then drove to Clevedon, which was reached about six o'clock.

Hidall Chantry in Clevedon.

This Chantry is mentioned as early as 25th Ed. I, 1297. (Close Rolls, 25th Ed. I, Mem. 22 dors, line 26, *b.*) It was dedicated to St. Nicholas and was in the gift of the Clevedons. (Wells Registers.)

Note. The autographs attached to the *fac-simile*, p. 35, part ii., are—

Thomas Poulet	George Speke	Jo Stawell
Morris Barkeley	Henry Portman	Georg Norton
John Wadham	Chrystoffer Kenne	Humfry Walrond
George Sydenham	Edward Popham	John Bret
Thomas Payne	John Colles	Willm Bowerman
John Sydenham		John Kaynes
Wyllyam Hyll		