

Thursday's Excursion.

Favoured by glorious weather, the Members started in due time. Passing by an ancient-looking road, called the Drift road, the first halt was made at

Leigh House.

The architectural features of the house were explained by Mr. DAVIS. He said he believed the house to have been built in 1611, which was the date on the lead pipe, and that would agree with the appearance of the house. The front is in the shape of the letter E, which people ascribed as being in compliment to Queen Elizabeth, but it was simply to make the house comfortable. There were distinct traces of the windows having been lowered, to make them more comfortable.

Mr. GREEN said the house having the front in the shape of an E showed it was Elizabethan as distinct from the flat surfaces in the reign of James I. As to the date on the spout it had nothing to do with the architecture which was as distinctly Elizabethan as a thing could be and certainly twenty or thirty years before that date.

Mr. DAVIS rejoined that the letter E plan of the front was retained to the time of Queen Anne.

Mr. GREEN replied that it may be so and was so still, but it was not characteristic of Queen Anne style.

The HON. SEC. then suggested that the company would see

all that as a Society they wished to see by stepping into the Hall, as he did not wish to trespass on Col. Henley's privacy; he thought they would be well gratified, for the house was a very charming example of its class. Col. Henley, however, invited a general inspection, and further kindly conducted the party personally. Thanks being duly returned for this kind courtesy, the carriages were sought, and a short drive brought the party to

Ford Abbey.

Mr. FERREY, speaking on the lawn, said it was a very interesting example of the remains of an abbey of the Cistercian order. It was founded about 1148, and was dedicated to St. Mary. There was another interesting Abbey of the same order in the county of Somerset, the excavations of which had much progressed lately, that of St. Mary, Old Cleeve. The Cistercian monks generally took up a position in valleys, in contradistinction to the Benedictines, who had the sites of their buildings on hills. Whitby Abbey was a good example of the latter; but that was not always so, as Westminster Abbey was situated almost in a marsh. There were no remains of the church at Ford, which, owing to the peculiarities of the site, stood on the south side of the cloisters instead of the north side. Usually the cloisters were on the sunny side. The only portion of the cloisters which now remained was the north walk. The building now used as a chapel on the east side was formerly the Chapter House, and this differed from the general Chapter Houses of the Cistercians in not being in three aisles. There was a similar exception at St. Mary, Old Cleeve, which had no aisles. Also, in consequence of the cloisters being on the north of the church, there were several deviations from the customary Cistercian rule. The refectory, ordinarily speaking, would be on the south side of the cloisters with its axis at right angles to the church, but it was not always so. To the north of the Chapter House were the very interesting rooms of the dormitory, which was

originally lighted by small windows on each side, the local name for that portion of the building being the Monks' Walk. This was the usual arrangement in Cistercian monasteries, and was still the arrangement abroad, all the dormitories being in one large room. The dormitories were not of the same date as the Chapter House: at the north end were two beautiful windows, almost transitional between the Early English and the Decorated periods. The north walk of the cloisters was a very beautiful example of Perpendicular work. The date was 1498. Speaking of another mediæval order, he might say that there were very few remains of Carthusian monasteries in this country, compared with what there were on the Continent. Almost the only one in England was the celebrated one which he had the pleasure of viewing some years ago, that of Mountgrace, near Northallerton. There the cloisters were of a larger size than they would be in the buildings of other monasteries, because every monk had his own separate dwelling, with his own separate bedroom and sitting-room. Another example of the same sort was at the Certosa near Pavia. Comparing again the plans of the Cistercian buildings with those of the Benedictine, the latter were much grander, as in the early period of the Cistercians their rules were very severe.

Dr. PRING, remarking that as a description of the general architectural details of the Abbey had been undertaken by another, he would confine his remarks to those parts of the fabric with which he was most conversant, and which were the work of Thomas Chard, D.D., Suffragan Bishop, and the last Abbot, a memoir of whom he had published in a somewhat extended form, in 1864. Not only does Ford stand out *facile princeps* amongst the five Cistercian Abbeys of Devon, but we are told by Mr. Brooking Rowe, who has treated ably of each of these religious houses in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, "That no Cistercian building in England, perhaps none in the world, remains in so perfect a state as that of

Ford.”³ In surveying the south front, one of the most striking features is the cloister, or that part which formed the north walk of the cloister—the remaining portions having been destroyed. The fine Perpendicular work here observable is that of the Abbot Chard. It will be seen that the mullions and tracery of the windows are beautifully designed, and that over them is a frieze of stone-work, with shields of various benefactors. The Courtenay’s—quartering Rivers—those of Poulett and the initials T. C. with the episcopal and abbatial insignia of Thomas Chard. To one panel here he directed particular attention, as it was first described and figured by himself, and definitely settles a question which was previously in doubt, viz., whether Thomas Chard, the last Abbot, and Thomas Chard, Suffragan to Bishop Oldham, were two distinct persons or one person uniting in himself the two offices. Anthony a’ Wood, in his *Athenæ Oxonienses*, and Prince, in his *Worthies of Devon*, make mention of two persons, each bearing the name of Thomas Chard, and flourishing in the immediate vicinity of each other; the one a Cistercian, the last Abbot of Ford, the other a Benedictine, Bishop of Solubria and Prior of Montacute, in Somerset. This statement, so far as he was aware, receives no sanction from any other writer, whilst it is as clearly refuted as if expressed in so many words by this panel, which contains within itself all the evidence that could be accumulated in proof of the fact it is manifestly intended to record. The letters T. C., with the abbot’s and bishop’s croziers, will be observed in the small corner shields; whilst in the larger one which occupies the centre, occur the stag’s head and crozier, the name of Tho. Chard entwined round a crozier, and as a crowning feature, the abbot’s cap, surmounted, over all, by the bishop’s mitre. The porch tower was, no doubt, the original entrance. It is richly ornamented with first-rate sculpture, some of it obviously unfinished; the central boss in the vaulting is uncut, and the

(3). *Devon Trans.*, vol. x. p. 376.

blank shield in the centre below the basement window, encircled by a garter, was doubtless intended for the Royal arms. The uncut shield on the sinister side, having the pelican and dolphin for supporters, was for Courtenay. The two small shields cut are charged with a lion rampant for de Redvers, and chequy two bars for Baldwin de Brioniis. Immediately over the arch of the door is a large scroll shield of more modern date, bearing the arms of Prideaux, impaling those of his second wife, Ivery. On the upper part of this, in the centre shield, are the initials T. C., with crozier and mitre, and two smaller shields with the T. C., crozier, and abbot's cap, alternate with the stag's head cabossed (probably the ancient cognizance of the Abbey), and just below the battlement of the tower is the following inscription:—"A'no D'ni millesimo quingesimo vic'mo octa. A D'no factum est Thoma Chard, Abb." In the entrance porch on the west there is a window corresponding to those in the hall, and over it is a frieze of grotesque animals. On minute inspection it will be seen that this part of the building has been shorn of its length. The Royal arms are not in the centre, as they no doubt originally were. They consist of a rose crowned, encircled with a garter, and supported by a dragon and a greyhound, the badges of Henry VII. Although altered, this wing was built by Thos. Chard. At the western end, but hidden by ivy, is the portcullis cut in stone, another of the badges of Henry VII., and on the north or back side are the initials T. C. The hall is really the eastern end of the refectory. It is still a magnificent apartment, 55 feet by 28 feet, with four fine bay windows on the south, and another bay, containing the external entrance. On the north side were five windows corresponding to those on the south, now filled-in to suit the modern buildings behind them. The ceiling is flat, coved at the sides, and there is a modern fireplace, communicating with a stack of Elizabethan chimneys on the outside. It was originally more than double its present length, that is to say, 150 feet.

Mr. GREEN after mentioning the legend attached to the

early days of the Abbey, said that the house was preserved because it was not roofed with lead. Certain Commissioners reported in 1555 that "there was one fodder of lead (19 cwt.) upon the church and no more, for the church was covered with tile," and so with the monastery "newe buylded," there was lead upon some part of it only. There were five bells valued at £38 10s. The whole was granted and valued to Sir Richard Pollard in 1540, was paid for and taken as it stood at the valuation, and was thus preserved.⁴

After the party had listened to the details given them from the grounds they entered the building and inspected the different rooms, guided by Mr. C. E. DAVIS. Mr. Davis gave some particulars regarding the chapel and other parts of the building, drawing attention to the earlier portions.

Some speculative discussion occurred in the drawing room regarding the arms emblazoned in the centre of the ceiling. It was suggested they might be those of Prideaux—Francis and Ivory.

Leaving Ford the next halting-place was

Winsham Church.

Mr. FERREY said that for Somerset it was unusually plain. It was an example of the cruciform plan, like that at Ditchet, which the Society visited a few years ago. The tower was central, of the same type as those of Chewton Mendip, and St. Cuthbert's, Wells. The chancel had been recently restored at the expense of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The screen was a very good one, but it was not in its original place. There had evidently been a door leading up to the central tower, which was now blocked up, and there were the jambs of a blocked up doorway on the western side of the chancel, which must have been the entrance to the rood-loft. The nave ceiling was of the usual local type, with bosses at the intersections of the ribs.

The Book of Martyrs, with remains attached for chaining

(4). Land Revenue Records, bundle 1393, file 132.

it, was noticed, and it was stated that before the alterations the pulpit stood high, the present reading desk being made from the stem it stood on. There was a gallery over the north door, the front occupied by the singers, an organ behind them. The painting, perhaps of the fourteenth century, now on the south wall of the tower, was in the arch over the screen; the arch west contained the Commandments.

The PRESIDENT, read from the Register Books, which were kindly open for inspection, an interesting document called a Solemn Protestation taken “upon the 13th day of February, being the Lord’s Day, anno domini 1641 (*i.e.* 1642), according to the Order of the Honble House of Commons in Parliament by all the Parishioners whose names are subscribed.” This pledged all who signed it “to maintain and defend, with life, power and estate the true Reformed Protestant Religion expressed in the doctrines of the Church of England against all Popery and Popish Innovations within this realm,” and “His Majesty’s Royal person, honour, and estate, as also, the power and privileges of Parliament, the lawful rights and liberties of the subject and every person that makes this Protestation in whatsoever he shall do in the lawful pursuance of the same.” To oppose and seek to bring to punishment all who by plots or conspiracies, &c., “do anything to the contrary of anything in this present Protestation contained.” To do everything to preserve the Union and Peace between the three Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and neither for hope, fear or other respect to relinquish this Promise, Vow, and Protestation.” To this there is an addition explaining that by the Doctrine of the Church of England is meant only the public doctrine “so far as it is opposite to Popery and Popish Innovations, and that the said words are not to be extended to the maintaining of any form of worship, discipline, or government, nor of any rites or ceremonies of the said Church of England.” The signatures, he considered, were remarkable as containing signs—such as a circle, a

trident, a cross, or flourishes, at the beginning, middle, or end of each surname, which seemed to be the 'family-marks' surviving from an age when writing was little known. He compared with these the 'land-marks' used in Ditmarsh, and in several parts of England, which were cut on bits of wood, in lieu of title-deeds, and referred to the similar marks used for allotting shares of commons in Somerset, as on the Congresbury dole-moors, and in the villages of Cote and Aston, described in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxiii. p. 275. These signs were, in fact, originally the family signatures of landowners who could not write. (To others they seemed simply the marks of those whose names were signed for them.)

The Members then partook of luncheon in the National School-room, and this being ended a pleasant drive brought the party to

Wayford Church and Manor House.

MR. GREEN, who described the house, said the building at first sight appeared to be Jacobean, but it was just Elizabethan, although part of it might have been built in the time of her successor, James I. The building had been carefully looked after lately by the owner, Lord Bridport, but for some time the drawing-room had been used as a granary. In this room would be found a very pleasing example of the decorated ceiling of this date, and as any one would see entirely differing from the evidently earlier ones at Chard and Whitestaunton. On the mantelpiece was the date 1602, which in this instance fairly marked the date of the house. The porch had an Italian character clearly different, and looked as if it had been built on, or added to the house, but it was really of the same date, and marked a differentiation, which mixing gradually with the mullioned window formed the pronounced Jacobean style; until presently the mullions disappear and the Italian house stands alone. The decoration of ceilings later, became still finer in the lines, and known as the Wedgewood ceiling—a name which will at once convey

to the mind the fine work and very pleasing style familiar on pottery bearing that name. It was in 1602 that Elizabeth died, and as showing the great grief at the time, the following lines from a contemporary MS. poem, in the British Museum, entitled *Britanniæ Lachrymæ*, may be quoted for their pretty sentiment. Sings the poet:—

The Queen was brought by water to Whitehall,
At every stroke the oars did tears let fall,
More clung about the barge :—fish under water
Wept out their eyes of pearle, and swome blind after.
I think the bargemen might, with easier thighs
Have rowed her thither in her peoples eyes,
For howso'er, thus much my thoughts have scanned,
She had come by water, had she come by land.

Mr. HUGH NORRIS pointed out the arms of the Daubeney family on the entrance portal: *gules*, four fusils conjoined in fess, *argent*. The crest: two dragon's wings, addorsed, *sable*, conjoined by a knot, *or*—is in reality the Daubeney *badge*, the ancient family crest being, as represented on the tomb of his grandfather, Sir Giles Daubeney, in South Petherton church, and as may be seen on Lord Daubeney's garter plate in St. George's Chapel, Windsor,—a holly branch, leaved and fruited *proper*. This badge is stated by the family to have been assumed by Lord Daubeney on his being installed a Knight of the Garter in 1487, but it is no where visible on his tomb in Westminster Abbey, or on any other old Daubeney memorial with which we are acquainted. The same device was to be found amongst the heraldic glass recorded by Symonds in his *Diary*, dated 1644, as still existing in the Daubeney Manor House ("King Ina's Palace") at South Petherton. The glory of the family culminated in the person of the great Lord Daubeney, who was one of the most trusted councillors and most valiant commanders of his sovereign Hen. VII., who showered favours, and offices, and emoluments on him. Lord Daubeney died in 1508, leaving his son one of the wealthiest minors in England; but he seems to have im-

poverished himself at an early age by his lavish expenditure at the tournament on the "Field of the Cloth of Gold," and his ruin seems to have been completed by subsequent extravagance at the court of King Henry VII.⁵ At his decease his uncle, James, became heir to all that was left of his princely inheritance. This James resided in the old Manor House of Wayford. He was a man of some importance in his day, for we find that he was Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset in 1488, and one of those country gentlemen in Henry VII.'s time, who were retained as qualified by position and estate to be elected Knights of the Bath. From him is descended a numerous and influential family, which in its various ramifications is spread over a great part of the kingdom, and one of whom this Society has the pleasure of acknowledging as a Member at the present time.

Rev. FREDK. BROWN then gave some further account of the Daubeney Family.

Gyles Daubeney, of Wayford, Esq., who died March 22, 1559, was lineally descended from the ancient family of the Daubeney, of South Petherton. He was great grandson of Sir Gyles, Lord Daubeney, K.G., Chamberlain of the Household. Gyles Daubeney, by his first wife, Elizabeth, sister of Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, was the ancestor of the Daubeney of Wayford. The present family of the Daubeney descend from the second wife of Gyles Daubeney, a daughter of Coles of Somerset.

Hugh Daubeney of Wayford, was the second son of the above Gyles Daubeney. He married Joan, daughter of Gyles Penny. His will was proved June 20, 1565. He bequeaths money "for the repair of Wayford Church;" and leaves "his Capital Mansion, &c.," to his wife Joan for her life, and to his son Gyles, "all his armour." He had a numerous family. His son, Gyles Daubeney, died before 1638. He married Elizabeth Larder, whose will was proved at Taunton, Oct. 22,

(5). See *History of South Petherton*, by Hugh Norris.

1640. She bequeaths to her second son, Hugh Daubeney, "my great brass crocke, six spitts, and the great andirons in the kitchen, which I found in the house when I was married with my deceased Husband."

Their eldest son, James Daubeney of Wayford, Esq., married Elizabeth Petre, daughter of Otho Petre of Devon (ancestor of Lord Petre), but he died, s.p., 1614, before his father. He was succeeded by his brother, Hugh Daubeney, whose nuncupative will was proved by his relict, Elizabeth Daubeney, May 5, 1662, but I know not whether he left any issue. In the year 1694, Wayford Manor belonged to Hugh Daubeney Gibbs, Esq., who died 1700. A sister of the above James and Hugh Daubeney married a Turberville. Their son, Dr. Daubeney Turberville, was an eminent oculist. He was born 1611 and died 1696, s.p., having married Ann, daughter of Rev. James Ford, who died the same year. There is a long Latin inscription over his tomb in Salisbury Cathedral, ending with these two lines:—

Quanto privamur, cum infra jacet extinctus,
Solutus Oculorum Æsculapius.

In the Life of Bishop Seth Ward, by Dr. Walter Pope, the following inscription is said to have been designed by Dr. Pope, but never set up:—

M. S.

"Near this place lies interred the most expert and successful Oculist that ever was, perhaps that ever will be,

Doctor DAWBIGNY TURBERVILLE.

Descended from two families of these names, than which there are few more ancient and noble. During the Civil Wars he bore arms for the King. After the surrender of Exeter, he lived at Wayford and Crookhorn; but those towns not affording convenience to his numerous patients, he removed to London, intending to settle there, but not having his health he left it and lived in Salisbury more than thirty years, doing good to all, and being beloved by all. His great fame caused multi-

tudes to flock to him, not only from all parts of this kingdom, but also from Scotland, Ireland, France, and America. He died April 21st, 1696, in the 85th year of his age, and left his estate betwixt his only sister and niece, at whose expenses this monument was erected."

Mr. W. A. DAUBENY, of Cote, Gloucestershire, also kindly sent a short pedigree, the chief particulars relating to Wayford being as in the above notices.

The PRESIDENT stated that the original Manor House was a smaller building with a thatched roof adjoining the present one.

This being duly examined,

Mr. FERREY described the church, which he said was evidently a 13th century structure. The original lancets remained, but they had been so much plastered over that a casual observer would almost think they were modern windows. Their inner rear arches were in the shape of a trefoil.

Proceeding from Wayford by Rounham and Cheriton Down, the party had to ascend to the table-land called "Windwhistle," notable as commanding one of the most extensive views in the county.

Mr. HUGH NORRIS pointed out that on nearing the brow of this height, about two miles from Crewkerne, there is a conical hill surmounted by a picturesque keeper's lodge. This is "Lerraine," (Sancta Regina) or St. Reyne Hill. A mile further on the foss-way joins the road, with which its course is identical for another mile, when it divides, one branch tending south towards Seaton, the other going nearly due west to or by Chard. Near this point of division is "Whitedown," a space of waste land on the left hand side of the road, close to Lord Bridport's lodge. Four centuries ago, William of Worcester paced this road from west to east.

The name is supposed to be derived from St. Whyte, whose sex, whose very existence has been questioned. Her emblem, as given by Dr. Husenbeth, is "V. M. sevinged at a stake

(Callot).” The present church at Whitchurch Canonorum is the only one in the west of England dedicated to St. White.

Arrived at Cricket Lodge, Lord Bridport graciously received the party. After an inspection of the grounds, the ornaments formerly the possessions of Lord Nelson, were displayed within the house. Lady Yarmouth kindly gave particulars concerning them, and most courteously conducted the visitors through the various rooms, describing the pictures and portraits.

Tea and other refreshments were then found ready on the lawn, and these being partaken of,

The PRESIDENT proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Bridport for his kindness, to which his Lordship responded.

A vote of thanks was also heartily accorded to Mr. Elton for the excellent manner in which he had presided, and his ever ready knowledge in all the discussions.

Mr. ELTON, in responding, expressed the gratification it had afforded him in taking part in the proceedings, remarking in conclusion that “the revels now were ended.”

Mr. E. B. TYLOR, D.C.L., then proposed the Hon. Sec., who briefly responded, and a Meeting, which seemed a gratifying success, came to an end. Chard was duly reached in good time for the trains, and so all got away without annoyance.

Membury.

Further enquiry has shown that the information at page 32 on the public use to which the farm house at Membury was put by the Quakers must not be accepted too implicitly. It is known that a house was leased there with the condition that it should be at the disposal of the community, but there is no proof that Lee Hill House was ever so let. It is a good, substantial farm house, which may have been used from time to time; but to see in it “a council chamber, refectory,” &c., is a stretch of the imagination rather than a record of a sober fact.
