

Second Day: Excursion.

A large party left Axbridge on the excursion at an early hour, and following the line of the old coach road to Bristol, reached

Rowberrow Church,

the greatest part of which has been recently restored. The tower, which was a part of the original building, was pronounced to be of the time of Richard II. A carved stone inserted over the door way, was supposed by Mr. Parker to be of the 11th century, others thought it belonged to the 9th or 10th century.

From here the excursionists proceeded to

Dolbury Camp,

which is separated from Rowberrow by a deep ravine with steep and almost precipitous sides. The President pointed out the tracks leading to Charter-house, and the principal mining districts of Mendip, to which he had referred in his address. The earth-works all round the Camp, which are for the most part in excellent preservation, were carefully examined, and a general wish expressed that an accurate plan should be prepared by a competent surveyor, for publication in the proceedings.

Hence the party proceeded to

Burrington Church.

This church was rebuilt in the 15th century, the tower of earlier work having been retained. The south aisle is of the same date as the tower, and the east window of a very much earlier type than the rest of the building.

On their way through Burrington Combe, the party halted at the mouth of a cavern known as Aveline Hole,

when Mr. BOYD DAWKINS gave a most clear and interesting account of the results of his excavations in this cavern in conjunction with Mr. W. Ayshford Sanford. The members will find an account of the caverns of Burrington Combe by Mr. W. A. Sanford, and Mr. W. B. Dawkins, in vol. xii. of the proceedings of this Society, p. 161.

On reaching the summit of the Mendip range a section of the excursionists, under the guidance of the President, diverged in order to inspect the remains of Hut-circles, and of what appeared to be a small Amphitheatre, situated on the slope looking down upon Charter-house. Ultimately the whole company assembled in the School-room, at Charter-house, where they sat down to a bounteous repast provided by the President. The health of Mr. and Mrs. Long was proposed by Mr. R. Neville Grenville and the cordial thanks of the Members of the Society presented to them for their courtesy and hospitality.

The Charter-house Mining Company's works were then visited, and the various operations explained by MR. ROGERS, the Captain of the Mine, whose kindness and intelligence added much interest and profit to the visit.

At the mouth of a deserted shaft sunk for lead, Mr. C. MOORE explained his views on the probable post-liassic age of the lead-mines of the Mendip, on which a discussion arose in which Mr. Boyd Dawkins, Mr. W. Arthur Jones and others took part.

Here the company dispersed, a large portion descending through the Cheddar Gorge, on their way to Axbridge and other places.

Third Day : Excursion.

The first place visited this day was

Winscombe Church.

which has been extensively restored. The tower is of the same type as those of Cheddar and Axbridge, but was considered better. Mr. PARKER directed attention to the genuine English glass of the 16th century in some of the windows, which was so admirably suited to the English climate, and far superior to the Foreign glass so much in use in the present day.

Thence the excursionists proceeded to

Toxton Church,

which presents many architectural features of great interest, Norman and Early English. A small window in the porch, originally commanding a view of the altar, would seem to have been designed to enable the attendant to ring the sanctus bell on the elevation of the Host. The stone pulpit rests on a large corbel taking the form of a man. On each side of the piscina there are stone brackets, and in the two-light Pointed windows there are portions of stained glass of the 14th century. The stone font is of the same date, but the cover is Jacobean. Drawings and illustrations of this curious little church will be found in the present volume.

The next church visited is equally interesting, of which also illustrations are given.

Christon Church.

The south door way of the Norman period is richly decorated, as also are the arches supporting the tower, the western arch having twisted shafts.

The excursionists then proceeded to the Banwell Caverns, which, by the courtesy of the proprietor, Major Law, had been thrown open to the members of the Society.

Mr. W. BOYD DAWKINS gave an interesting account of the various animal remains which had been found in this cave : pointed out the more interesting features in the general conformation of the cavern, and the various fissures which probably opened into it ; and explained how the immense mass of animal remains became accumulated in this and other caves of the same character.

On reaching Banwell, the members assembled in the Hall, where SIR PETER STAFFORD CAREY read a paper on "The use of the Year Book," in matters of Family History, as exemplified in the case of the family of Plukenet of Haselbury, in the County of Somerset.

The thanks of the meeting having been presented to Sir P. S. Carey for his paper, the members proceeded, under the guidance of Mr. Freeman, to examine the beautiful and stately

Church of Banwell.

The grandeur of the nave and aisles excited great admiration, as also did the wood screen and stone pulpit.

The members and their friends subsequently partook of an excellent repast, provided for them by the liberality of several gentlemen in the neighbourhood, at which the Rev. W. H. Turner, Vicar of Banwell, presided.

Addresses were delivered by the President, Mr. W. Long, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Dickinson, the Rev. J. Earle, Mr. Boyd Dawkins, Mr. Parker, Mr. Wm. Arthur Jones, and others.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Local Committee,

and to the Local Secretary, the Rev. W. Hunt, for their valuable services ; to the gentlemen, who had entertained the Society, for their hospitality ; to Mr. Parker, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Boyd Dawkins, Mr. Moore, and others for their valuable observations on the places visited.

The cordial thanks of the meeting having been carried by acclamation to the President, the Annual Meeting was declared to be concluded.



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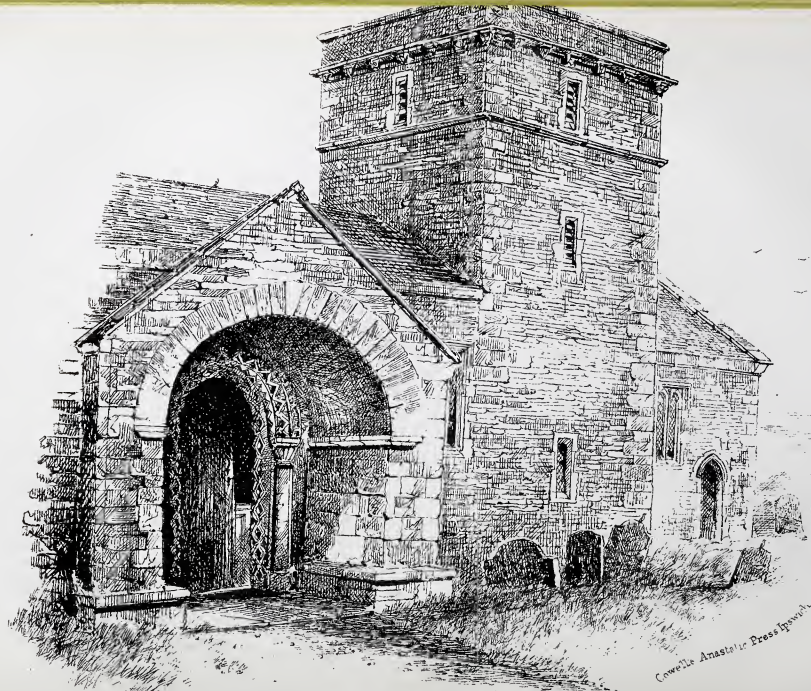
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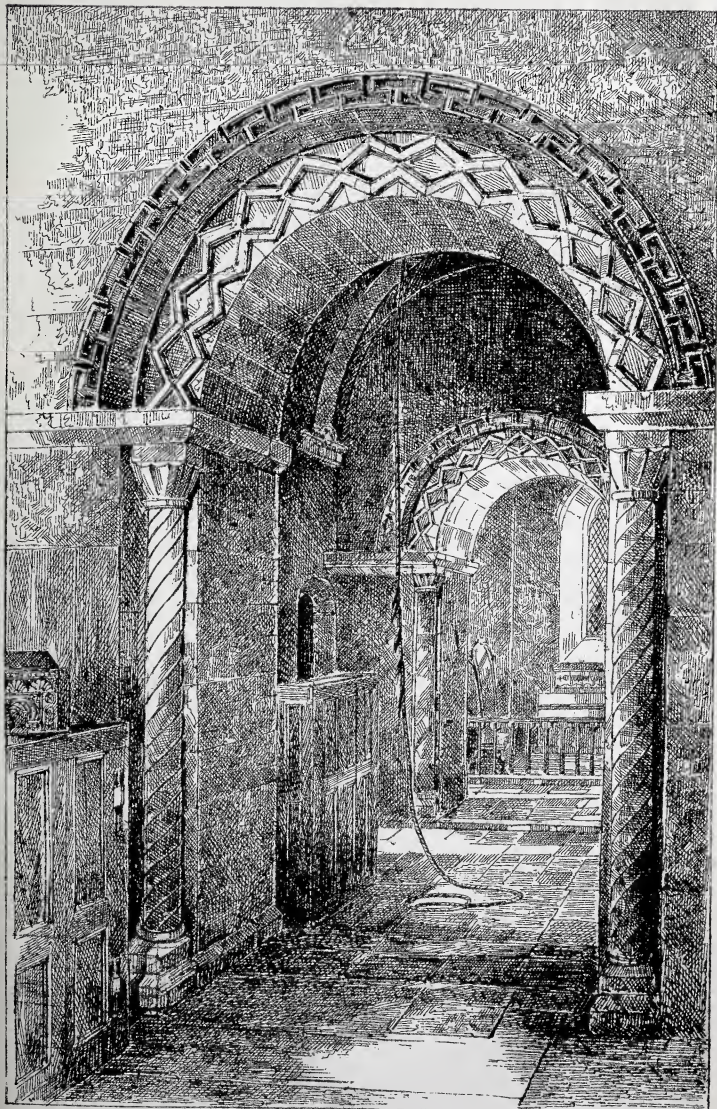
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