

Second Day's Excursion.

On the second day's excursion the members from various directions assembled around the

Village Cross of Horsington,
where they were courteously received by the rector of the parish, the Rev. HILL D. WICKHAM, who made the following remarks on the early history of the parish and cross.



SUPPOSED PORTION OF A SAXON CROSS,

Embedded in the wall of the Porch at Muperton Church, Somerset.



SCULPTURES ON THE CROSS AT HORSINGTON, SOMERSET.

The earliest possessor of Horsington, whose descent we can trace, is James de Newmarch, whose daughter Isabel conveyed, on her marriage, this manor to Ralph Russell, the heir of a powerful family then settled in Dorsetshire, and ancestors to the ducal family of Bedford. Of the two sons who sprung from this union, Robert, the elder, died without issue, and was succeeded by his brother William, who obtained from Edward I, A.D. 1284, a free warren of his lands at Dyrham, Gloucester, and at Horsington. This grant appears to have been coextensive with the Anglo-Saxon charter of "Soc, sac, toll, team, and infangthef," as it conveyed the right of holding a fair, market, a court, to which all free men (*liberi servatores*) should repair, a view of frankpledge of all his tenants, assize of bread and beer, &c., tumbrel, pillory, thief fines for the shedding of blood, hue and cry within his manors, and infangthef, or a gallows for the capital punishment of a thief taken in the fact, within the limits of the manor. To this grant of free warren, I attribute the erection of the cross, believing it to have been built where the fair and market were held, though it does not offer the convenience of shelter, afforded by those beautiful specimens of market crosses, of later date, we have elsewhere in this county. The space around it is sufficiently large for a village fair or market, as the the enclosures of the pond and garden in which the cross stands are modern.

To the west is the Church House, with the date 1631, which, as a board in the church states, was exchanged by the parish with Thomas Gawen, in 1722, for some cottages, and adjoining this is the old Manor House of the Gawens, now modernised, but still retaining the strong oak door, with the little trap in the centre, by which letters were received during the troublesome times he yesterday alluded

to. On the east of the cross are some picturesque cottages, evidently of ancient date ; and to the north, the space beyond the pond, was, within the memory of man, more open. He hoped, for the credit of the village, that the gallows were never erected ; but the stocks were placed beneath the cross, and only lately removed.

The "free men" were long summoned to the court ; at that held 29th Elizabeth, Margaret Wickham, widow, does homage "*pro terris in Horsington*," and in 1639 the "*liberi servatores*" were Henry Berkley, John Bampfield, Gilbert Huddy, Henry Tarent, James Wickham, James Hussey, Thos. Hannam, and Robert Gilbert.

The cross stands on a circular platform eight feet high, reached by four rows of steps, and is a monolith of Ham-hill stone, at present nine feet in height, placed on a square base three feet wide. On the south front of the shaft a sculptured figure, a good deal decayed by time, is carved under a canopy, the whole five feet high ; a drawing of which is given. The bracket appears to be a ram's head ; the figure that of a layman of the thirteenth century ; and above is a death's head, surmounted by a crown, on which rests a leg bone, supporting another scull. The device is very singular. It may have been erected more as an emblem of faith, than as a convenience to the market people ; and as a pulpit, from which the preaching friar might address them, and declaim against the cupidity and ignorance of the parish priest. A portion of the shaft was broken off several years ago, by the weight of a sundial, placed on it in 1708, by Thomas Wickham, the then rector. The whole was in a dilapidated state, and the present rector being told in vestry, shortly after his institution, that it belonged to him, now keeps it in repair.

The next place visited was the Church of St. Mary, at

Abbot's Combe,

which has recently been restored, but the old waggon-roof had been happily retained. The square Norman font of Purbeck marble was examined with much interest. The Rev. Mr. FOX, the incumbent, stated that when the church was restored, the four corner pillars of the font were found to be of wood, and that columns of Purbeck stone had been substituted. The piscina in the side chapel, and the opening in the wall behind the pulpit, which probably led to the rood loft were specially noted as interesting features.

The company then proceeded to the Manor Farm, the property of Mr. Bailward, which stands upon the site, and consists of remains of an ancient establishment of the the Knights Templars, which gave rise to the name of

Temple Combe.

A very large fire-place remains in one of the out-houses. Portions of the walls, some windows, and a doorway of the chapel are almost all that remains of this religious house. In the adjoining orchard a somewhat deep excavation, with a mound of earth in the centre, was described by Mr. Jones as evidently the site of the fish pond of the Knights Templars. It is known in the neighbourhood as the cock-pit, and believed to have been constructed for that purpose.

The Rev. HILL D. WICKHAM remarked that this was the only establishment held in Somersetshire by the Knights Templars, he only wished there was more of it left for them to see. He had hoped they might have had the privilege of learning its ancient history from a member of the Society, who was also a member of the order of the Knights of St. John. Major de Havilland had intended to be with them, but he had unhappily been called away to discharge those duties among the sick and

wounded in war, which devolved upon him by the vows of his order. There was very little known of this house further than it was a Commandery, and that on the suppression of the Knights Templars in England, it was conferred upon the Knights Hospitallers.

The chapel, of which so little now remains, had been used until comparatively recent times for the offices of the church. Mr. Keniston who died in the parish of Combe within the last ten years, had told him that he had heard his mother speak of a marriage which she had witnessed in that chapel.

From here the excursionists proceeded through the fields to the

Old Manor House of Stowell.

This old mansion, now a farm house, though in very bad repair, retains many of its original features, and in many respects is full of interest to the students of ancient domestic architecture.

The Rev H. D. WICKHAM said he had this morning put together a few notes which he thought might be interesting to the company.

The manor of Stowell was possessed by the family of Hody, before the reign of Henry VI, as a son of Sir John Hody, Kt.—the latter being called of Stowell—was appointed Lord Chief Justice of England in the 8th year of that reign (1441).

In Campbell's "Lives of the Lord Chief Justices" he is classed among those who do not call for any particular remark. He was Knight of the Shire for this county in 1434, and in 1440, and married a daughter of John Jew, of Wiveliscombe, an heiress. Tradition says he was the builder of this old mansion. Here the family continued to reside for many generations, intermarrying with the families

of Thornbury, Burnell of Pointington—(by the lay subsidies for Somerset, preserved in the Rolls Court, we find, 37th Henry VIII, John Burnell of Pointington, armiger, assessed for his lands in that parish at 40s)—Yarde of Bradford, Lyte of Lyte's Cary, Burland of Steyning, &c., till the year 1709, when a Hody conveyed to Martha Wickham of Sherborne, the mansion and certain lands adjoining.

A few years later—1720—Hody sold the manor and the advowson of the church to Robert Knight, who was cashier of the famous, or infamous, South Sea Bubble ; and as an Act of Parliament was obtained, April 1720, to buy up certain Government annuities with South Sea Stock, it is probable that the manor of Stowell was purchased by Knight with the money thus fraudulently obtained. When the bubble burst, an Act was passed to sell the property of the guilty parties ; and this Act probably obliged Lord Luxborough, who, Mr. Wickham thought, was the son of Robert Knight, to part with the manor, which was bought by George Doddington in 1753.

Robert Knight himself was remanded, and without further evidence being obtained from him, he, after a partial examination, escaped from confinement and fled to France, as it was supposed at that day, with the connivance of certain influential personages—carrying with him the books which would have compromised them. He afterwards went to Brabant, where the authorities of the States General arrested and confined him in the castle at Antwerp, refusing to deliver him to the Parliament of England.

Among the caricatures of that day is one representing the Duchess of Kendall handing from behind a screen a bundle of papers to Knight, who is booted and spurred for

a journey ; and beneath are many verses, of which the following are a specimen :—

In vain Great Britain sues for Knight's discharge,
 In vain we hope to see that wretch at large ;
 Of traitors *here*, the villain *there* secure,
 Our ills must all increase, our woes be sure.
 Should he return the *screen* would useless be,
 And all men then the mystery would see !

The Manor house purchased in 1709 by Martha Wickham, continued in this family till the year 1849, when it was sold by the late Rev. Trelawney Wickham, with 470 acres of land, to the late Mr. Bailward. He was restoring a family house near Bradford, and removed to it the oak pannelling in this mansion. Spoliations had been going on long before. One was made several years earlier, when the Perpendicular window, of which a drawing is given in this volume was removed to the curious old pigeon-house of the rectory of Horsington.

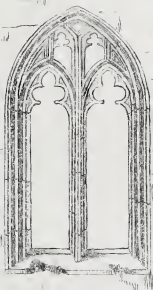
The steel plate of the engraving of this window has been presented to the Society by the Rev. Hill D. Wickham.

From Stowell the party proceeded to the earthwork of

Milborne Wick,

close to the Milborne Port railway station.

Mr. SCARTH said there was no doubt of its being a military work. They would observe the lie of the ground, that all round there was a deep valley, which was cut off by this very large earthwork. And it was certainly one of the largest earthworks, after that they had seen yesterday at Cadbury. It was of a totally different character to that. Here they had a portion of ground naturally protected on three sides—protected on the most assailable side by a very high mound of earth thrown up, but without a ditch to it. They could see on looking at the outside the place from which the earth was taken. This mound cut off



ANTIENT GOTHIC WINDOW,
at the Rectory,
HORSINGTON, SOMERSET.

a triangular portion—a sort of peninsula—and, therefore, it was only fortified by art on one side; and there seemed to be a causeway or road leading to it: the entrance to which he pointed out.

The Rev. Prebendary referred to similar earthworks near Bristol, and in Yorkshire, and said it was very unusual to find an earthwork of this kind inland. They were often found on the sea-coast, and on the border of a river; but he did not know of another inland, and therefore this was very interesting. No doubt it was for purposes of fortification; but by what people it was done he could not say.

The Rev. W. BARNES observed that the name of *Wick* in this case was of Saxon origin, the root-form signifying a “bend” or “bending,” such as that formed by a stream, or by the coast-line in bays. He instanced *Schlesvig*, *Greenwich*, as illustrations. The *Vik-ings* were so called from their haunting bays for purposes of robbery: a *wick-ed*, man was one who turned away from the *straight* course. *Milborne Wick* took its name from the bend of the river, or burn, close by.

Mr. JONES suggested the Latin *Vicus*, as the probable origin of most, if not all, the towns and villages which bear the name of Wick.

Under the guidance of the respected President the company then wandered through the picturesque village to the source of the Parrett, a beautiful spot where a considerable stream gushes forth from a never-failing spring.

Again taking to the carriages, the company proceeded to Milborne Port, where the President, Sir W. C. MEDLYCOTT, read the following paper on Milborne Port and Church.

Milborne Church.

The church is of great antiquity, with a large square tower, supported on Norman arches, added to at different periods, and containing six bells, to which two were added in 1842, when the south transept was rebuilt. A considerable portion of the building is of early Norman work, and the south doorway presents a fine specimen of the ancient toothed Norman moulding. The belfry staircase is also of very early date. On the original oak screen is the text, "Where the word of a king is, there is power, and who may say, What doest thou?"—Ecclesiastes 8, 4, which is supposed to have been added after the restoration of Charles II in 1660. The arms of Charles I are also suspended in the church. In 1855 the churchyard was enlarged and consecrated by Lord Auckland, Bishop of Bath and Wells, the grant of land being given by Sir William Medlycott, Bart., and a row of lime trees planted thereon. The foundation stone of the new nave and aisle was laid on the 6th of September, 1867, by the Rev. Hubert Medlycott, curate of Brington, Northamptonshire, and the church was re-opened on the 24th June, 1869, by Bishop Chapman, commissary for Lord Auckland, Bishop of Bath and Wells. Five newly-painted windows were added to the nave, painted by Clayton and Bell, representing the birth, life, and miracles of our Saviour. The window painted by O'Connor, was presented by the Rev. Prebendary W. H. Turner, of Trent, Somerset. The north transept was also rebuilt, and the monuments to the Medlycott family placed therein at the same time. The organ was also renewed, and placed in the chancel aisle, with the choir in the chancel, in lieu of the old gallery removed from the west end at the restoration. The register of the parish, dates from 1538, one of the earliest

being Austin Prankard, baptized 6th day of March, 1539.

The following names of vicars are recorded in the register :—

1781, John Butt. 1765, William Addisworth Purnell. 1770, Philip Williams. 1774, John Ballard. 1778, John Lucas. 1778, G. Huntingford. 1778, Charles Blackstone. 1785, Daniel Williams. Bishop of Hereford; curate, William Owen. Mr. Bowles, of Wimborne; curate, William Gane. 1836, Edward Walter West; curates, Mr. Lyon, Mr. Penny, and Mr. Gillam.

At the death of the Rev. W. West the living was held by the Rev. C. Gillam, as vicar, for the Rev. Hubert Medlycott.

In 1641, Colonel the Hon. John Digby, second son of John first Earl of Bristol, was Member of Parliament for Milborne Port, and Forster gives us an account of a scene in the House of Commons, in which his name appears :—
 “In 1641, before the recess, Mr. Richard King, member for Melcombe Regis, Dorset, took upon himself to declare that, in a particular rebuke which Mr. Speaker had addressed to another honourable member, he had transgressed his duty in using so disgraceful a speech to so noble a gentleman, and, though the House interfered to protect their Speaker, and Mr. King was commanded to withdraw into the committee chamber, the matter ended in but a conditional apology, with which the house was *not* satisfied, but the Speaker *was*. The noble gentleman whom it vexed Mr. King to see treated with disrespect, was the younger brother of Lord Digby, Mr. John Digby, who, on the day when his brother would have been expelled the House of Commons, if the King's letters patent had not issued the night before, calling him to the House of Lords, came into the house, and, getting upon

the ladder that stands at the door of the house, by which the members thereof usually go up to those seats which are over the same door under the gallery, he sat still upon the same ladder, whereupon the Speaker, doubtless coupling the act as a sign of disrespect, with a display of insubordination by the same young gentleman on discussion of his brother's case the previous day, called out to him, and desired him to take his place, and not to sit upon the same ladder as if he were going to be hanged; at which many of the house laughed, and Mr. King, as aforesaid, was indignant." Colonel Digby, in 1643, commanded a force of 500 horse and dragoons at the battle of Stratton, in Cornwall. In 1644, he received a wound with a rapier in his eye. When the King's cause finally declined, General Digby, with the rest of his family, retired to France, to Pontoise, where he became a secular priest, and said mass daily to the English nuns, until his death after the Restoration. Besides the keenness of his courage, he had a more composed understanding, and was less liable to fumes than some of his family, who had sharper parts.

Milborne Port.

This ancient borough, bordering on the Vale of Blackmore, is watered by a rivulet rising at Bradley Head, about two miles north-west of the town, which is one of the "Seven Sisters," and is the chief source of the river Yeo, and falls into the lake at Sherborne Park. The name is derived from *Mylen*—a mill, and *Bourne*—a spring, the word *Port* signifying a town. The Domesday Book, compiled by William the Conqueror, states that there were six mills within the precincts of the town. Milborne Port returned two members to Parliament as early as 1307—upwards of 560 years ago, but, as it was then the custom for electors to maintain their members during the

sittings of Parliament, and possibly finding the burden a heavy one, the electors petitioned to be excused from sending any. The borough was then virtually disfranchised till 1640, when Charles I restored the franchise, and two members were again returned. The privilege continued till 1831, when it was disfranchised by the Reform Bill on account of its small population. A list of members from 1641 include the following :

1641, Col. Hon. John Digby, second son of first Earl of Bristol.

1660, Michael Mallet, and Francis Wyndham.

1661, Sir Francis Wyndham, and Michael Mallet.

Michael Mallet, and John Hunt.

1678, John Hunt, and William Lacy, jun.

1679, John Hunt, and Henry Bull.

1685, John Hunt, and Henry Bull.

1688, John Hunt, and Thomas Saunders (on the Prince of Orange's landing, in the Convention Parliament).

1689, Sir Thomas Travel, kt., and Sir Charles Cartaret, kt.

1695, Sir Thomas Travel, kt., and Sir Charles Cartaret, kt.

1698, Sir Thomas Travel, kt., and Sir Charles Cartaret, kt.

1700, Sir Thomas Travel, and Sir Richard Weconman, kt.

1701, The Hon. Henry Thynne made way for Sir Thomas Travel, kt., and John Hunt.

1702, Sir Thomas Travel, kt., and John Henley.

1705, Sir Thomas Travel, kt., and Thomas Medlycott.

1708, Sir Thomas Travel, kt., (Thomas Medlycott, elected for Westminster, waved) and Thomas Smith.

1710, Sir Thomas Travel, kt., and James Medlycott.

- 1713, Sir Thomas Travel, kt., and James Medlycott.
 1714, James Medlycott (John Cox, dead, and Michael Harvey, not duly elected), and Charles Stanhope.
 1722, Michael Harvey, and George Speke.
 1727, Thomas Medlycott, (an Off. Exc.) and Michael Harvey.
 1734, Thomas Medlycott of Ven, and Michael Harvey.
 1741, Thomas Medlycott, and Jeffery French.
 1747, ditto ditto.
 1754, ditto ditto.
 1761, ditto ditto.
 1763, Thomas Hutchings, (assumed the name of Medlycott in 1765).
 1768, Thomas Hutchings Medlycott.
 1774, Candidates—the Hon. Temple Luttrell, and Charles Worsley, elected—87; Edward Walter, and Isaac Hawkins Browne, 37.—Majority of votes, 50.
 1780, Thomas Hutchings Medlycott.
 1791, William Coles Medlycott, (bart. in 1808).
 1801, Viscount Lewisham, (son of Lord Dartmouth), and Edward Paget, (Lord Stafford).
 1802, Henry Lord Paget, and Hugh Leister.
 1804, Hon. Charles Paget.
 1806, Henry William Lord Paget, and Hugh Leister.
 1807, ditto.
 1811, Sir Edward Paget.
 1816, Sir Edward Paget.
 1818, Sir Edward Paget, and Robert Matthew Casberd.
 *1819, Lord Uxbridge, and Robert Matthew Casberd.
 1820, Lord Graves, and Berkeley Paget.

* Petition to Parliament against the nine capital bailiarites in 1820. Lord Darlington opposed Lord Anglesey's interest, and built the New, alias Blue Town, afterwards sold to Lord Anglesey.

1825,* Sir Edward Paget, and Hon. Stourges Bourne.

1826, Mr. Casberd (Welsh judge), and Hon. Thomas North Graves.

1830, Mr. Stourges Bourne, and Mr. George Stephen Byng.

1831, Capt. George Byng, (three times chosen).

1831, Mr. Philip Crampton.

1831,† Mr. Lalor Shiel, and Mr. George Stephen Byng.

1832, Disfranchised by the Reform Bill, 2nd William IV, cap. 45.

There were nine capital bailiffs, two of whom, by rotation, presided annually, and at a Court Leet appointed two deputies. The returning officers of the borough were not required to reside in the borough, or pay taxes, as other voters. Their rights were petitioned against by Lord Darlington, in 1819, but Parliament confirmed their rights, and the petition was lost. They were chosen by a rota, or wheel. The constitution of the borough was by scot and lot, and the payment of respective rates and taxes, so that the landlords, who paid the rates and let their houses free of taxes, virtually disfranchised the electors."

As time would not admit of visiting Henstridge Church, the President exhibited a fine drawing of the monument, and read the following paper contributed by THOMAS BOND, Esq., of Tyneham, on