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## The Second Day.

Nearly 120 Members left Minehead in breaks, etc., for an excursion to Culbone, the most western parish and the smallest Church in the diocese. There was a continuance of the delightful weather which favoured the first day's gathering, and visitors were enabled to obtain capital views of the beautiful scenery for which the neighbourhood is famous. The first halt was made at

**West Lynch Chapel,**

which proved to be too small to take in all the party at one time.

Here the Rev. F. HANCOCK gave a few interesting details. He mentioned that although the inhabitants of the district numbered only 430, there were four chapels of this kind. He thought that possibly they were attached to gentlemen's houses.

Mr. BUCKLE, from the appearance of the building, supposed it to be a true district Chapel, and not a private Chapel attached to a Manor House. It was a small building, and it was remarkable that it should have three doors.

Some discussion ensued as to the significance of there being doors opposite each other in the north and south walls.

Professor EARL asked whether this was usual in any except Norman Churches, and suggested that the architect might have had the idea of a cross in his mind; but

The HON. SECRETARY stated that this arrangement was universal in Churches of all periods in the south-eastern part of the county; and

Mr. BUCKLE thought that it was probably an arrangement to enable processions to be held in small Churches.

Stopping only for a short time to see an interesting doorway and window in the house close by the Chapel, and to admire the noted chestnut trees—said to be the finest in the kingdom—the carriages passed on through Porlock to the gates of Ashley Combe. By the kind permission of the tenant, the Baroness de Taintegnie, the party were allowed to pass by the private road to Culbone; but all save one or two small carriages were left behind on account of the narrowness of the road.

**Culbone Church**

was reached, after a beautiful walk of upwards of a mile—partly among thick woods, and partly along the terrace overhanging the sea.

The Church, which occupies, with its Churchyard, the only patch of level ground—and that only a very small one—in a steep, wooded ravine, measures only 33 feet by 12 feet. Small as is the Church, it contains several points of great interest.

In the first place, Mr. SEDDING pointed out that the north wall and a small window on the north side of the chancel are probably Saxon work, and the other authorities present agreed with him. The Font, which is very similar to that at Selworthy, may also be Saxon. Then this little Church supplies another example of the use of wood for stone in a window in the north side; and the Screen, with carving of a Devonshire, rather than of the usual Somerset type, is an excellent bit of work. Rough and rude as it is, it was the general opinion of the Members of the Society that it would be a pity to disturb or alter any portion of this quaint and interesting little Church.

Returning to the carriages by the same path, the next stop was for an excellent luncheon, laid in a tent on the cricket field at Porlock.

### *Porlock Church.*

Mr. HOOK said: The Church at Porlock in Somerset is dedicated to the service of God under the name of St. Dubricius. Dubricius was an eminent man who established a large college at Llanfrawthir on the Wye, to which numbers flocked, and the scholars amounted to 1,000, “bred to divinity and human learning.” He took a leading part with Germanus and Lupus in the Pelagian controversy, and was consecrated Bishop of Llandaff about A.D. 470. Afterwards he was translated to the see of Caerleon, the metropolis of Wales. It may be conjectured that some of his disciples came over to Porlock, and there founded a Church, but there are no traces of so ancient a foundation. In A.D. 1120 the remains of St. Dubricius were removed from the Isle of Bardsey—where he had been buried about A.D. 520—to Llandaff, by Urban, the Bishop of the diocese. This was a notable event, and it seems very probable

that in commemoration of it, our Church was built or rebuilt. At all events, the tower is older than the rest of the Church, as is also a monument which represents a warrior in armour of the date of Richard I, and the piscina in the chancel.

The first thing that strikes the visitor is the spire, which is of wood, and truncated. Whether it was ever brought to a point is doubtful. Savage (*History of Carhampton*, p. 98) says that the top was blown off in a storm, but there is no evidence or tradition in support of this; and so when it was restored, five years ago, it was left in its old, quaint form. The work of restoration was very carefully carried out by Mr. Samson, who, keeping the old oak beams where they were sound, added supports of red deal, so that the old work can be readily distinguished from the new. The shales, as before, are of oak. Above the porch is a 'parvise,' called generally the priest's chamber. This can, at present, only be entered from outside; but originally there may have been a door into the Church, as it was probably used by the sacristan or the care-taker of the Church. To the west of the porch, outside, is an altar tomb of very early date. It has the five wounds in the centre panel, and on the east end is a portcullis. It probably was the altar of one of the many small chapels of which there are traces in the neighbourhood, but which at the Reformation were broken up or put to other purposes. It is to be placed inside the Church.

On entering the Church the eye is at once struck by the fine canopied tomb standing in the eastern arch of the arcade, with the recumbent figures of a knight and his lady in alabaster. The knight is in armour of the time of Henry V: he wears the cuirass, with a richly sculptured bawdrick round the hips; his long sword is supported by a belt, falling diagonally from the waist to the left side, the hilt being decorated with the sacred monogram; the arms are protected by rerebraces, fan shaped elbow-pieces and vambraces, and the hands by cuffed gauntlets; he has his "cuisses on his thighs," and sollerets to

the feet; his rouelle spurs are attached by buckle-straps passing over the insteps: he wears a collar and badge, and his bascinet is encircled by a wreath, probably intended for roses and rose leaves (not grapes and vine leaves, as Savage conjectures, p. 102): his head lies upon a helmet, composed of a lion's head erased: his feet rest upon a lion. The lady wears a mitred head-dress, richly diapered, and encircled by a coronet of fleur-de-lis: she is clad in a mantle fastened over the breast by tasselled cordons, and beneath this she wears the surcoat, and under this the kirtle: she has a double chain round her neck, with a pendant, and an ornamental girdle: her feet rest on what is supposed to be a boar. (Roscoe Gibbs, in the *Porlock Monuments*, p. 52 *seq.*) It is the monument of Sir John, 4th Baron Harington, and his wife, Elizabeth Courtenay. He died in 1417; she survived him several years, and married Sir William, 1st Baron Bonville, K.G., whose connubial happiness was cut short by decapitation in 1460. The monument has evidently been moved, and the shafts and canopy have been ruthlessly cut to place it in its present position. It probably stood in the second bay of the south aisle, where was the "Chantry Chapel," or "Chapel of St. Mary," founded in accordance with the will of John de Harington. To the east stood the Chantry altar, and the piscina still remains. Mr. Roscoe Gibbs tells us that two other monuments exist,—one at Bromsgrove, to Sir Humphrey Stafford and his lady (1450); the other at Tong, to Sir W. and Lady Vernon (*c.* 1467),—so like the Porlock monument that they must have been by the same artist.

Against the north-east wall of the chancel is a fine "Easter tomb." It is conjectured by Savage that it was the ancient altar of the Church; but it is hardly of a large enough size, nor has it the five crosses on the slab. In the centre panel of the front are displayed the five wounds on a shield, and in the right corner is the sacred monogram. On the west side the chief ornament is a Tudor rose within a cinquefoiled quatre-

foil ; all the others are trefoiled. On the east end is a carved shield, with the emblems of the Passion. This is given in Parker's *Concise Glossary of Architecture*, as a type of an altar tomb (p. 11).

On the south-east side of the chancel is a very fine EE. piscina. This was discovered by the Rector, filled up with rubble and covered with a thick coating of mortar, in 1875. It has a trefoiled head, and a double drain. At the south-east of the chancel there is a small chapel, now used as a vestry. What this was originally, cannot be said. It is too small for a Lady Chapel, nor is there any piscina. It may have been a sacristy, but in that case there would have been a lavatory or piscina. It is in a very dilapidated condition, and if restored at all, will have to be almost entirely rebuilt.

Mention has been made of the crusader, of the time of Richard I. The monument lies in a circular arch let into the thickness of the wall, at the south-west side. He is in chain mail, cross-legged, his right hand on his sword, his left arm supporting the oblong shield, and his feet resting on a lion. It is the monument of Sir Simon Fitz Roges or Roger, the supposed founder of the Church, and a great benefactor to the place. He is said to have fought in two crusades. There is a monument almost exactly identical in the Museum at York. To the east of this arch is a small one, apparently intended for a child, but there is nothing to show what it really was. The font is late 15th century.

It seems probable that like many, if not most, Churches in this part of Somerset, Porlock had a rood-screen. A small window, just by the groove in the ceiling which marks off the chancel, would seem to be a rood-screen window ; but no traces of such a screen have been found. The roof in the south aisle is a very fine specimen of the pointed waggon-roof ; but that in the main aisle is poor—in fact, it is merely patchwork, and will have to be entirely re-constructed. The wall on the north-east is much out of the perpendicular, but it is Early

English work, and it is hoped it will not have to be rebuilt. The tower is a noble specimen of Early English building.

Returning to the churchyard, it is necessary to speak of the old cross. Mr. Pooley, in his work on *Somersetshire Crosses*, falls foul of the people of Porlock for suffering the 'stately cross' in their churchyard to fall unheeded into irretrievable decay. He also laments that the old Market Cross, with its many interesting associations, has been allowed to disappear; he fears that the Churchyard Cross will soon share its fate. It is, indeed, a pity that the former 'relic of antiquity' has disappeared; but where it has gone to, or when it was demolished, no one knows. There is also considerable doubt as to where it stood. A very old man, now dead, could remember when the old Market House was pulled down, but he could not "mind" the Market Cross. A stone, evidently part of a cross, was found, the other day, built into the wall of a cottage which was being pulled down. This may have been part of the missing cross. It is of considerable size, and of different stone to the Churchyard Cross. Here, also, we may state that the old stoup for holy water was discovered by Mr. Samson in a cottage pigstye, and brought back to the Church. The old Churchyard Cross is now probably in the same condition as it has been for centuries. It might be repaired by adding a new head, but "new fashions don't fit old folks!" At all events, we may be sure that this and the other interesting monuments at Porlock will be carefully and skillfully dealt with by Mr. Sedding, without whose advice nothing will be done.

The following letter was received by Mr. Hook from Mrs. Halliday:

" West View, Torquay, May 29th, 1889.

"I send a brief sketch of my views respecting the very interesting monument in the Church of St. Dubricius, at Porlock. If you consider this sketch of sufficient interest to be worth the notice of the very distinguished visitors whom

you will have shortly the privilege of welcoming, I shall feel greatly honoured.

“A natural feeling of *surprise* is experienced by visitors at the *first sight* of so *costly* a monument in a small parish Church; situated in a district which, in former times, was so lonely and remote as Porlock.

“The *present* position of the tomb is, of course, quite anomalous, for though it stands under one of the arches which divide the nave from the south aisle, the present situation cannot be the original site, as the arch runs through the soffit of the canopy. Mr. Roscoe Gibbs, in his notes to the illustrations of *The Porlock Monuments*, remarks that the prominent architectural feature of the monument is the unusual *elevation* of the canopy. The present height of the monument from the floor is *12 feet 7 inches*; when the monument was architecturally complete, its height would have reached *14 feet*, or nearly three times its greatest width. The original design would necessarily include a screen for the purpose of enclosing the monument in a Chantry. This Chantry is termed in the Patent Roll, 14th of Edward IV. (the time of the foundation of the Chantry) “the Chapel of the Blessed Mary.” The notchings at the base of the eastern impost of the arcade, and on the west side of the second pier from the east, still exist as clear proofs that a screen *once* existed. Possibly, when the Chantry was suppressed, in 1547, the monument was moved, and the frieze and cornice then destroyed, in order to force the monument into its strange and inharmonious position.

“It will at once be obvious to the visitor that the effigies and the canopy are of *different periods*—the history of the Lords of Porlock, the actual foundation of the Chantry in 1473, and the ultimate descent of the manor, seem to supply an adequate explanation. Seeing how vast were the Harington estates, and that John, fourth Baron Harington, and Elizabeth Courtenay, his wife, were, in the Patent Roll above alluded to, the founders of the Chantry, which was termed



“the Chantry of John, late Lord Harington, and Elizabeth, his wife,” and that his manor of Uggeburgh, Co. Devon, was, by his will, devised to found this Chantry, the natural inference seems to follow that the effigies commemorate the *original founders* of the Chantry, that is, of John, fourth Baron Harington, who died 1417, and of his widow, Elizabeth Courtenay, daughter of Edward, third Earl of Devon, long his survivor; she died in 1472.

“Lord Harington filled very important positions in the reign of Henry V; the Letters Patent, which authorised the founding of the Chantry, were only granted in the 14th of Edward IV. His vast estates ultimately devolved upon Cecily Bonville, only daughter and heir of William Bonville, Lord Harington, junior, who, at the age of sixteen, became the wife of Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, K.G., son of Edward the Fourth’s Queen.

“For further explanatory details, *The Porlock Monuments*<sup>1</sup> may be referred to, respecting the parentage and history of Cecily Bonville, who, upon the death of Thomas Grey, remarried Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire, and died about 1527.”

Mr. E. BUCKLE pointed out that a space was left bare immediately over the forehead of the knight in the Harington monument, apparently for an inscription; and he mentioned that a carved inscription, unfortunately much mutilated and now illegible, occurred in a similar position on the Luttrell monument to the north of the altar in Dunster Church. He asked whether anyone could recollect a similar feature elsewhere, and

One of the Members replied that he had seen the words “Jesu mercy” in a similar position upon a monument in Derbyshire.

<sup>1</sup> *A Description of the Monument and Effigies in Porlock Church, Somerset*, by Maria Halliday, Torquay, 1882.

### Luccombe Church.

On arriving at Luccombe, Mr. BUCKLE made some remarks on the Church. He said it was another specimen of the type of the Churches they had seen during the last two days. It was very like the one at Porlock, only it had a Perpendicular arcade. He called attention to the capitals of the arcade, some of which were carved in a manner common in Devonshire, while others were quite plain. There was a fine altar tomb in the tower, which must have been removed there from some other place.<sup>1</sup> It had one blank shield, while all the other panels were filled up with curious kinds of foliage. There was another instance in that Church of the double piscina of Early English date. The pulpit and reading desk were fine specimens of late wood-work. One feature of interest was the tomb of Dr. Byam, Rector of Luccombe in the time of Charles I, and an ardent Royalist. He assisted in raising a troop to serve in the King's army, in which four of his sons were captains. On the triumph of the Puritans, his wife and daughter were drowned in attempting to flee from the country. Byam accompanied Charles to the Scilly Isles and Jersey, and it is interesting to know that he lived to see the restoration of the monarchy, and that his sons lived to attain eminence. The Churchwardens' Accounts kept in the vestry go back to the year 1649, and are exceedingly well kept.

On the way home from Luccombe, at the cross roads near Tivington, commanding a view of the Porlock Valley,

Mr. USSHER gave a short address on the geological features of the district. There were, he said, around and below them, in the higher lands and the valley opening on Porlock bay, records of three great epochs of geological change. These

<sup>1</sup> A resident states that it was removed to its present position from the south aisle.

constituted the pre-historic archæology of the district. He asked them to suppose a deep trench or section carved through North Hill, across the Porlock valley, and through the heights of Dunkery on the other side, so as to expose the rocks to a very considerable depth. They would then find that the Porlock valley was composed of Red Marls, Sandstones, and Gravels of the Triassic or New Red Sandstone formation, resting on Slates and Grits of the same character as those forming the higher lands of Dunkery, Grabbist Hill, and North Hill—namely, Devonian rocks. But it would also be seen that whilst the Slates and Grits of the Devonian formation occurred in beds which had been much disturbed and flexured from their originally horizontal position, the Triassic rocks, though highly inclined, and displaced along fractures, technically called Faults, were not curved, and, moreover, rested on the planed edges of the Devonian strata. Near Selworthy a patch of Rhætic and Lias beds, let down by a Fault, proves the extension of the Blue Anchor and Watchet Liassic rocks over the Porlock valley.

The position of the Triassic and newer rocks in a depression carved out of the Devonian strata, indicates a considerable gap of unrepresented time between these epochs. No records of the geological history of Porlock valley during the ages subsequent to the deposition of the Lias, whilst the Oolites of Bath and Frome, and the Green Sands of the Blackdowns were deposited, are preserved in the neighbourhood.

The third class of phenomena represented by the alluvial flats, superficial gravels, and the submerged forest traces on the coasts, is so recent as to belong to the border-land which separates the geological from the archæological domain.

He asked them to carry their minds back to a time long before the hills on which they stood existed: when the waters of the Devonian sea covered Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, extending, perhaps, to the foot of the Malvern Hills, and laved an ancient land in Wales, drained by the rivers of the period.

In such rivers, and in lakes or fiords, the Old Red Sandstone was accumulating during part of the Devonian epoch. Before the land of Somerset appeared, many thousands of feet of Devonian strata had been deposited, and upon them succeeded an extensive accumulation of Carboniferous beds. Then there came a time when the old sea bed was raised, and the south-western counties for ages suffered the gnawing of Time's agents; rain, rivers, and perhaps the sea, removing many thousands of feet of strata, and exposing the lower beds of the Devonian strata on North Hill, Grabbist, and the slopes of Dunkery. The only relic of this great period of waste we have is furnished by the Triassic rocks, which show by their distribution the relations of land and water during the Triassic period. There was then a double connection on either side of Grabbist Hill with the Triassic area of Minehead and Dunster; so that Grabbist and Heydon Down would have formed an island. The Liassic sea also extended from Watchet, through these water-ways, to Selworthy and Wotton Courtney, and over the Porlock valley.

It was a common mistake to suppose the hills of a country to be everlasting: they were so, certainly, in the sense that every geological epoch had its hills and valleys. But, bearing in mind the two geological axioms,—that all sedimentary strata were originally deposited in more or less horizontal beds in the sea, lakes, or rivers; and that the sea level is of all mutable things the most immutable,—the existence above sea level of bent or highly inclined sedimentary strata, proves the fugitive nature of the land surface.

The main cause of the great earth movements by which these changes in the relation of sea and land have been brought about, is the contraction of the earth's crust unequally in the process of secular cooling, by which it has here and there to accommodate itself to the shrinking nucleus, and so the horizontal beds of rock in the areas affected are crinkled and puckered up, so as to occupy a restricted space. Rain and

rivers are the main factors in the production of natural scenery. The rainfall seeks the lower levels, where the comparative softness of the rocks, or the presence of dislocations or joints, affords most facility for its descent, and in process of time the tiny chnnnels become rivers, valleys, gorges, and alluvial flats, such as the flat between Heydon Down, Holnicote, and Porlock Bay. The submerged forest indicates a recent elevation of the land, succeeded by submergence.

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## The Evening Meeting.

The PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Mr. WALTERS, of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, read a paper descriptive of some explorations at Stoke, upon the site of the Beauchamp Castle, which is printed in the Second Part.

### *Heraldic Tiles.*

Mr. E. BUCKLE followed with some remarks on heraldic tiles. He said there were a number of these at Dunster and Old Cleeve in a remarkably good state of preservation. There were one or two things with regard to these tiles to which he wished to call attention. In the first place, there was considerable uncertainty as to whose arms they were intended to bear, because they had not got any tinctures, or any indication of tinctures. Several families bore the same charges with different tinctures, and it was impossible to say what family the maker had in his mind when he cut those tiles. Similar tiles were found in Leighland Chapel, St. Decuman's, Dunster, Cleeve, Wells Cathedral and Palace, Tintinhull, Stoke, and Poyntington, and elsewhere. The question which arose was whether it was reasonable to suppose that the owners of the arms depicted on those tiles had any connection whatever with the buildings in which they were found. From the varied

positions in which they were found it seemed more probable that when a Church was to be restored, the restorers sent to the tile makers for tiles, and they took stock patterns. And this led them to a very interesting point. The arms of the whole of these tiles were Somerset arms, as far as they were identified; and that seemed to point to the fact that there was a tile manufactory in Somerset in the 13th century. That was an interesting fact, and he should like to know where this manufactory was, and what clay was used. They could not be guided in any way by the colour of the tiles in deciding whose arms were represented; for the colours were usually red and buff. It sometimes varied, and in some cases was a dark neutral tint, and in others they had a green glaze and brown glaze. But, generally speaking, the clay of which these tiles were made was of a dull red, and the material which was inlaid on that was white; and these were the only two colours available. The proper method of using these two colours was this. The field of the shield should be formed of the material of the tile itself, and so should always be red, while the primary charges should always be inlaid, and so appear white or yellow. Any secondary charges upon these should be red, and so on. The consequence of this was that they might get a shield represented on the tile in precisely the contrary tincture to that which it ought to have. These were all the general remarks he had to offer. He did not think it was worth while at that time to go through a list of the tiles he had found there, or the Somerset families which were associated with them,<sup>1</sup> but he should like to mention some which were not identified. He had got a list in all of twenty-seven tiles of different coats of arms, but there were a few which he had not been able to identify with any family in Somerset. He would read them to the Meeting, so that anyone might make a suggestion as to whom they belonged. They were as follow:—*Fretty engrailed; three cinquefoils two and one, on a*

<sup>1</sup> These particulars will be found in Part II.

*chief three more of the same; party per pale, a bend between six crosses patonce; on a bend cotised three cinquefoils; a fess between six crosses fleury.*

The CHAIRMAN thought there was one consideration which militated against Mr. Buckle's theory as to the sending out of stock tiles. In those days of heraldry, the arms were regarded as the signature of the family, and he did not think it likely that a large manufacturer of tiles would forge somebody else's arms, and send out those of Beauchamp, De Mohun, or any other arms people liked to send for.

A few remarks were made by Dr. NORRIS, in which he expressed the opinion that there might be something in Mr. Buckle's theory, because he fancied that stock tiles, such as those bearing the arms of the King of the Romans and his son, might have been used for several generations.

Mr. MORLAND then read a paper on "St. Bridget's Church, near Glastonbury;" printed in Part II. Several other papers were taken as read, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Directors for the use of the Town Hall.