#### PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

DURING THE YEAR

1943

The Ninety-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Taunton Castle on Tuesday, 6 July. The morning meeting was held in the Wyndham Hall. The chair was taken by the new President, the Very Rev. R. H. Malden, B.D., Dean of Wells. He was supported by Mr. A. W. Vivian-Neal, M.C., F.S.A. (Chairman of Council), Major F. M. E. Kennedy, C.B. (Hon. Secretary), and Mr. H. St. George Gray, F.S.A. (Asst.-Secretary, Curator and Librarian).

At the outset, the Dean congratulated Mr. Vivian-Neal on his appointment to the 'ancient, honourable, and arduous

office of High Sheriff of Somerset'.

Mr. VIVIAN-NEAL in reply said that for many years the High Sheriff was connected with Taunton, for the Castle was lent year by year, from the middle of the thirteenth century, by the Bishop of Winchester for the Assizes. Prince John (afterwards King John) was Sheriff of Somerset in 1189. He mentioned the fact that the list of Sheriffs of Somerset was incomplete, and he asked the help of members in endeavouring to compile a perfect list so that it might be published in the *Proceedings* or elsewhere.

#### The Annual Report

Mr. H. St. George Gray, Asst.-Secretary, read the Annual Report, which was as follows:—

'In presenting the ninety-fifth annual report the Council wishes to state that since the last meeting 33 new names have been added to the list of members and associates, as against

31 in the previous year. Losses by death during the year have amounted to 18, as far as can be ascertained, and there have been few resignations. The membership to-day is in the region of 860, but owing to War conditions, and to being out-of-touch with some of our members, it is impossible to give the exact number in this report.

'The Society has lost one who was for several years the "father of the Society"—Mr. A. F. Somerville, who joined in 1883, and died at the venerable age of 92 years, on 21 November last; he had twice been president of the Society. Dr. F. J. Allen, who joined the Society in 1884, then became "the father", but he died in his eighty-ninth year on 28 December; the majority of his Somerset negatives and lantern slides were given to the Society and he made a small bequest. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Francis Underhill, Bishop of Bath and Wells, passed away on 24 January last during his term as president of the Society. (Obituary notices of these three members were published in vol. lxxxviii of the *Proceedings*.)

'The Society has also sustained the loss by death of the following members during the period under review: Miss E. M. Baker (1928), Miss I. Capel-Cure (1931), the Rev. L. R. Hancock (1940), formerly Archdeacon of Brazil, Mrs. T. Holt (1913), Mr. W. V. James (1908), Mr. T. H. W. Malet (1897), Lt.-Col. H. C. Page-Henderson (1919), Miss M. P. Perry (1916), who has left the Society a few Museum specimens and who for many years was honorary secretary of the Northern Branch of the Society, Mr. E. Preedy (1938), Mr. J. Parker Rhodes, F.Z.S. (1925), Miss Gwladys Sully (1913), the Rev. T. C. Tanner (1933), Lt.-Col. E. G. Troyte-Bullock, C.M.G. (1900), who frequently attended the excursions of the Society, Mrs. W. W. Ward (1928), and the Rev. Preb. H. C. Young (1912).

'It should be reported that, now the Council meets less frequently than formerly, owing to War conditions, the Museum and Library Committee has been re-named the Executive Committee, and that for the period of the present emergency it has been given power by the Council to take necessary action in matters of urgency.

 $\lq$  The volume of Proceedings for 1942 was published recently.  $^1$ 

 $<sup>^1</sup>$  The total cost to the Society of *Proceedings*, lxxxviii, amounts to £167 10s. 9d.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining paper and the higher cost of production, this volume, like its predecessor, does not compare in size with the average volume of pre-war days, but it contains material which includes practically all departments of the Society's studies.

'The external painting of the Castle and various repairs are overdue, and one or two of the heating-furnaces are not in order at the present time. Steps are being taken to remedy these defects; that is, as far as it is possible to get material and labour. The general management of the Castle property becomes increasingly difficult, and much of the Society's income is absorbed by expenditure directly caused by the continuation of the War. Maintenance is also difficult with regard to staff arrangements. The loss of three members of the staff since July 1940 has entailed temporary adjustments, and much additional routine work has devolved on the Curator at a time when he should be receiving increased help and more leisure.

'It is satisfactory to be able to report that the Wyndham Hall, in which we are now assembled, is in great demand not only for its original purpose for lectures given to schools under the Wyndham Trusts, but for all kinds of War organizations, and for charitable, educational, commercial and other meetings.

'Recently a series of five topical lectures have been given in this hall in connection with the Society's work, and have been well attended by members in Taunton and in easy distance of the town.

'The eight-page handbook entitled *Notes on Taunton Castle*, price 2d., has proved to be very popular, and a second edition was issued at Easter.

'There has been a constant flow of donations to the Museum, but everything has to be carefully scrutinized and considered before acceptance, for the Castle must not be regarded as a "dump" for unwanted articles.

'From Mr. Frank Beale the Society has received his archæological notes on Clevedon and neighbourhood, covering some forty years, and such of the remains discovered as had come into his possession. From the Stradling collection a number of antiquities found at the Roman villa at Pitney has

been purchased; also a large series of clay coin-moulds of Roman date found on the peat-moor at Edington, from the same source. An interesting document, dated 1509, bearing an impression of the ancient seal of Taunton has also been purchased.<sup>1</sup>

'In sorting out the large collections of horse-brasses a number of duplicates were found, and these have been sold to collectors. There are also several duplicates of Somerset club-brasses at Taunton Castle which are now being sold as opportunity

presents itself.

'The largest addition to the Library is a portion of the library formed by the late Charles E. Clayton, superintendent of Glastonbury Abbey. The books, which will be valuable to students, deal largely with architecture, ecclesiastical and other history, and have been given by Miss Frances Clayton, in memory of her brother.

'The accession of a number of copies of Somerset church registers was reported at the last annual meeting. Soon after that time several of the original registers in the diocese were micro-filmed, some of the work being done in this hall.<sup>2</sup> The only regret is that fuller advantage was not taken of the scheme when it was possible to get the work done.

'The editor of the Victoria County histories has been approached by the Chairman with regard to getting the Somerset volumes completed. It was found, however, not to be possible at present unless a sum of five or six thousand pounds could be subscribed to ensure the project being carried through.

'The Council has been in touch with the Nature Reserves Investigation Committee with regard to preservation in postwar reconstruction. It has now been decided that the University of Bristol will be the headquarters for a great part of the organization in the south-west of England, and the subcommittee will include representatives from the counties of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset. The following have been appointed for Somerset: the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt (ornithology), Dr. F. S. Wallis (geology), Dr. W. Watson (botany), Sir Alexander Rodger (forestry), and Mr. St. George Gray (archæology and entomology). There has already been

<sup>1</sup> Full description in *Proceedings*, lxxxviii, 48.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The parishes dealt with are listed in Proceedings, lxxxviii, 5.

a joint sub-committee meeting between the representatives for Somerset and Devon with regard to the future of Exmoor.

'Mr. St. George Gray was nominated to represent the Society in London on 4 May at the joint meeting (which was well attended) of the Council of the Society of Antiquaries and the Congress of Archæological Societies in the formation of a Council for British Archæology to deal with post-war problems (particularly of important bombed sites). He has now been elected to the Provisional General Council.

'In conjunction with the Taunton Field Club, members of the Society living in this neighbourhood visited Milverton on 24 September 1942 to see the new discoveries made in the church, under the guidance of Dr. F. C. Eeles. It is hoped that a record of the work which has been undertaken will appear in

the Proceedings.

'The South-Western Group of Museums and Art Galleries held its annual meeting in this hall on 9 June, when the Curator read a short paper in opening the discussion on "The Past, Present and Future of Private Museums". A résumé will appear in *The Museums Journal*, vol. xliii, 113–6.

'The Botanical Section of the Society held its field-days during the 1942 season, and the Ornithological Section published its separate report for the year. Both these sections

are flourishing.

Taunton Castle was visited during 1942 by 10,736 persons including 1,084 members. The 10,000-mark has been reached before only in 1937 (with 10,127 visitors), and in 1939 (10,450 visitors).

'So far during 1943, the monthly totals have been more than in any previous year, and Whit-Monday 1943 established a

record for a single day's attendance'.

On the proposition of Sir William Savage, seconded by Mr. Roger Clark, the adoption of the Report was carried unanimously.

#### Finances

Mr. ARTHUR E. EASTWOOD, Chairman of Finance, presented the Accounts of the Society for 1942, and they were formally adopted. They have already been printed in *Proceedings*, vol. lxxxviii.

## Election of Members and Officers

At the beginning of the Meeting the following two candidates were elected members of the Society: The Rev. B. S. W. Crockett and Mr. Harold Hartley.

Mr. A. W. Vivian-Neal, Honorary Editor, Major F. M. E. Kennedy, Honorary Secretary, Mr. F. L. England, Honorary Treasurer, and Dr. A Bulleid, Vice-President, were re-elected.

In the Council of fifteen there were five vacancies. Brigadier R. Benson, Sir Alexander Rodger, Mr. A. W. Vivian-Neal and the Rev. C. Woodforde were re-elected, and the Rev. T. L. T. Fisher, M.C., was elected.

## Somerset Record Society

The Report was read by Mr. Vivian-Neal. It may be summarized as follows:

In accordance with the constitution of the Record Society, it has been customary that a Report should be given to the Archæological Society at its annual meeting.

The volume for 1941 is now in the press. As announced last year, the material for it is drawn from a Consuetudinary of Wells Cathedral, known as the Cosyn MS., which has been lent by the Dean and Chapter to Dom Aelred Watkin of Downside.

A third volume of *Collectanea* is in preparation, and will be issued in due course to subscribers for 1942.

## The Presidential Address

The Very Rev. R. H. Malden, Dean of Wells, then delivered his Presidential Address, entitled 'The Relevancy of Archæology'. Epitomized the address was as follows:—

I must confess that I feel a little ashamed of the title I have chosen, for it suggests that I am going to try to show that archæology is of some obvious and immediate use. But this is a concession to a modern temper which I do not admire. I was brought up in the belief that any form of knowledge is worth pursuing for its own sake.

Of course the study of archæology calls for perseverance, accuracy, intelligence, and imagination. But so, I suppose, does any form of study. The archæologist's picture of his lost world can never be complete. What particular benefit do his researches confer upon mankind which could not be derived at least equally well from some other source? Briefly, archæology furnishes us with a proper perspective. Our general view of things is bound to be affected very deeply by the whole background of our thought. I want now to try to show very briefly how completely and with (as I think) what far-reaching results archæology has changed our background in not much more than my own life-time.

Until fairly recently every printed copy of the Authorized Version of the Bible was supplied with a complete chronology which placed the creation of the world in the year 4004 B.C. I believe this was the work of James Ussher, who became Archbishop of Armagh in the year 1625. For more than two centuries it went wherever the English Bible went, and was

accepted without question.

Before the nineteenth century had got very far the geologists began to assert that most of the rocks of which the world is made, and the fossilized remains of extinct creatures to be found in them, must have existed for much more than 6,000 years. The astronomers had something to say too. But this did not necessarily affect the duration of human life. *Genesis* 

represents man as a latecomer.

In 1858 Charles Darwin published his Origin of Species, in which he argued that all forms of life which exist to-day have developed gradually during a period of time which cannot be estimated from a much smaller number of simpler forms; perhaps ultimately from a single cell. Human life is part of this process, which he called Evolution. To many people he seemed to be destroying the foundations of religion. Even now people do not always recognize that to describe the successive stages of a process does not explain it, or determine its value. I believe that Darwin's theories are not accepted now exactly as he stated them. But he put biology on the right lines and his general conclusions are not in dispute.

So much for the curtain which hangs between us and the past, as a whole.

Now, I want to say something about two smaller liftings of corners of it which concern one part of the world only.

- (A) The earliest literature in any European language which has come down to us are the poems of Homer. For a long time they were regarded as entirely legendary. Shortly before I was born, a series of remarkable discoveries on the soil of Greece and Asia Minor, in which a German archæologist, named Schliemann, took the leading part, brought the Trojan war into the domain of history. It was considered (correctly, I believe) to have been fought soon after the year 1200 B.C., and the champions (less correctly) to have belonged to the rise of the first civilization Europe knew.
- (B) Twenty years later, or a little more, a series of equally remarkable discoveries were made in Crete. This time the credit belongs to two Englishmen, Sir Arthur Evans, who had personal links with Wells, and Dr. Hogarth. They showed that for at least 1,500 years before the Trojan war Crete had been the centre of a highly developed civilization, which the ancestors of the Greeks of history had destroyed: much as our own forefathers destroyed the civilization of Roman Britain and built another on the debris.

Parts of Europe have known civilization for five or six thousand years. Egypt and Babylonia for considerably longer.

What do we mean by civilization?

Fundamentally, I think life under a coherent system of reasonably just laws, which, while they can be enforced if need arises, are for the most part voluntarily obeyed. But archæology can produce little evidence of this. The archæologist's tests are, roughly, the practice of the arts, especially architecture and the use of writing.

As soon as men have begun to make their buildings more than mere shelters from the weather, and try to erect something beautiful as well as convenient, as soon as they can write so that the wisdom of each generation is not buried with it, then I think civilization has taken root amongst them.

There have been brilliant civilizations before our own which have lasted longer than ours has yet. They have crumbled away, and the archæologist is bound to ask himself 'Why'? The final crash has usually been brought about by foreign

invasion. But before that it is possible to trace a period of decline. Art ceases to be creative and becomes pretentious. Architecture lacks imagination and ambition. The spade reveals a people in decay. And the moral of that is (as the Duchess might have said to Alice) that the foundation of everything is character. As civilization develops it places an increasing tax on moral character. If there is no corresponding moral advance the outcome must be disaster. I wish I felt more confident than I do that some of those who talk glibly about 'democracy' and 'progress' were alive to this.

Within the last fifty years discoveries of human remains at Gibraltar, in Sussex and in Java, seem to make it reasonable to suppose that mankind has inhabited the earth for something like half a million years. Here and there he has known civilization for perhaps 15,000 years. But none of the things which we regard as most characteristic of our civilization—steam-driven machinery, electricity and the internal combustion engine—have we had for as much as 150 years. These

things are very new toys.

And in this long view I see grounds of confidence and hope. Some people are disposed to despair of the future of our race. If they limit themselves to present circumstances, their pessimism is intelligible. But if we look back, as archæology enables us to do, over man's past record of success (and what it cost to attain) and failure (and what brought it about), the whole picture becomes different. And that is one reason why I think that archæology is extremely relevant to our present situation. More relevant than anything else, except religion, of which this is not the time nor place to speak. It gives us the background which we need.

We are still in the very early stages of the rational and civilized era of human history. And if the realization of this should induce in us a little less confidence in the extent and finality of our present knowledge, and the value and permanence of some of our achievements, I doubt whether we shall

be any the worse.

The President was thanked for his address, on the proposition of the Rev. Preb. G. W. Saunders, seconded by the Rev. Preb. J. D. Gedge.

## Exhibition of Church Plate

By the kindness of the Vicars and Churchwardens of St. Mary's Church and St. James' Church, Taunton, the undermentioned pieces of plate were exhibited in the Museum at Taunton Castle on the day of the annual meeting, 6 July (see *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xlvi, 170-2).

#### St. Mary's Church.

Two large silver-gilt cups with covers, 1639, inscribed with the donor's name, Robert Hill, of Hollyland, who was a cousin of William Hill, of Poundisford. Robert Hill was joint patron of the living of St. Mary's, with Sir William Portman.

A large flat-topped flagon, the gift, in 1639, of Grace Portman,

daughter of Sir John Portman, of Orchard Portman.

Two silver-gilt flagons, given, in 1639, by William Smith, Warden

of Wadham College, Oxford.

Silver paten (described formerly as an almsdish), date-letter for 1699, which was purchased in that year.

#### St. James' Church.

Chalice, perhaps Dutch or German, early seventeenth century, bequeathed by the Rev. Thomas Hugo, in 1877.

After lunch the members spent a little time in the Museum, Library and Castle garden, before leaving for

#### ORCHARD PORTMAN

where the church (the Rev. W. A. Tucker, Rector) was visited, and described by Dr. F. C. Eeles, o.b.e., as follows:—

The church of St. Michael, Orchard Portman, is a small building consisting of chancel, nave, south chapel, north porch, vestry on the north side of the chancel, and west tower. (Plate I.)

A good deal of the nave is probably Norman, though the only visible evidence of that is the north doorway, probably the most beautiful of its kind in a large area.

This Norman nave no doubt had a small and narrower chancel. The present chancel, wider and probably longer, was substituted, possibly built outside the small earlier chancel,

before it was pulled down. It is the same width as the nave, and seems to date from early in the fifteenth century. The plain south doorway suggests a still earlier date, but the south and east windows are of later character and the perfectly plain doorway may be contemporary with them.

Again, later in the fifteenth century, the two south nave windows were renewed. After some years there was a similar renewal of the corresponding windows on the north side of the nave, when the porch was built there; finally a window was placed in the north wall of the chancel.

It may be inferred from the records of bequests for the building of the tower by John Portman, of Orchard, in 1521 <sup>1</sup> and by Thomas Ketter, of Orchard, husbandman, in 1532, <sup>2</sup> that the tower was completed before 1540. In modern times, no doubt late in the nineteenth century, the vestry was added to the chancel, and the seating and fittings renewed throughout the church. In 1910 the south chapel was built. The pulpit is constructed of Jacobean panelling, and a series of good linen-fold panels has been placed along the east wall, returning along the north and south walls within the altar rails. Some of the panelling of the choir stalls on the south side may be old work much modernized: it is carved with what has been called the 'Dunster formula', from its frequent use there.

The whole church is covered with rough-cast. While the colour is not white enough and the surface too hard and flat, the walls are rightly protected in this way as they are of a soft stone not intended for exposure. Originally no doubt the stone was flush pointed, and then covered by a white or cream wash, with a slightly uneven surface. After this wore away, the walls were re-covered with the rough-cast of the later tradition.

The east window is of three-cinquefoiled lights with tracery lights in two pairs, trefoiled—a very usual formula. The tracery is set flush with the wall and has no label. The eastern parts of the chancel side walls have no windows visible. Near the west end of the south wall is a two-light window with trefoiled heads and a single tracery light, trefoiled, between short tracery mullions—a common early fifteenth-century type,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Som. Record Soc., xix, 211.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Wells Wills, ed. F. W. Weaver (1890), 113.

again without either moulding or label. This window, however, has a rear-arch, the only one in the church.

The chancel-arch is two-centred, plainly chamfered and plastered: it fades into the walls at the springing.

The two south nave windows each have three cinquefoiled lights, under a square head, with a surrounding moulding of a plain label. The two north windows are also in three lights, square-headed, but they have depressed heads, mouldings in two orders, and plain labels. The north chancel window is similar, but with one moulding and only two lights, and its general appearance suggests early seventeenth-century work.

Reverting to the two square-headed windows on the south side of the nave, close examination shows that they are really the lower parts of traceried windows with the tops cut off and enclosed by modern square heads and labels. The explanation is found in the interesting drawing of the church from the Pigott Collection in the Society's library (Plate I), showing the building as it was before more recent alterations. We find that it possessed a short south aisle 1 occupying the eastern two-thirds of the nave and containing two three-light Perpendicular windows of a very usual type, with tracery of the same general character as the east window of the chancel. Evidently when the aisle was pulled down these two windows were re-used in the nave wall but without their tracery, and converted into the square-headed type, not however without it being possible to detect the beginning of the arch on either side and the bases of the tracery mullions between the heads of the lights. In the drawing are some rather puzzling features. The south-west corner of the aisle has no buttress. The buttress in the centre of the aisle wall looks like an angle buttress: this suggests that the western part of the aisle was added to an already existing transept. The blank east end of the aisle is unusual, and the buttress slightly south of the centre of this wall may indicate weakness and rebuilding:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The south aisle was the Portman chapel. It is evident from the tracery of the windows that the aisle was built or reconstructed in the second half of the fifteenth century. We may assume that the work was carried out either by Cristina de Orchard and her husband Walter Portman or as part of a memorial to them. If, as is probable, an east window existed this was no doubt blocked when one of the later Portman monuments, known to have been destroyed in the nineteenth century, was introduced.—ED.

possibly a window may have been blocked here for security. The existing transeptal chapel occupies the site of the western half of this aisle.

The writer is indebted to Lady Adams <sup>1</sup> for the following note on the transeptal chapel which adjoins the centre of the nave on the south side.

'The south transept chapel was rebuilt on the original foundations of a chapel, which was in existence up to the early part of the nineteenth century, and was then pulled down and altered to form a central south porch. The position of this chapel is shown in the engraving after Knyff of the Portman House, published in 1708, as is a porch on the north side of the church. When the south porch was erected in place of the chapel, the north door was built up, and the Norman arch removed to the south door.

'In 1910 when Viscount (William Berkeley) Portman erected the existing chapel as a memorial to the Portman family, the Norman arch was restored to its original position facing the now built-up north door. The font, which stands in what was the north porch, originally stood at the west door, and was removed to its present position at the same time.

'The linen-fold panelling round the chancel was also placed there when these alterations were made, and the present window in the east end put in, in place of some very poor

nineteenth-century work.'

The Norman doorway has two recessed orders: the inner responds are plain, the outer ones have a roll-on edge, and a zigzag ornament on the outer face. The capitals are simply moulded. Both arches have zigzag ornaments of varying forms, and there is a label with small four-leaved ornaments and a group of round flattened balls in the middle of a hollow moulding on the inside, and terminating in head-stops, possibly of later cutting than the rest.

The tower has three stages and small angle buttresses with unusually shallow offsets. The tower arch, with two recessed orders chamfered and no capitals, looks comparatively early. The west doorway and window have depressed four-centred arches: the doorway has an ogee-moulding and no label, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Lady Adams is a daughter of the late Rev. H. F. Berkeley Portman, rector of Orchard Portman.

window has three cinquefoiled lights, ogee-headed, with tracery in two panels sub-divided into two trefoiled-headed lights with a quatrefoil in the head. The label has king and queen headstops. The south wall in the second stage has a window of two lights, like the windows of the belfry stage on the south. east and north sides: these are in two trefoil-headed lights with two tracery lights formed by the central and the two lateral mullions running to the arch without separate arches or cusping. These windows have no labels. The west belfry window is a little wider than the others. It has two trefoiled ogee-headed lights with a single quatrefoil in the tracery, in the Decorated style without tracery mullions, and seems to be fourteenth-century work re-used: it may have been the original west window. The parapet is plain: it is embattled, with three embrasures on the east, south and west sides, capped with narrow and continuous moulding. The staircase turret is close to the east end of the north side: it is square as far as a point between the top of the nave wall and the first stringcourse, when it becomes semi-octagonal. The top has been finished without battlements in later times. Where the square gives place to the semi-octagon there is an unusual enrichment of a miniature crocketted pinnacle combined with the sloping offset. At Stawley a very plain tower dated 1523 has a rather similar addition of miniature pinnacles in an unusual place. There they are on the uppermost offsets of the buttresses just below the plain parapet. The question may be asked whether this tower, Stawley,1 and perhaps Kittisford and Langford Budville all came from the same hands, possibly a mason in Taunton.

The font stands in the blocked north porch: it is a plain cylindrical Norman font, re-set, with the upper part of the basin cut down, and set upon a modern base. It must have originally stood direct on the ground or only on a low step.

In the eastmost window on the north side of the nave are fixed four panels of tracery glass evidently taken from one of the altered south windows or possibly from the east window when the existing stained glass was placed in it. This glass is of a very usual late fifteenth or early sixteenth-century type executed in white and yellow stain only, representing figures

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Fully described, Proc. Som. Arch. Soc., lxxx, pp. xxxiv-xxxv.

of apostles standing on chequered pavements. Only two figures contain original work; one of St. John with the serpent flying out of the chalice is mostly old; a second, representing a saint with a thin staff the lower end of which is original, is largely modern, while the other two rather nondescript figures with books and palm branches are wholly modern.

The monumental brass in memory of Humphrey Colles, 1693, has been figured and described in *Proceedings*, lxxxiii, 141, and Plate xx. Humphrey Colles was a member of the

household of Sir William Portman,1

The church plate exhibited consisted of a plain cup with cover, bearing the date-letter for 1646 and the Portman arms; also a large flagon with the same marks closely resembling the flagon given by Grace Portman to St. Mary's, Taunton.<sup>2</sup>

Before leaving the church Mr. A. W. VIVIAN-NEAL, F.S.A., read a short paper on the 'History of Orchard Portman'. This, considerably amplified, is printed in Part II of this volume.

Tea was provided for the members on the lawn of Orchard Portman Farm, and for this accommodation Mrs. H. Shattock was thanked.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Som. and Dor. Notes and Queries, xiii, 322; Brown's unpublished Wills, ii, 268.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Proc. Som. Arch. Soc., xlvi, 166.