frequent volumes pressed heavily on those members who in the years of the war let their payments fall into arrear; but in every case they had splendidly responded to the Secretary's appeals, and at the moment the arrears on the Society's books were negligible.

During 1924, eleven new members had joined the Society, and two had withdrawn their names. That gave a total on the register of 140, an improvement certainly, but insufficient to guarantee safety for the future. It must again be repeated that 150 was the minimum with which the Society dared hope to continue the issue of its publications.

It was with deep regret that allusion was made to the death during 1924 of one of the original members of the Record Society,—Prebendary Daniel.

The Presidential Address

The President, Major M. F. Cely Trevilian, D.L., then delivered his address entitled "Pageantry." It is printed as the first paper in Part II.

The speaker was cordially thanked for his address, on the proposition of the Dean of Wells, seconded by Major-General W. du G. Gray, C.B. The Dean in his remarks made reference to a fund, amounting to about £3,000, required to secure the west front of the Cathedral Church at Wells.

At the close of the meeting the members adjourned for luncheon at the Langport Arms Hotel.

Church of All Saints, Langport (Plates I, II)

After luncheon the members assembled at 2 o'clock outside the church, which was described to them by the former vicar, the Rev. Preb. Ross, who said that the oldest stone in the church was the tympanum built into the present double doorway. The Norman church probably succeeded Saxon and Romano-British buildings. The district is noted for Roman villas on both sides of the Parret, and the narrow isthmus of Bow Street with its Parret ford was the sole means of communication for miles. The importance of Langport in



STONE FROM FORMER TYMPANUM OF NORMAN SOUTH DOORWAY, LANGPORT CHURCH

From a Photograph by E. E. Bennett, Langport

Saxon times is marked by its fortifications and mint. The Norman church probably dates about 1170 (when Aller too was in rebuilding) under Sir Richard Rivel, who is said to have given a Castle and Charter to Langport. In the early XIV Century the Norman church was replaced by a " Decorated " building, of which the N. aisle still remains ; and the trade guild of the place had an altar in All Saints. A Chantry of the High Cross (the Rood ?) is mentioned in 1349. The church was again rebuilt in the Perpendicular style, 1460–1490, the tower perhaps earlier than the rest. The Lady Margaret was Lady of the Manor for sixty years and her portcullis is on the tower battlements. Pridham dates the font before 1460. John Heron the portreeve assisted in the Buckingham rebellion and again in 1485, and was rewarded by Henry VII with a lucrative office in the western counties. Gerard (1630) tells us that Heron built most part of the church. The chancel is higher than the nave—an unusual feature. The window transoms are like Curry Rivel, and the E. vestry like Ilminster and Kingsbury. Heron filled the chancel and transepts with fine glass. The fragments of the stained glass (probably injured when Cromwell took Langport) were carefully collected by Clayton and Bell into the east window in 1869, making one of the finest medieval windows in Somerset. Heron's arms are *in situ*, and those of Amyas Paulet his friend. Heron died 1501 and his son founded the chantry of his father in 1507. The Purbeck marble top of the tomb is now in the E. vestry. Under Edward VI's commissioners it was proposed to pull down Langport or Huish Church as being within a bird-bolt shot of each other. Perhaps they did not get a high enough bid for the stones. The corbel on the N.E. pillar of the nave supported the rood loft, of which the stairs remain, and a similar corbel used to be on the S.E. pillar. The N. and S. aisles probably both finished in an altar. The piscina remains on the south and a parclose screen would have shut off Heron's south chapel, which had its own door.

The Churchwardens' Accounts mention a N. porch in 1579, which has disappeared ; and the N. door was blocked in the last " restoration " of 1877. In 1833 the top story of the tower was refaced. The west window to Walter Bagehot is

a fine work by Kennedy from a Battersea workshop. The reredos and sedilia were put in under Ainslie in 1887.

After leaving the church the members paid a brief visit to the

Hanging Chapel

which they were shown over by Dr. W. Charrott Lodwidge. The Rev. Preb. Ross explained that the chapel appeared to date from the early XIV Century, when Langport sent two members to Parliament. It was the chapel of the tradesmen's guild of the town, who also formed the Corporation. It was called in the medieval accounts of the Lord of the Manor, Wm. de Montacute in 1344 " the Chantry of the Blessed Mary of Langport Estover," and a rent of 9*s*. 4*d*. was paid to it out of dues from one windmill and land and meadows in Mulleclif lately acquired of Nicholas Leddrede. The Corporation seem also to have had a fraternity priest serving an altar in the parish church. The east window of the chapel seemed to have been lowered and fitted with a debased round arch in some later " restoration." The priest's entrance on the south side and the piscina were reopened not long ago. In the roadway beneath the arch may be seen a niche on the N. side which probably had a figure of the B.V.M. ; the recess on the S. side may have been a window to the priest's vestry. In 1547, under Edward VI's commissioners, the Corporation was deprived of its two fraternity priests, but they alleged that the stipends x.xiii.iv given to them were paid out of their annual income and petitioned that they might apply it to the reparations of the great Bow Bridge on which all the countryside depended. They said that there was no plate or ornaments belonging to the Chapel ! Under Philip and Mary the Corporation were called upon to show cause why they should not pay the x.xiii.iv for the salaries of the two fraternitic priests. After the destruction of the guild of St. Mary the chapel was used by the Corporation for a town hall. The date 1570 was scored inside the east window. Later the Corporation gave it for the use of the Grammar School in the XVIII Century, and 1743 and other dates have been scratched on the window or

its setting by the boys. Then apparently the clumsy excrescence within the west wall was erected for a stove. In the XIX Century it was given to the vicar for the Sunday-school, and in the XX Century leased to the Freemasons.

It was mentioned as requiring restoration after the siege of Langport in the Civil War. The name "Hanging Chapel" in the Portreeve's account for 1652 disproves the fable that the name came from the hangings of Judge Jefferies.

The Portcullis Lodge of Freemasons who now use the chapel as their masonic lodge-room, kindly gave permission for its inspection by the visitors.

Huish Episcopi Church

Shortly after 3.30 p.m. the members arrived at Huish Episcopi, and were met at the church by the vicar, the Rev. H. Durbin Lewis. The first part of the church to be described was its tower, which Professor A. Hamilton Thompson, D.Litt., F.S.A., said was a magnificent thing in itself, which could be treated really as a separate building. He gave some instances where quite humble churches had magnificent towers. The Huish Episcopi tower was certainly one of the most graceful and beautiful in the whole of Somerset. Some had said it was rather too slender, but it was one of the most highly decorated, and apart from any ornamentation it could be placed very high with the many other masterpieces of skilled craftsmanship to be found in Somerset. It and the other grand Perpendicular buildings were not the work of architects from London or other distant places, but of men who were themselves builders, natives of the soil and educated in working in the stone of the district, who were the product of centuries of inherited skill.

The party then entered the church, and Dr. Hamilton Thompson described the interior. He said the south doorway of the XII Century church remained, with a blank tympanum : the stone was much reddened by fire. This building was aisleless and probably cruciform : the date of the doorway was about 1160. The church was almost entirely rebuilt early in the XIV Century, when the chancel was enlarged and

a wide arch made between it and the nave. The end window of the north transept had good Geometrical tracery. Otherwise, the work of this date was somewhat featureless : there was a plain piscina in the south wall of the chancel, with a rectangular head. In the later part of the XV Century the south transept was remodelled, and was extended westward, apparently as an afterthought, to the east wall of the porch, thus forming a short aisle, opening into the nave by an arcade of two bays. Externally, the difference in design between the two bays of this chapel was noticeable, and was accentuated by the contrast between the blue lias of which one, and the Ham Hill stone of which the other was built ; but there was no great difference in date.

The stair to the rood-loft remained on the north of the chancel arch. There was another stair at the south-west corner of the north transept, entered by a primitive doorway in the west wall. The date of this was uncertain, and it was possibly a doorway to an earlier rood-loft, as the stair ascended in the direction of the transverse line of the nave. In this case, the chancel and north transept must have been added to a church, the chancel of which stood west of the present chancel arch : it was more likely, however, that the stair communicated with the upper floor of a tower removed in the XIV Century. The pulpit was a handsome piece of early XVI Century woodwork.

The church formed part of the prebend of Brent and Huish, appropriated to the archdeacon of Wells ; and the chancel must therefore have been erected at the archdeacon's expense.

Muchelney Church

A short run brought the members to the Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Muchelney, where they arrived at 4.30 p.m. After listening to a voluntary played on an XVIII Century barrel-organ, which is one of the few left in the country,

Professor Hamilton Thompson gave a description of the chief features of the building. The parish church of Muchelney stood to the north of the abbey church, divided from it by the churchyard. It was entirely of the XV Century, of excellent

work with several interesting and beautiful features, of which the chief was the south chapel of the chancel, communicating with the adjoining aisle by a handsome arch with panelled soffit. The west tower, of rather unusual design, had a vaulted ceiling and good west doorway, with a canopied holy-water stoup on one side. The ceiling of the nave was painted in the XVII Century with large figures of angels. There were several fragments of carved stonework, removed from the abbey, and now preserved on the floor of the church, near the pulpit. The old barrel-organ remained in a gallery above the vestry, on the south side of the nave.

The members afterwards inspected the Old Priest's House, situated opposite the church. This XIV Century house was purchased for £200, raised by public subscription in 1911, and carefully repaired under the supervision of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. It was afterwards handed over to the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest.

The members then made their way to Muchelney Abbey House, where tea was kindly provided by Mrs. Hunt and a committee of ladies.

Muchelney Abbey

The remains of the Abbey were afterwards inspected by kind permission of Mr. W. Campbell-Wyndham Long, the owner, and Mr. Cridland, the tenant.

Explaining the history of the Abbey and its foundation, Professor THOMPSON said that many of them were reminded by the pageant which was played there not so very long ago, and to which their President contributed so much energy and skill, of the early history of the Abbey and of its reputed foundation by Ina, King of Wessex. Muchelney Abbey might claim a foundation which was earlier than that of any of the monastic foundations of Somerset, except Glastonbury, and therefore was one of the most noteworthy places in the history of early monasticism in England. The classic ground of early monasticism was there in Somerset and in the Severn Valley. Another charter of a later King of Wessex seemed to show that the Abbey of Muchelney was existing in the middle of

the VIII Century, and probably had been founded near its beginning. The Abbey itself in later days had no very close connection with the history of England generally. It was not the scene of any famous historical event, and its history was simply the quiet history of a religious house closely allied in its interest temporally and spiritually with the countryside, of which only a few incidents were here and there recorded. Nor was it a very large monastery; he thought at the best of times the number of monks there could not have exceeded twenty or so, and during its later years and at the time of the Suppression the number of monks, as was usual in English monasteries, had become much smaller.

In the course of time Muchelney Abbey had acquired very considerable importance among the monasteries of Somerset. It was a Royal Foundation, its abbots, like those of Glastonbury and Athelney, having to receive assent to their election from the King as their chief overlord. Also it had another signal importance in the fact that the Abbot of Muchelney, at the beginning of the XIII Century, was put in possession of a prebend in the Cathedral Church of Wells,[1] an arrangement to which parallels may be found in other English cathedral churches of secular canons.

Coming now to a more detailed description, he said that no traces of the Saxon monastery remained. At the excavation[2] of the site towards the end of last century, considerable traces of foundations of the church, as rebuilt after the Conquest, were discovered. This ended in an apse, with an encircling ambulatory, from which, as at Norwich, Gloucester and several other large Norman churches in England, three chapels projected with rounded ends. The foundations of the ambulatory wall and of the eastern and southern chapels were uncovered. In the XIII or XIV Century, the church was lengthened eastwards by the construction of a long, square-ended Lady chapel, and the apse and its ambulatory were removed, giving place to a new aisled presbytery, the east wall of which was

1. *The Abbot of Muchelney's House at Wells*, by the Dean of Wells. *Downside Review*, May, 1925.

2. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XIX, ii, 122; and XXIV, ii, 67.

probably above the archway leading into the Lady chapel. What remained of the north transept, including an eastern chapel with its altar, was of this later date, but the north wall of the nave, of which the lower courses are left, was of the earlier work, reinforced by later buttresses. Of the south side of the church hardly anything survived, and its westward extent was unknown. There was a tomb between the north aisle of the presbytery and the adjacent chapel in the transept, now protected by a covering : other graves had been found, including two on the line of the east wall of the earlier Lady chapel.

The foundations of a chapel on the south side of the presbytery, which communicated with the south transept, were covered up. Its south wall was the north wall of the adjoining passage or slype through the eastern cloister range ; and the wall which divided this from the chapter-house was shown upon the plan of the excavations. A few fragments of wall were found in the cloister.

The east, north and west walks of the cloister were entirely gone. A large portion of the south walk, however, was left, though its window openings had been blocked, and the bays turned into a cellar above ground for the adjoining farm-house. They were of very late XV Century work, with elaborate wall-panelling, and the whole cloister, if rebuilt on the same scale, must have been one of the most beautiful of its period. The springers for the vault were in good condition, but the cloister probably had only a wooden ceiling. A portion of the recess for the cloister lavatory was left, next the doorway from the house, where was the entrance to the refectory.

The north wall of the refectory remained, covered with stone panelling : broad transverse arches with very flat curves crossed the building and divided it into bays, but the ceiling between them was probably wooden. The screens at the west end of the refectory were now, as stated above, incorporated in the farm-house, which was a XV Century building, forming a projection at the south-west angle of the cloister. On the ground-floor was the kitchen of the monastery. The rest of the house formed the abbot's lodging. His hall and great chamber, with other rooms, were on the first floor : their

plan had been somewhat obscured by modern partitions ; but the fireplace and the bench and wainscoting, with linen-fold panels, of one of these rooms were in position, and the window of this room contained some contemporary glass.

Foundations of other out-buildings existed, and the necessarium or rere-dorter was near the south-east corner of the site, projecting to the south of the dormitory and nearly in a line with it. Foundations a little distance to the east of this may have been those of the infirmary.

In the discussion that followed Professor Thompson's interesting description of the Abbey, it was asked by the Vicar of Huish Episcopi, the Rev. H. D. Lewis, whether the Society could do anything to preserve this ruin, which was now in a bad state and was rapidly getting worse. The President replied that the Society would approach the owner, Mr. W. Campbell-Wyndham Long, with a view to getting this beautiful house handed over to the National Trust, if possible.

The President added that he felt sure that many Somerset people would be only too glad to contribute to a fund that would enable the Abbey to be purchased.

Conversazione and Local Museum

In the evening the members were invited by a Committee of the inhabitants of Langport, consisting of the Rev. J. W. and Mrs. Plaxton, the Rev. H. D. Lewis, Mesdames Russell Barrington, E. W. Brown, C. J. Calder, C. H. Norton, M. Cely Trevilian, P. W. Webb, Misses L. Hosford, I. M. Louch, F. Smith, and Messrs. C. J. Packwood, C. W. Pinton and H. G. Wedd, to a Conversazione at the Town Hall.

Musical items were contributed by Mr. W. Cartwright (piano), Mr. Cecil Plaxton (songs), and the Parret Vale Choir (part-songs) ; and light refreshments were kindly provided.

There was also, in the Council chamber adjoining, a Local Museum of various objects lent by local residents, as follows :

Langport Exhibits.

The Town Trustees.—Charter granted by James I, old Portreeves' Accounts and Rentals ; Silver Mace (figured in *Proc.*

Som. Arch. Soc., LIII, ii, 159); Measures; Moors-head Seal; *Daily Mail* Cup.

The Rev. J. W. Plaxton.—Silver Communion Plate and Pewter Vessels, Langport Church; old Churchwardens' Accounts.

Mr. E. Quekett Louch.—Two Goblets; two Spoons; Burgess' Robe; Colours and Order-book of the Somerset Volunteers, Langport Company, 1794.

Mrs. E. B. Cely Trevilian.—Goblet with portcullis; Recorder's Robe.

Mrs. C. H. Norton.—Langport Farthing.

Mr. C. W. Pinton.—Langport Farthing; casts of Anglo-Saxon Coins in British Museum.

MUCHELNEY RELICS.

Mr. W. Kelway.—Two Censers; Black Jack; two Cannon-balls dug up in Huish Episcopi.

Mrs. Fulford.—Stew-pan.

Miss M. Stuckey Clark.—Refectory Bell; hammered copper Kettle; linen and lace Winding-sheet.

Miss L. Hosford.—Pewter Box.

GENERAL.

The Rev. Preb. R. Beviss Thompson.—Pewter Vessels, High Ham Church; Schael's Memoir on High Ham.

Mr. H. G. Wedd.—Old Deeds; Photograph of Langport Floods; bones found at Charlton.

Mr. James Kelway.—A selection of Somerset Pole-heads of brass; Water-clock.

Mr. E. W. Brown.—Musket from Sedgemoor.

Mrs. Carne Hill.—Sword from Sedgemoor.

Mrs. P. W. Webb.—Sword dug out of a ditch in Sedgemoor.

Mrs. C. J. Calder.—Set of Harness ornaments; brass Ladle; Chestnut Roaster; Coins.

Mrs. Cossins (Pitney).—Pamphlet on Pitney Roman villa; dress Sword.

It was unfortunate that not very many members of the Society were able to be present at the Conversazione, the

accommodation in Langport itself being limited, and most of the members attending the meeting having left to find accommodation elsewhere. Most of the chief residents in the town, however, attended the meeting and with various members of the Society filled the hall and adjoining rooms.

Those responsible for carrying out the details, including Mr. H. G. Wedd (Secretary of the Committee), were thanked in the press on behalf of the Society by the Rev. Prebendary Hamlet (Chairman of Council).

Second Day's Proceedings

The first place visited was the

Church of St. Andrew, Aller

where the members arrived at 10 a.m. and were met by the Rector, the Rev. F. B. Gwinn. Professor Hamilton Thompson explained that the church was mainly of XIV and XV Century date, and contained no very striking features apart from the XV Century tomb, with effigy, of Sir William Botreaux, on the north side of the chancel. The west tower, however, was curiously constructed, with narrow aisle-like projections along the north and south walls of the lowest stage, covered with lean-to roofs of stone tiles. The internal effect was curious, as the tower with its lateral projections occupied the whole width of the west end of the nave, which had no south aisle. The large font, recovered from a pond in the vicarage garden, was probably Norman ; and the tradition that it was the font in which Guthrum was baptised in 878, though not unnatural on the spot, was obviously without foundation.

To the west of the church were large farm-buildings, including a house of the XV Century and a fine barn.

The Rev. Preb. D. M. Ross stated that the tower was built at the end of the XIV Century by Sir Peter de Courtney, who married the Lady Margaret de Clyvedon. It might have been a thank-offering for his escape in several dangerous wars. On one occasion Sir Peter, with his brother, attacked the whole Spanish fleet, and was made a prisoner in Spain. He was

killed in a tournament. The tower might have been begun by Sir John de Clyvedon, who rebuilt the chancel and lies in it. The effigy in the churchyard was that of Sir John de Aller, who held important offices under Henry III, as sheriff of the county and Justice in Eyre, and he built the chapel of the B.V.M. by permission of Bishop Button towards the end of his life and endowed the chaplaincy. The chaplain's house was now the stable at Aller Court, and might be the priest's house at Muchelney. There was a very fine tithe-barn belonging to the Court, comparable with the tithe-barn at Glastonbury and other places.

Notes on a Monumental Effigy of a Knight in Aller Church.

It is conjectured that this effigy may have been to Sir John de Clyvedon, kt.,[1] who died about 1370 and probably built the chancel and his own tomb in a recess in the north wall. The effigy has suffered some rough treatment and the face, feet and fingers are seriously damaged. There is little to add, however, to the description of the armour given in our *Proceedings* for the year 1921,[2] and although the vandyked edging of the bascinet,[3] the escallops on the hem of the jupon, the two cords for suspending the dagger[4] from the richly ornamented baldrick and the protecting plates for the knee-cops and elbow-cops were carefully carved, yet there is no indication of studded and splinted armour on the Aller knight. At Nettlecombe[5] we find an effigy of a knight, possibly to Sir John

1. Collinson (III, 189) suggests that this effigy represents Sir Reginald de Botreaux, kt., who died in 1420. This date is too late, as the *Jupon and Camail* period ended in 1410, and in 1420 all knights would have a shirt of taces and armed after the fashion of the Surcoatless Period.

2. See *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXVII, ii, 29.

3. The vandyked edging covers the vervelles through which the laces passed attaching the bascinet to the camail.

4. The dagger is lost, but the cords attaching it to the baldrick remain. The fragment of the dagger now existing shows that from hilt to tip of sheath was 1ft. 4ins.

5. See *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXVII, ii, 35.

de Raleigh, the second, of about 1360 with thighs encased in parallel bands of steel arranged in vertical lines and embedded in pourpoint with studs showing or affixed to cuir-bouilli. At Aller all the paint, except minute vestiges, has been scraped off, and if this figure had ever possessed studded and splinted armour it would have been painted on it. It is, however, not likely that this was the case, as this particular period of armour went out of fashion some ten years before the Aller effigy was sculptured, although a few later examples may still be met with in stone and brass in various parts of the kingdom.[1]

At the commencement of the Camail and Jupon Period of armour the bascinet was not only tall, but pointed acutely at the apex. The knight at Aller has not so high a bascinet,[2] and this shows it was later in date. This form of head-defence fell over the ears and the back of the neck, while the apex was never placed exactly above the middle of the head, but towards the rear so that when the knight bent forward in his saddle and couched his lance the point of the bascinet became perpendicular.

ALFRED C. FRYER.

The next place visited was the

Church of St. Andrew, High Ham

where the members arrived shortly after 11 o'clock. They were cordially welcomed by the Rector, the Rev. Preb. R. BEVISS THOMPSON, who said his parishioners were extremely proud of their church and were glad to have all the information about it that they could get. They were delighted to have a visit from the Society.

Professor HAMILTON THOMPSON pointed out that with the exception of the tower, which was of the XIV Century and

1. The studded and splinted period of armour was in fashion from 1335 to 1360, and effigies of this interesting period are scattered over England, but the number now remaining in stone and brass are limited. A few overlap into the next period such as the one to Sir John de Cobham, 1375, and Sir Ralph de Knevynton, Aveley, Essex, 1370, and one or two others.

2. This bascinet at Aller is 12½ inches in height.

probably stood upon Norman foundations, this beautiful church was entirely of the last quarter of the XV Century. The abbot and convent of Glastonbury were lords of the manor and patrons of the living, and the record left by an Elizabethan rector, Adrian Schael, shows that the nave was rebuilt by Abbot Selwood, assisted by Sir Amyas Paulet and other local landowners and parishioners, in 1476. The inscription upon the brass of John Dyer, LL.B., rector 1459–99, who was buried in the chancel, stated that he caused the chancel to be made *de novo*, doubtless about the same time ; so that we have here an excellent illustration of the division of responsibility for the fabric between the rector and the people of the parish.

The building was one of the finest examples of Somerset Perpendicular architecture, although of no great size. The design throughout was excellent and uniform : the church was conceived as a single work of art, and the result was a signal success. It retained its original roofs, with considerable traces of colouring, and the noble rood-screen, with loft and rood-beam, was perhaps the best work of the kind in the county. As the aisles of the nave were not continued east of the chancel arch, the screen did not stretch across the whole church, as at Long Sutton ; but its height, its tall window-openings with close-set mullions and transoms, and the rich detail of its cornice and the wooden vaulting below, gave it a peculiarly imposing effect. Some fragments of ancient stained-glass remained in the windows of the aisles. The font, with a band of cable ornament beneath the circular bowl, was of the XII Century, and was preserved from the earlier church. The altar-table was made in 1633 and placed against the east wall by order of Bishop Piers. Externally, the discrepancy between the earlier and plainer tower and the rest of the church was somewhat noticeable. In a niche upon the south face of the tower was a statue of the Virgin and Child : there was a niche for a statue above the doorway of the south porch and a fine series of grotesque gargoyles.

The living was one of the best in the gift of Glastonbury Abbey, which never appropriated the church, but presented distinguished clerks to it, on whose assistance in legal and financial matters they were consequently able to rely. Among

these were Walter Lyhert, provost of Oriel College, Oxford, rector 1444–5, and Richard Nykke, archdeacon of Wells, rector 1499–1501. Both Lyhert (whose name was wrongly given as Hihert by Weaver in *Somerset Incumbents*) and Nykke were promoted to the see of Norwich.

The Rev. Beviss Thompson placed five pieces of pewter plate, an Elizabethan chalice and paten, on view. He drew attention to the marks of vandalism on the rood-beam above the screen in the church, and also to what was considered to be a little figure of the patron saint of a builder, which was on the chancel side of the screen. The Rector stated that " The Passion " was still sung in the church, but not from the loft over the screen, as was formerly the custom until travelling musicians—priests who imbibed intoxicants too freely—abused the generosity of High Ham people, and were in danger of falling off the screen during the services.

The Rev. Preb. Ross mentioned that in many cases the rectors of High Ham were very important men. In some cases they held appointments from the Abbey of Glastonbury, and others had them from Rome, and they had dealings with the Popes about " Provisions," to permit pluralities, and to remit payments of first-fruits. Such grants were made by the Pope at Avignon in 1345, 1347, 1348 and 1349. John Carleton, D.C.L., in 1349, was the King's ambassador to the Pope, and was sent by the Pope as envoy to Edward III for confirmation of his induction to High Ham Church (*Papal Registers*). The Pope at that time wanting money reserved English livings and sold them to the highest bidder. Again, Thomas Weston, appointed Rector in 1361, had long been in peaceable possession of his Rectory at High Ham, when he was despoiled of it by Robert Norton who pretended that he had a Papal provision awarding the Rectory to himself, whereupon Thomas Weston appealed to the Roman Court, and recovered the benefice by three definite sentences, but he died before he could get his living back. Ralph Canon petitioned the King that he might proceed with the Pope's sentence against Robert Norton. The renewal of the Statute of Provisors in that year made Robert Norton afraid to neglect the royal writ. The Royal License was granted (*Pat. Rolls*) to R. Canon, and " no liege

acting for Ralph is to incur any penalty under the said statute." Accordingly he succeeded in expelling Robert Norton and got the living for himself. He then obtained the Pope's permission to hold the Rectory of High Ham and a Canonry of Wells and Prebend of Harptre,—his benefices not to exceed 140 marks in value. R. Canon was a friend of Lady de Courtney of Aller and proved her will in 1412.

After leaving the church the members journeyed down hill to see the unique chapelry in a field at

Low Ham

once belonging to the Stawels. Professor HAMILTON THOMPSON described the chapel as dependent on High Ham Church, being founded at an early period upon the manor held by the Berkeleys, and the upkeep of the fabric and the supply of chaplains were probably met by the lord of the manor. Of the old chapel, however, no traces remain ; for the present building was erected by Sir Edward Hext, who died in 1623, and was restored and brought to completion by George Stawel, in the reign of Charles II. It was consecrated in 1669. How much of the work belonged to the earlier, and how much to the later period, was difficult to decide. It was probable that Stawel, whose shield of arms occurred above the north doorway of the chancel and upon the rain-water heads, did little more than put it into proper repair. It was a most interesting example of the adherence of local masoncraft to Gothic tradition. The whole building was carried out in the manner which had become habitual to Somerset masons in the XV Century, and there would be little to betray the lateness of date, were it not for the peculiar forms of tracery employed in the windows, which reverted from the ordinary rectilinear type to forms of a more or less geometrical character. In these, as in much XVII Century work of the kind, there was much picturesqueness, but the artificiality of the design was evident. The chancel-screen, the texts upon which were probably added by Stawel, was also faithful to Gothic design, although the detail showed little of the executive skill of the medieval artists. The east window contained much interesting painted glass of

the later part of the XVII Century, and an inscription recorded the restoration by George Stawel. The florid modern Gothic screen, now in the tower, was brought from the Lord Mayor's chapel at Bristol by the late Sir Charles Wathen, who was lord of the manor of Low Ham.

The table-tomb of Sir Edward Hext and his wife Dionysia Walton, with whom he acquired the manor, was at the east end of the north aisle. The manor-house of the Berkeleys, Waltons, and Hexts was represented by the farm-house some distance to the west of the church, which contained much XVI Century work and a fine panelled room. Sir Edward's daughter and heiress married, as her second husband, Sir John Stawel of Cothelstone. Their son, Ralph, was created Baron Stawel in 1683 : he joined with his brother George in presenting a handsome service of Communion plate to Low Ham chapel, and was buried at the east end of the south aisle. His marble monument was of excellent classical design, without any trace of Gothic feeling. Here also was buried his son John, second Lord Stawel, who died in 1692, having greatly impoverished his inheritance by the erection of the great manor-house at Low Ham, which was sold unfinished at his death and was taken down. The foundations of this existed to the east of the chapel, where, and in the neighbouring farmyard, the bases and fragments of the columns of a long open loggia, extending along much of the west front of the house, might be seen. The hill-slope south of the chapel was also terraced for gardens, and, although the actual traces of the house were slight, the colossal lines on which it and its surroundings were laid out could still be appreciated by the marks which they had left on the site.

The Rev. Preb. Ross stated that a rector of High Ham, writing in the Elizabethan days, deplored the old wives' tales that the Low Ham chapel was older than the church at High Ham. He also said that in the belfry was a very interesting pair of medieval bells, and one was like a bell at Pitney which goes back to 1350.

The Rev. Preb. Beviss Thompson remarked that the early XIX Century screen near the entrance door of the chapelry came out of the Lord Mayor of Bristol's chapel. It was cer-

tainly in dull contrast to the wonderful work in the screen in the chancel. He stated that there were very few windows like the east window to be seen anywhere. Professor THOMPSON drew attention to an inscription on the rood-screen : "My sonne feare God and the Kinge and meddle not with them that are given to change."

Then, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. J. Cook, the company visited the old manor-house, in use for many years before the second Lord Stawell built himself a lordly pleasure house in the reign of King Charles, and which was uncompleted when he died. The remains of its terraces tell their own story of how it was pulled down. In the manor-house a very ancient contemporary painting of Lady Hext was seen ; and also much glorious oak panelling, alas ! covered with varnish. The garden was still Tudor in its lay-out, and the house full of Elizabethan recollections. The silver gilt church plate belonging to the chapelry of the period of Charles II and several other examples of antiques were shown.

The stone gateway and arch forming the present entrance gate to Hazlegrove in the parish of Sparkford and on the Wincanton-Ilchester road, was originally the gateway near the great house built by Lord Stawell at Low Ham. He died intestate and his Low Ham property was sold. It was bought by the Phelips of Montacute of that day. Carew Harvey Mildmay of Hazlegrove (the builder of the present house) married a daughter of Phelips of Montacute about 1750, she bringing with her the Manor of Low Ham, which remained in the Mildmay family until sold by the uncle of Mr. G. St. John Mildmay about 1860. The arch and gateway now at Hazlegrove were at that time forming the two big entrances to the great Barn at Low Ham, and Mr. G. St. John Mildmay's uncle had them removed before selling the estate, stone by stone, and re-erected in their present position.

On arriving at

Somerton

the members assembled in the market-place in the centre of the town, where a delightful view was obtained of the old town-hall and market-cross in the foreground, with one or two

interesting houses on the right-hand side of the picture, and the church-tower in the distance.

Here, Mr. H. St. George Gray said: Somerton was, traditionally, the capital of old Somerset, with castle and walls. King Ina was believed to have had his capital here. The castle was on and near the present White Hart Inn. After the Castle was demolished, a gaol grew up on the same site. Somerton Castle was one of the places of confinement of King John of France, who was removed hither from Hertford Castle.

The two inns—the Red Lion and White Hart—were interesting, if only for their fearful and wonderful signs. The market-cross dated from 1673, and although not the best example of the type in the county, ought most certainly to be repaired and preserved. Somerton was the headquarters of the commissioners for raising militia; that institution was found to be a grievous burden to the inhabitants.

Much might be said of the history of Somerton in the period of the Great Rebellion, 1659–60, when William Strode, of Street, and Colonel William Bovett, of Taunton, were central figures. Eventually Bovett had to release Strode and disband his militia, who were called upon to store their arms in Taunton Castle for safety.

The members then went to the parish room for lunch, and shortly before two o'clock made their way to the church where they were met by the Vicar, the Rev. L. J. Jackson.

Professor Hamilton Thompson then explained the building in detail, first pointing out that the history of the church had been carefully studied by a local historian, Mr. Hall, the results of whose researches were summarised in a series of notes for the guidance of visitors, framed and hung up in the north aisle. The church was in the main a wide-aisled building of the XIV Century; but the transeptal chapels were relics of an earlier plan, and the south chapel, which formed the lowest stage of the tower, appeared to be substantially of the beginning of the XIII Century. It had been held that the tower was on the main axis from east to west of an earlier church, the nave of which would thus have occupied the site of the present south aisle. This, however, is by no means certain,

and the existence of a corresponding north transeptal chapel seemed to indicate that the older nave was on the present site, and that the work done in the XIV Century was not the addition of a large structure to the north side of the old building, but an enlargement in which the longer axis of the old nave and chancel was taken as that of the new. The tower had an octagonal belfry stage. The finest feature of the church was the magnificent timber roof of the nave, unsurpassed in the county save by the roofs at Martock and Shepton Mallet. There was much XVII Century woodwork: the pulpit bore the date 1615. The altar table, carved, painted and gilded, was made in 1626, and the reredos was of the same date, though it did not appear to have been intended for its present position.

The church was appropriated to Muchelney Abbey. There was no ground for the legend, one of a very common type, that the nave-roof was brought from Muchelney: it was obviously made for the clerestory which it covered. He also disposed of a legend that had gained credence for many generations. It had been stated for as long back as the present generation could remember, and for generations previously, that King John was kept a prisoner in Somerton Castle. The Somerton alluded to was not King Ina's capital in Somerset, but Somerton, seven miles south of Lincoln.

The Rev. G. W. Saunders, Martock, described the altar-table, of which there was only one other of its kind existing, and that was at Lew Trenchard.

The Rev. L. J. Jackson, the vicar, said that an interesting feature of the church was the altar-table and he would like to take this opportunity of correcting a statement he made some time since, in the *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*.[1] The two hands of a figure on one of the legs of the altar were described as pressing down on a press. He had recently found that it was not a press but a Bible, while below the Bible was an upturned hour-glass, representing things temporal and things eternal. The top of the table could be raised as a lid and beneath was a shallow space for vestments. He thought it possible that it was the only one of its kind left in England.

1. *Som. & Dor. N. & Q.*, XV, 113.

Leaving Somerton soon after 2.30 p.m. the members arrived at

Lytescary

which was shown by the kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel Sir Walter K. Jenner, Bart.

Professor HAMILTON THOMPSON spoke of Lytes Cary House, in quiet pastoral surroundings, as a beautiful example of a small manor-house of the later medieval period with enlargements of a somewhat later date. The oldest portion was the chapel, at the south-east corner, which was of the early part of the XIV Century, with reticulated tracery in the east window. This, entered by an outer doorway in the north wall, adjoined the house from the beginning, and communicated by a small window-opening in the west wall with a room on the ground-floor which may have been occupied by the chaplain. The main block of the house, with hall and great chamber, was rebuilt about 1450. The hall had a beautiful roof of this period: it was entered through screens, with a minstrels' gallery above. The kitchen, pantry and buttery were doubtless upon the north side of the screens; but the original plan of this part of the house was much obscured during the XVIII Century, when it was occupied as a farm-house, and most of the building was allowed to go to decay.

Considerable additions were made to the house in 1533, when John Lyte married Edith Horsey. The date and the arms of the two families appeared upon the bay window on the south side, which lit the great chamber and the room below. At this date, too, the bay and the porch were added on the east face of the hall. All the work done at this time was of good late Gothic character, showing much sense of picturesque design. The great chamber had a coved plaster ceiling of this date, with refined detail, and the royal arms of Henry VIII in the frieze at the east end: the arms of Lyte and Horsey seem to have occupied a similar position on the west side.

By the extensions made in 1533, the house occupied three sides of the space at the back of the hall, with north and south wings running westward from the main block. Some work was done after the Restoration, as there were characteristic

fire-places of about 1670 in two of the rooms of the south wing. The west block, completing the quadrangle, was added by the present owner, Sir Walter Jenner, whose architect, Mr. C. E. Ponting, effected a most successful and judicious repair of the older portion of the house, with which the new work was thoroughly in keeping.

The chapel was restored and refitted in 1632, as a contemporary tablet on the south wall of the chancel recorded. The roof then added was a plain piece of work: the cornice was painted with shields of arms, now much obliterated. The very curious glass in the east window was removed to Lytes Cary from the vicarage at Charlton Mackrell, where it had lain for some years in a cellar, and was cleverly adapted to its present situation by the late Mr. Maurice Drake of Exeter. It consisted of a series of medallions representing scenes in the life of our Lord, each with an appropriate text in curious capital lettering. In date it was evidently XVII Century, and it was an interesting and curious example of an attempt by a glazier of that period to copy glass of the XIII Century.

The charm of Lytes Cary was much enhanced by the skilful lay-out of the garden in front of the main entrance, and by the walks and yew-hedges which had been constructed on the south side of the house.

Mr. H. St. George Gray said: The family of Lyte settled in the next manor to Lytescary in 1255–56. The first member of the family to own Lytescary was Peter le Lyt, early in the XIV Century, and it remained in the possession of the Lytes until 1755. The present representative of that family is Sir Henry C. Maxwell Lyte, K.C.B., Deputy-Keeper of the Public Record Office, a V.P. of the Somersetshire Archæological Society.

Brief mention should be made of Henry Lyte, the botanist and antiquary, who was born about 1529 and died in 1607. He was the second son of John Lyte and Edith Horsey. The list of his books was a long one, and included Lyte's *Herbal*, 1578, of which there was a copy of the original edition in the Library at Taunton Castle, and "The Light of Britayne," a copy of which was presented to Queen Elizabeth by the author on November 24th, 1588, when she was on her way to the thanksgiving service at St. Paul's.

The second son of Henry Lyte, by name Thomas, was celebrated chiefly as a genealogist, and found favour with Camden as a student of history and antiquities. Another descendant of Henry Lyte, who lived from 1793 to 1847, was well known as a writer of hymns, and some of those most familiar to us were the work of his pen.

Two remarkable pedigrees of the Lyte family were in existence, both compiled by Thomas Lyte. For a full history of this family reference should be made to Sir H. Maxwell Lyte's paper on " The Lytes of Lytescary " in *Proceedings*, XXXVIII, 1892.

William le Lyt, sergeant-at-law, *temp.* Edward I, was buried at Charlton Mackerell ; the memorial slab had been turned out of the church, and was now in the churchyard. A copy of the slab was erected by Thomas Lyte, in 1631, in the chapel at Lytescary, where it still remained.

At the conclusion of the descriptions of the place Sir Walter Jenner invited the members to go all over the house, saying that they were welcome to enter wherever they found an open door. The old furniture and some fine pictures were much appreciated by the visitors, as were the grounds, which were most tastefully laid out.

As the party re-assembled, the PRESIDENT took the opportunity of thanking Professor HAMILTON THOMPSON for all the information he had given them during the last two days, and regretted that another engagement would necessitate his leaving them now.

In acknowledgment, Professor Thompson said before he left he would like to impress upon them once again, as the President had pointed out, that the work they had been seeing was done by Somerset craftsmen, and not by imported brains ; it was the work of men who had learned their skill in bricks and mortar from their ancestors. The use of local material by local hands had been the secret in the past, and he thought it would be the secret in the future of all good and permanent architecture.

Sir Walter Jenner was then cordially thanked for his kindness in throwing open his beautiful home to the visitors, where a most delightful hour had been spent.

Up to the year 1907 the late squire of Kingweston, W. Dickinson, Esq., was the owner of Lytes Cary.

The party returned to Somerton to tea, which was served in the parish room, and afterwards continued their journey to the

Church of the Holy Trinity, Long Sutton

where the members were met by the Rev. J. N. Skittery, the Vicar. The church was described by Mr. Francis C. Eeles, who stated that it was an example of almost a complete church built at one time. Practically the whole building was erected just before 1490. The roof was of the same ornate type as St. Mary's, Taunton, and Martock Church. The rood screen, which was not the original one of the 1490 church, had in modern paint a representation of the colour scheme characteristic of the XV Century. The treatment of the tower was an elaboration of that at Kingsdon. It was very likely that it came from the same hands as Langport and Kingsdon. A XVII Century font cover and sounding board (this in the vestry) were objects of interest. The stained glass window on the south side of the church belonged to the church that was there before 1490.

A full and detailed account of the church will be found in *Proceedings*, xl, i, 37.

Third Day's Proceedings

The members, leaving Langport at 9.30 a.m., journeyed to

Kingsbury Episcopi, Church of St. Martin

where Mr. Edwin Forbes, f.r.i.b.a., said that in speaking about the various buildings that they were going to see that day he should confine himself to merely architectural points, and would leave the archæological matters connected with them to others. This church of St. Martin was designed on true and proper lines. A tower, which was a vertical compo-

sition (in this case of great height) should grow out of the ground, standing, on three sides at least, clear of the building it adjoined. When placed in an angle of the building, it merely became an architectural ornament, which was theoretically bad in design. This was a tower, first and foremost, holding in position an adjoining building, to which it added a pleasing full-stop, and enhanced its value as a composition. It belonged to Group "B" of *The Somerset Towers*, by the late Mr. R. P. Brereton. (Plate III.)

The distinguishing feature of this group is apparent in the upper story, where there were two windows, the same arrangement being seen at Huish Episcopi and Bishop's Lydeard. The architect had been rather extravagant on the ornamental side in repeating five elaborate bands, the upper series being too close together. The tower, he thought, would have had a more restful feeling had the second story windows been smaller, but perhaps the persistence of the client prevented this. The architect had also been generous with his niches, and it was obvious that the lower ones might have been omitted with advantage. From a designer's point of view, the tower of Bishop's Lydeard Church was the most beautiful thing of the kind ever created, and the architect had avoided in its design the mistakes he had just pointed out.

Externally, the placing of the aisle windows was most happy. They were not too symmetrical, and they were placed where they were wanted from the internal point of view, rather than from the external. A plan should always come first, and the elevations should be the outcome of the plan, and in this case the design had worked out admirably. The embattled parapets were not up to the standard of the rest of the church. It was a fashion of the period to have these embattled parapets, but had the architect kept to the straight line it would have been simpler and more pleasing.

The windows at the east end of the N. aisle seemed to have been designed for a particular grouping of stained glass. Here, the speaker imagined, the instructions of the glass designer were carried out, or if the architect designed the glass himself, he treated the architectural composition as secondary. Without the old glass the windows were still very beautiful, but



KINGSBURY EPISCOPI CHURCH

From a Photograph by Mr. J. Reginald H. Weaver

somewhat out of proportion. He could not quite read the addition to the E. end. It was clever, an excellent feature, and the horizontal line of the coping held in position the E. chancel wall.

Internally the proportions were absolutely right. He liked the buttresses of the tower appearing in the nave. They were probably required there on account of the softness of the subsoil, and although contrary to tradition, the architect did not mind showing them. We should have had no development in church architecture if no individuality had been shown, and we see in this building how it has caused the church to be designed fearlessly.

Mr. ROLAND W. PAUL, F.S.A., adds the following note on the heraldic glass: *Symonds' Diary*, 1644. He gives 15 shields as then existing in windows, including Earl of Lancaster: France and England *quarterly*: Stourton: Fitz-James: Mortimer: Stafford: Maltravers: and Carent. There are six now remaining (including the last four named), and also a shield with arms of Bonville in window of S. aisle. Of those remaining, four are in N. window of N. transept, and two are in S.E. window of S. aisle.

See also notes on shields *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XL, i, 41, 42.

After leaving the church, the party made their way to

Barrington Court

When the Society visited Barrington three years ago from Crewkerne, the building was little more than an interesting ruin, and hence the sight of the wonderful restoration that has taken place since that time, filled the visitors with delight. The members were divided up into two or three parties, one of which was led by the Vicar of Barrington, the Rev. Preb. HAMLET, who proved an admirable guide. Many were the points of interest he described, and his references to the former half-ruined state of the mansion enabled one to fully appreciate the magnificent work of restoration effected in so short a time. At the end of the corridor near the entrance Mr. Hamlet called attention to the lavabo, discovered by Mr. Forbes, an exceedingly rare construction in an English house.

In the hall, Preb. Hamlet mentioned that it was here that the ill-fated Duke of Monmouth was entertained by Mr. Strode in 1680, it being recorded in a book published in 1683 that he came on to Barrington Court from Brympton, "and received as good entertainment here with Mr. Strode as with Sir John Sydenham." The arms of the first William Strode, forming part of the ornate fireplace decoration in Mrs. Lyle's bedroom, were pointed out, and some details given of the family's association with Somerset. A visit to the long gallery on the top floor completed the tour of he house. Preb. Hamlet remarked that there was a similar gallery at Montacute House. He understood that the first one in England was at Hampton Court, and that the reason for its construction was that Cardinal Wolsey wished to have a quiet place where he could walk in bad weather as he said his office.

A paper on Barrington Court, by Mr. J. Edwin Forbes, will be found in Part II of this volume.

After leaving Barrington Court the party divided, the motor-coaches proceeding *via* Curry Rivel to Fivehead, and others in private cars driving *via* Puckington and South Bradon to the

Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Ile Abbots

where Mr. J. Edwin Forbes, F.R.I.B.A., described the ancient church. He said the first noticeable feature was its tower. It belonged to Group "B" in *Somerset Towers*, by Mr. R. P. Brereton. As compared with Kingsbury the designer of this tower had shown a finer sense of proportion and a more academic sense of design. Ornament was used sparingly and in its proper place. In fact, with the exception of Bishop's Lydeard, it was the best of the group. If the theory was correct, that these towers were the work of one man, which was doubtful, he showed infinite restraint in this instance, and it was this restraint that gave such a feeling of strength to the design. It was unusual, in the present day, to find the niches so complete, and particularly to find them so full of statuary.

The N. aisle was built by the Lady Margaret Beaufort. The designer in this case let himself go, and must have shocked

the antiquarians of the day. After four hundred years we happily accept it, and are pleased he did so.

Coming to the porch, it looked as if it had been altered. It possibly had a room above it, which may have been removed when the fan tracery was inserted. The original porch might easily have belonged to the Early English period. The font in this doorway, the drain of which still exists, is unusual.

Internally it was a beautifully restored church. The first thing that caught the eye was the awkward junction of the arch which separated the keel roof from the barrel roof of the chancel. This in many cases was raised to give sufficient height above the rood screen. From an architectural point of view this was a mistake, and one that occurred in many of the churches of this district.

Other features were the piscina and the sedilia, designed by two very different minds. The piscina, although interesting, was fussy and small. The sedilia was beautiful in its conception and simplicity. The ornament was placed exactly where it should be, and it was a masterpiece of its type.

From the position of the squint, he thought there was some sort of transept or aisle to the north, before the Lady Margaret aisle was built.

The bench ends, instead of being a mass of carving, were designed probably by the same man who did the sedilia.

There was interest in the consecration crosses, one of which was to be seen inside on the E. wall of the chancel, and three outside the church. The external ones worked very well into the composition of the east end. One felt with the Jacobean tower screen that, though entirely English, the designer might have been influenced by some of the Spanish grilles which were then being designed in Spain.

On leaving Ile Abbots the members made their way to Fivehead, where they rejoined the main body who had gone there direct from Barrington.

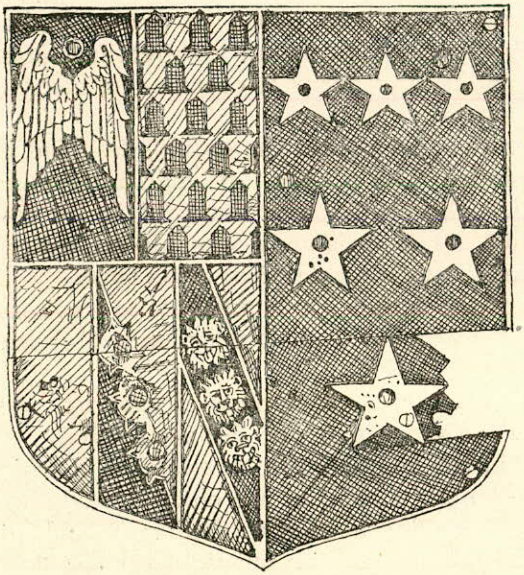
Church of St. Martin, Fivehead

After an interval for lunch, which was partaken of during a halt before visiting the church, the members were met by the

Rev. J. Rigbye, the Vicar, who conducted them over the sacred building.

Mr. F. C. EELES, F.S.A.SCOT., explained the chief points of interest in the church.

The brass now replaced against the south wall in Fivehead Church was described by the Rev. E. H. Bates in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, Vol. XXI (1907), pp. 334–338, where the heraldry of the shield (shown in the accompanying drawing taken from a photograph) is thus described: On the dexter side the shield bears five quarterings of the family of Seymour of Wolfhall, co. Wilts: 1, Seymour; 2, Beauchamp of Hatch, co. Somerset; 3, Esturmy of Wolfhall; 4, Mac-William of Gloucestershire; 5, Coker of Lydeard St. Lawrence, impaling Walsh of Cathanger.



Shield bearing five quarterings of the family of Seymour of Wolfhall, co. Wilts, impaling Walsh of Cathanger.
Roland Paul, F.S.A., delt.

The lady depicted in the brass (Pl. IV) is Jane, daughter of Sir John Walsh, knight, of Cathanger, and wife of Lord Edward Seymour, eldest son of Edward Duke of Somerset, the Lord Protector, who died about 1565.

The meaning of the other side of the brass is less clear. The upper part is a section of a large brass taken across a man's breast. Below is part of the outer frame or setting of the figure. It contains the words of the inscription, QVE FINO VIERNES ("Who died Friday"). The lower portion is part



BRASS OF JANE, WIFE OF
LORD EDWARD SEYMOUR, 1565



PALIMPSEST REVERSE
OF THE SEYMOUR BRASS

FIVEHEAD CHURCH, SOMERSET

From Photographs by Mr. H. St. George Gray

of a memorial brass to an English priest—Gilbertus Thornbern, 1428.

After the inspection of the church, the members walked to

Langford Manor

to view this interesting Tudor house at the kind invitation of Mrs. Matterson and Mr. W. A. Key Matterson. A cordial welcome was given the visitors, and after admiring the interior features of the house, including the fine Tudor staircase and part of the great hall (now the parlour), the company had the pleasure of hearing a short description of the building and a few historical details relating to the Manor.[1]

Mr. Matterson expressed on behalf of his mother the great pleasure it gave her and himself to welcome members of the Somerset Archæological Society at Langford. He remarked that the house—part of which was pre-Elizabethan—was given by Sir John Speke in 1518 to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter to provide income for priests to say Masses daily for the souls of his mother and children in the Speke Chapel of St. George at Exeter Cathedral. The building remained in the hands of the Cathedral authorities, with one short break, until 1860, when the Dean and Chapter parted with it to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who sold it to the then tenant. Earlier history of Langford Manor was also touched upon by Mr. Matterson, who said the first recorded mention of it was in 1251, and in 1309 appeared Roger de Langeforde, who took his name from the Manor.

Before leaving the visitors were shown the ancient square-built dovecote, which originally had a roof of four gables and probably about a thousand nesting-holes. Those remaining number seven hundred and fifty. Hearty thanks were expressed to Mrs. Matterson and Mr. Matterson upon the departure of the party.

The members next visited

1. *See* pp. 31–37 and Plate V.

Cathanger Farm

the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harcombe, also in Fivehead parish. The members had the pleasure of viewing more work of XVI Century builders, interest being here directed to the picturesque gate-house, which originally had on either side an embattled wall dividing the inner from the outer courtyard. Mr. Forbes commented upon the big general lay-out of the farm buildings, and drew attention to the fact that the gate-house would only allow a man and horse to enter the inner courtyard. The structure was particularly interesting, because designed as if it were a fortified place ; yet, if examined carefully, it would be seen to be purely domestic. On the left of the outer courtyard, facing the gate-house, is a large square-built dovecote or pigeon-house, in good state of preservation, and containing probably as many as 1,200 nesting-holes. Built into the wall of the farmhouse is a long stone tablet, engraved : " John Walsh, 1559, Sergeant at Law."

Note by Mr. Roland Paul, F.S.A., on the heraldic glass at Cathanger. *Collinson*, I, 40, 43, describes the glass in the Hall. No. 1 appears to have been France and England, quarterly (wrongly described). No. 2 is *Walshe* impaling " checqué arg & sa, 3 wiverns of the first." No. 3, almost effaced. The writer of this note adds : " I suggest that the name Cathanger is probably derived from the French ' Chataignier ' (a chestnut tree), and refers to possibly a once existing chestnut avenue leading to the house."

From Cathanger, the party next visited the

Church of St. Catherine, Swell

Mr. J. Edwin Forbes, F.R.I.B.A., in describing the church explained that the particular interest of it was in the plan, which with the exception of the chancel was as it was built in the year 1150. The building was about 16ft. by 32ft.

There were originally Norman windows where the present ones are, and a Norman bell turret over the W. window. So it stood until the year 1450, when it was altered, and with the

exception of a bell turret, was more or less as it was to-day. The Norman bell turret disappeared, and also a wooden bell turret which existed up to the XIX Century, and these were followed by a modern turret, erected in the same position. After having crushed the mullions in the W. window, it was taken down only a few years ago. The chancel was added about 1450 and an arch inserted in the E. wall of the nave to communicate with the chancel. This arch was not bonded to the original work and had to be rebuilt last year.

Internally the church had many points of interest. The early benches were mostly in their original state. It had also a XVII Century pulpit and some early XIX Century box pews, a cut-down font and a small collection of old stained glass.

The church was restored last summer. It was found that with the settlement of the walls the roof ties had been subjected to such a severe tension strain that they had been torn apart fibre from fibre. The roof had now been tied together with iron rods, fixed to new wall plates, and although the original roof trusses had a spread of more than 15 ins., the roof was perfectly safe.

The re-opening of the church took place on June 6th of this year, and it was now used for public worship after an interval of fifteen years.

Mr. ROLAND PAUL, F.S.A., notes that in the tracery of E. window of the chancel is an angel holding a shield charged with the arms of *Beauchamp of Hache*—vairè, a bordure engrailed gu.

A brass on the floor of the chancel (recently refixed after repair) has the following inscription :

"Here lyeth the body of John Toose Esquire who was maryed to Agnes the daughter of Thomas Newton Esquire havinge issue by her xiiii sonnes and vi daughters deceased the xth daye of June A° Dñi 1582."

Collinson, III, 237, refers to a memorial to a John Toose in St. Mary Magdalene Church, Taunton. He ascribes the Swell Church a brass to John To*ole* (I, 66) but it certainly is To*ose*.

After leaving the church, the next move was to

Swell Court

the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Pimm. In describing the place, Mr. J. Edwin Forbes, F.R.I.B.A., said the first essential in a well-designed building was that the plan should be easily read from its elevations. That was the outstanding principle of good design, and it was particularly applicable in this case. This was an early type of the defenceless Manor House of the late XV Century, and was an excellent example of its time. The raised front garden was really due to the slope of the ground on which the house was built, and was exceptional. They should try to picture the garden in the early days before the yews acquired their mammoth proportions and entirely killed the scale of the house, as they do at present.

The front door was originally a projecting porch leading into the screened vestibule, with another door opposite which led to the back courtyard. The screen was on the left and gave access to the Great Hall, which was in the centre of the house and reached the roof. It was a magnificent apartment. From this you entered the Withdrawing-room, where there was usually a stairway to the bedroom over. On the right-hand side of the vestibule was the Winter Parlour, a modern innovation, and almost the first of its type in the district. The outcome of the Winter Parlour was the dining-room of to-day. Adjoining this were the kitchens.

The Minstrels' Gallery was reached by a staircase situated in the Great Hall, and which also led to the Guest Room which was over the Winter Parlour. Unfortunately this charming picture was obliterated in the XIX Century. The Great Hall was floored over at the first floor level, the fine roof was plastered and the space gained was filled with bedrooms at the expense of what must have been a very beautiful room.

The Great Hall windows have been filled in half way up and divided in their length. Gables that had fallen down were replaced by hipped roofs, covered with modern slates, making a prosaic finish to what was once a very beautiful house.

After the inspection of Swell Court the members entered the motor-coaches and drove to

Midelney Place

where at the kind invitation of Mrs. Maurice Trevilian and Major Cely Trevilian, the President, tea was served to the visitors on the terrace.

Addressing the guests after tea, the PRESIDENT expressed gratitude to all who had helped to make the meetings and excursions so successful, particularly mentioning the clergy of the churches and the owners of the houses visited, also the gentlemen who had so ably assisted in describing the buildings. He added a special word of thanks for the valuable "spade-work" Mr. St. George Gray had put in, not only during the meetings, but throughout the year, and asked him to take back to Mrs. Gray a message of thanks to her also. Reviewing the proceedings of the three days, Major Trevilian suggested that the Society might endeavour to do something on behalf of modern domestic architecture to prevent the spread of the monstrosities which were being put up for people to live in all over the country. He also spoke of the need of interesting young people in archæology.

Mr. F. C. EELES, secretary of the Central Advisory Committee for the Protection of Churches, and a member of the Bath and Wells Advisory Committee, made an interesting reply, referring to the value of the work of these committees in safeguarding the old churches and raising the standard of new ones. Referring to the President's remarks, he agreed that they wanted to shake archæology free from the idea that it was a kind of pastime for old and retired people, and that the time of younger and stronger people was better spent on something else. It was nothing of the sort. Archæology was the study of everything that had in the past made for good construction and artistic production in the widest possible sense. Archæology and art were closely linked together, and education was certainly not complete unless and until a fair share of it was given to our own history and archæology.

How many people realised the rich treasure they had in West of England Perpendicular architecture, Somerset towers, and church screens. Although that particular kind of architecture was characteristic English work, there was, neverthe-

less, a West of England form and development of it one did not find elsewhere. Happily there had been a great revival of archæological and artistic interest since the war, the destruction then resulting making people realise what vandalism meant, and how priceless many things were. He hoped the President would succeed in doing something during his year of office to influence local authorities in the systematic preservation of old and artistic domestic architecture and the systematic improvement of new houses.

Mr. H. St. George Gray also responded, and, referring to the programme, remarked that on this occasion they had only been able to visit houses and churches, of which the district contained so many of interest. There were no ancient camps in that neighbourhood, and they had been unable to include any geology or natural history, as was usually done during their annual excursions. Incidentally, Mr. Gray emphasized the fact that Taunton Castle is the property of the Society, and that there is no provincial archæological society in the kingdom with equal headquarters, containing, as theirs did, a library of 23,000 volumes. With regard to interesting young people in archæology and local history, he referred to the generous provision made by Mr. William Wyndham at Taunton and Yeovil for lectures to school children and visits to the County Museum.

Thanks to the President and Mrs. Trevilian for their kind hospitality were gracefully expressed by the Dean of Wells, who threw out the suggestion that the Society might consider the formation of a junior branch or section.

Major Trevilian briefly replied, and the company then proceeded to the

Church of St. Andrew, Curry Rivel

which was ably described by a former vicar, the Rev. G. W. Saunders, who explained at the outset that the name Rivel was derived from Sir Richard Revel, who died early in the XIII Century and was buried in Muchelney Abbey.

The Rev. G. W. Saunders said that the church consisted of a western tower rebuilt in 1860–61, nave, north and south

aisles, a fine south porch, and a chancel which, probably in the XVIII Century, was shortened. On either side of the chancel were chapels. The south chapel was of the same date as the main portion of the church, the north chapel was earlier and of great architectural interest. This chapel has already been fully described in Vol. LXI of our *Proceedings*.

The rest of the church belonged to the XV Century, and was a good example of "Somerset Perpendicular." The windows were exceptionally beautiful. The four lights were disposed under two pointed arches. They were transomed, and the transom was supported by four ogee arches, in the spandrels of which were small quatrefoiled circles. It was a type of window which was common in West Somerset (*e.g.* Cleeve Abbey and Selworthy), and was found also at Northleach, Gloucester, but was rare in East Somerset, though it occurred in the neighbouring church of Langport.

Some heraldic glass had been inserted in the east window, and there were fragments in the other windows, notably a figure of S. Barbara in the north aisle. In another were the figures of S. Lawrence, S. Stephen, S. Vincent, and S. Isidore, but so much restored that it was difficult to distinguish the modern from the old.

The chapels were divided from the aisles by screens of a very unusual design. Mr. Bligh Bond thought that they could not be much later than the end of the XIV Century, but it was more probable that they were XV Century, carved by local men. The portion across the chancel existed till 1790, when it was partially destroyed for a large family pew which was placed against it. In 1865 an order was given for the removal of the side screens, but this was never done. In the south wall of the chancel was an aumbry, with its original hinges and door decorated with the linen-fold pattern. Within the altar rails were two good chairs. There were fine bench ends in the nave. The font was octagonal, decorated with shields within quatrefoils and supported by a panelled shaft.

Outside there was a good series of gargoyles, and on the porch grotesque figures playing the violin and the bagpipes.

The porch had a holy water stoup, and above the entrance arch a band of quatrefoils encircling shields, on one of which

was the portcullis. In the centre of this band was a small and well-carved niche. The porch had a beautiful fan vault, and stone benches on each side. Above the porch was a chamber.

High up on the south face of the tower in a niche was an original figure of S. Andrew the patron saint.

Mr. ROLAND PAUL notes the following heraldic glass :

Five shields in east window of chancel : *see* Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin's paper (Som. Arch. Soc. *Proceedings* (1915), pp. 48–49). He ascribes them to : (1) Beauchamp of Warwick. (2) Bishop Beckington of Wells. (3) Quarterly 1 and 4 " quarries " : 2 and 3 Montacute. (4) ? Despencer. (5) A Flaming Heart.