subscribers, and for workers to enable them to embark upon transcription and editorial work.

Dom Ethelbert Horne made some remarks on the remains of a Roman villa at the Cemetery at Keynsham, and hoped that some systematic excavations would be arranged.

At the close of the meeting the members adjourned for luncheon at the Walton Park Hotel.

Weston-in-Gordano Church.

Soon after 2 o'clock the members left the hotel for the Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Weston-in-Gordano (the Rev. T. G. Bird, Rector). Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A., described this and all the other churches visited during the three days. At Weston he said : The Church, as now standing, is a structure of the earlier part of the XIV Century, with certain later reconstructions. It consists of nave, chancel, tower at S.E. corner of nave, and a chapel extending east from same. The nave has been reconstructed and most of the visible features are early Perpendicular, probably dating from the latter part of the XIV Century. Of the same date are the arch between tower and nave and the curious stone pulpit in the adjacent wall of nave. The chancel, as now seen, is possibly rather later in construction than the rebuilt nave. There is a straight joint at the union of the walls on the north.

The south chapel, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, is the latest addition, and is mentioned in a will of Sir James Perceval, 1536 A.D.

Early Indications. The Perceval family built a church here in the XII or early XIII Century. This would have gone eastward from the tower, whose lower part has masonry of the early date. The arch leading to the Perceval chapel is an early pointed one, filled in with a depressed arch coeval with the late chapel. A similar plan is to be noted at Butcombe, near Wrington. The font is a good example of early Norman work, and indicates a yet earlier church.

The *Choristers' Gallery* in the south porch is claimed to have been the first of such galleries to be installed. There are remains of many others in the district and over the Mendip

region eastward. There is little doubt as to the former use of the gallery. In the Sarum Missal (once used largely in the Canterbury province) it was ordained that on Palm Sunday seven boys should sing on the south side of the church *eminente loco* the verses of the hymn "All glory, laud, and honour" (*Trans. Bristol and Glos. Arch. Soc.*, XXIX, 36).

Roodscreen and other Fittings. We cannot place the roodscreen later than the latter half of the XIV Century. It remains now only in a skeleton form, much mutilated and with modern tracery insertions. Formerly it had short return or fence screens projecting west each side of the door, enclosing two small altars, the stone slabs of which were found during a recent restoration. These are now preserved, the one in the porch and the other under the tower. The stair to the loft was on the south side. The loft projected westward to the point still marked by the stone corbels for bressummer, about 5ft. in advance of the screen.

The benches are of an early type rather similar to those at Clapton but certainly not so old as those. They may be coeval with the XIV Century work of reconstruction. The oak misericord stalls in the chancel may have been brought from another church in the district, as they scarcely accord with the plan.

The sanctus bell-cote remains over the chancel arch. In the chapel of St. Mary Magdalene are two brackets in the accustomed place on the east wall. One is plain, and the other (on the north) is carved in the XVI Century manner. The altar-slab of this chapel, found beneath the organ platform, is now restored to its place.

A double credence remains in the Church. Inside the south door of the nave is a holy-water stoup of good design, apparently coeval with the reconstructions, say, 1370–80 A.D.

Note on the Place-Name. The late Bishop Hobhouse found this place described in a document of 1271 A.D. as Weston-in-Gordenlond. In 1327 'Eastone-in-Gordano' is found. The title is affixed also to Portbury and Portishead. He thought it to be territorial, implying that these places lie in a certain district, *i.e.*, in or around the marsh-land between the two limestone ridges which meet at Clevedon. All the parishes

in this marsh possess the suffix, which is applied to none outside. The Bishop suggested a derivation from O.E. *gara* = a triangular piece of land, and *denu* = a valley. I suggest that it means 'a fish-weir' and is medieval Latin. The discovery of any record of fish-weirs in this narrow tract subject to flood-tides would tend to settle the question.

Sir AMBROSE ELTON apologised for having the temerity to make any remarks, adding that he would not have done so had it not been for the fact that he had the authority of a distinguished vice-president of the Society for his comments. Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte, the deputy-keeper of the Public Records had examined the Perceval monuments with him a short time ago and had given him some valuable notes. Sir Henry had requested him to put these notes before the Society, as he was unable to be present himself.

In 1698, Roger Soudon, vicar of Portbury, came to Weston-in-Gordano for the special purpose of noting the Perceval monuments. He was accompanied by an old schoolmaster about 80 years of age, long familiar with the place and its traditions. Soudon was disappointed at finding so little. He stated positively in his report that "there was no date on any of their tombs, nor so much as a letter of their name, save only on one where I found a name and a short inscription." This referred to the tomb inside the Church. As to the outside tomb of the supposed "Knight of the Holy Land," Soudon described this as "now a very mean thing, but four score years ago it was a stately monument."

Forty-four years after Soudon's visit, Anderson, author of the "Genealogical History of the House of Yvery," stated that the remains of the monument were still visible and that underneath there lay a stone bearing an inscription in Latin: "Orate pro anima Rycardi Perceval, qui militavit in Terra Sancta cum Rege Rycardo, anno C. mcxc." This has since disappeared. We were therefore in a dilemma. Were we to disbelieve Soudon entirely, or were we to say that this remarkable inscription was carved between 1698 and 1742?

Anderson went on to relate a wonderful story about the Crusader, which he admitted himself did not deserve entire credit, but we were seriously asked to believe that the altar

tomb in the churchyard was that of Richard Perceval, who lived and fought in the later part of the XII Century. " Bearing in mind the President's remark this morning," observed Sir Ambrose, " that we are too easily led by books and pay too little attention to things, we want tangible evidence of the very existence of the Crusader and also reliable evidence that the distinguished and ancient family of Perceval had any connection whatever with Weston-in-Gordano before the reign of Edward III."

Sir Ambrose went on to point out that the monument itself was covered by an oblong stone, on which were incised two floriated crosses, commemorating some unnamed husband and wife. Six holes on the surface may have been sockets for a ' hearse,' or, more probably, for short iron standards. He thought we might tentatively assign its date to Edward I, and that it had been removed in the XVI or XVII Century from the interior of the Church. The substructure of the tomb appeared to have been put together in comparatively recent times from various fragments not necessarily part of the original monument.

In the interior of the Church we found a genuine Perceval monument of the XV Century, but it had been certainly greatly altered in the XVIII Century, entirely repainted in recent times, and perhaps in places re-carved. The flat slab and the arcaded stonework supporting it were probably earlier than the upper part. It now bore two inscriptions, one in English and the other in French. The former alone was visible to Roger Soudon, who stated that it was " written in an ancient English character, scarce legible by reason of its antiquity and the difficulty of the letter." The present script scarcely looked like ancient English character. An engraving in " The House of Yvery " depicted this tomb, and by comparing it with the original we found that the whole of the work between the slab and the canopy had been completely altered since 1742. The inscription ran : " Richard Perceval y^{e} Lord have mercy. By Thy bitter passion brynge his soul to Thy salvation." But the present angels were absent in the engraving which showed in their stead six kneeling figures, three on either side. The scroll-work was

also arranged differently. The inscription on the slab ran : " Cy giste le corps de Rycharde Percyvale, le quel morot lan de boinet Jesus mccccIxxxviii. Dieu ay pittie de son ame." In the engraving referred to, there was no indication of any inscription on this slab, but the same Norman French inscription was given in a different script at the bottom of the plate and out of the picture altogether. When the Society visited Weston-in-Gordano in 1860, Mr. Freeman said that this was the latest example of a French inscription on an English monument known to him. Mr. Buckle in 1899 observed that it was remarkable for its late date. Neither of them appears to have doubted its authenticity. Haines's " Manual of Monumental Brasses " stated that inscriptions in Norman French were rarely found after 1420. It was difficult to believe that the French inscription was any earlier than that now on the scroll, which was probably Georgian. The inscription professed to give the date of the death of Richard Perceval, which Roger Soudon was unable to find on any Perceval monument in 1698, and it did not conform to the usual practice of giving the day and month of decease. The year given was moreover incorrect, for an inquisition on the death of Richard Perceval was taken in the year previous, 1482.

Sir Ambrose concluded by suggesting that the Perceval alliances indicated by the heraldry on the tomb appeared to require verification.

Clevedon Court.

On leaving Weston Church, the members proceeded to Clevedon Court, where they were addressed by Sir AMBROSE ELTON from the steps under the noble XIV Century archway of the front entrance. He said he had the honour of showing them an original Edward II house, and one of the best examples of the period, added to in Elizabethan and other periods. Directing their attention to the outside, he pointed out the ancient kitchens (dating from the XIV Century), the walls of which had been pierced at a later date by mullioned and transomed windows, and the gables with their quaint finials

added. He then turned to the fine window of the great hall, restored in admirable taste by the late Sir Edmund Elton as to its upper part. The chapel windows of remarkable reticulated tracery, of the Early Decorated period, were greatly admired, the large south square-headed one especially. The bold XIV Century buttresses were noticed, and in pointing out the Elizabethan wing Sir Ambrose explained that, in spite of the disastrous fire in 1882, which demolished much of the interior of that wing, but mercifully went no further, the outside walls stood. They represented the reconstruction and enlargements of the Wake family. The gables only had to be restored, and were practically a facsimile of what was there before. The west front—which, after going through the usual vicissitudes of the debased tastes of the late Georgian period, were capably restored by the seventh baronet to their original form—was next inspected, and the party walked round to the back of the house, through the beautiful terraced garden abutting on the wooded hillside, and made its way inside to the great hall.

Sir Ambrose went on to point out its chief features, including the fine XIV Century arch into the ante-room, which served as an oriel on the south side of the dais. He remarked that the gallery—early Georgian work—was not perhaps what they would have liked best to have seen there, but it was not a bad example of its kind. The hall had four newel stone staircases, one at each corner, three of which were intact, whilst the shell of the fourth remained. Above the ceiling—placed there at the same time as the gallery—there had been a fine open timbered roof. He was afraid there was nothing to be seen of that, the present woodwork being also of the Georgian period, but one could see at the east and west gables —on either side of the fine Decorated windows which were to be found up there—the marks on the plaster work of the boldly cusped mouldings of the earlier roof. Apparently there had never been a louver to the hall. The original chimneys of the east and west gables must have carried off the smoke as it circled among the rafters from the fire of logs, which was most probably placed in the middle of the room until the present Tudor fireplace, or an earlier one, was built. The fine

Elizabethan carved stone doorway at the north angle of the hall was noticed, and the party went through the library and drawing-room, admiring the beautiful specimens of furniture —from early Jacobean in the hall to late Georgian in the drawing-room—as they went, and then passed up the staircase into the chapel, where Sir Ambrose described the finding of this gem after the fire—the altar-slab (smashed off but still in the wall), the Early Decorated hooded piscina (with its bowl broken off) carefully covered up, and last of all the fine east window of reticulated tracery, matching the south window so much admired outside. "The fire did no more than lead to its discovery," remarked Sir Ambrose, in reference to the chapel. "It laid no sacrilegious hand on the sacred structure itself, but by a judicious scorching of overlaying layers of plaster helped to reveal the secret of the chamber which it had kept so long and so well." Having examined the early windows above the ceiling on the west gable of the hall the members passed down the stairs, under another archway of the Early Decorated period, on to the Queen Anne staircase, and so into the hall, from whence they went to inspect the XIV Century triple doorways leading to the ancient kitchens and domestic offices, which retain their original plan and much of their original construction, eventually finding their way out to the carriage drive.

(A fuller account of the house, written by Sir Ambrose Elton, will be found in the Society's *Proceedings*, XLV, i, 14–20.)

The PRESIDENT expressed the indebtedness of the members to Sir Ambrose and Lady Elton for giving them such a great treat by showing them over their ancient and beautiful house. So far as he knew there were very few houses which had such an interesting history as this one had. The name of Elton was very dear to the antiquaries of Somerset.

Returning to Clevedon, the members were entertained to tea at the Public Hall by the Local Committee,[1] who were

1. The Local Committee consisted of :—Lord Teignmouth, Sir Ambrose Elton, Bart., Sir Charles Miles, Bart., the Rt. Rev. Bishop Cornish, the Rev. Preb. H. E. Badcock, Colonel W. Long, Mr. T. W. Cowan, Dr. C. Visger, Lt.-Col. E. A. Daubeny, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. G. Donaldson, Mr. C. E. Evans, Mr. H. C. P. Day, Capt. C. C. Marsh, Major A. B. Trestrail, Miss Henry, the

cordially thanked by the President. At 5.20 p.m. the members left for the

Church of St. Andrew, Clevedon,

where they were received by the Vicar, the Rev. Preb. H. E. Badcock, R.D. The edifice was described by Mr. BLIGH BOND.

Plan of Building. Originally Norman and cruciform, with central tower, and without aisles. The Norman nave was shorter and narrower than the later one, the change in width being shown by the internal buttresses. Part of the Norman masonry stands in the north transept and lower part of the tower; see corbels in north transept, and two of the four tower arches, *i.e.* east and north sides of crossing. These are now roughly pointed in shape, but are probably not much later than 1080 A.D., and reconstructed at their heads with the alteration of the masonry above, when the roodloft entry was schemed.

Later Alterations. Nave apparently early XIV Century, widened chiefly on the south side. High-pitched roof; no clerestory. Length increased westward to utmost limit, as the corbelled angle at north-west shows. The south and west tower arches rebuilt about the same time. Windows in north and south walls of chancel are late XIV Century, and Perpendicular type. South aisle of nave dates from middle of the XIV Century, but subsequently enlarged, in the late XV or XVI Century, when the clerestory was added, and the walls of the north and south transepts raised and the new east window added. The south transept held the chantry of St. Thomas the Martyr, and has since been the chapel of the Elton and Hallam families, whose memorials are on its walls. It retains the original piscina in east wall. Its roof is of the later Somerset type, probably an accurate restoration. There are some remarkable old corbels remaining.

Roodloft. This appears to have run the whole depth of the crossing, with screens at east and west. Over the east arch

Rev. H. S. Swithinbank, the Misses Bowen, Dr. J. Oldershaw, Mr. H. Radcliffe, Miss Strudwick, Mr. T. G. Simmonds and Mr. G. M. S. Farmer (*the Society's Local Secretary*).

of the crossing, at the north-east internal angle, is an aperture for approach.

Furniture and Minor Features. The south porch retains a good XV Century oak ceiling, and evidence of a choristers' gallery over the inner door, as at Weston. The nave benches are late but good, of poppy-head type. Those in the centre came from Wraxall. Two hagioscopes remain. The font is plain, apparently XIV Century, with a XVII Century cover. There are panels of Dutch importation in the pulpit-back. A stone altar-slab, found buried under the south transept floor, is now preserved in the chancel. There is a tomb dated 1592 on the north side of the Church, and at the east end of the nave a miniature effigy of one of the Wake family.

Before leaving the old town the members had a glimpse of the cliff scenery in the neighbourhood of the churchyard, and a few of them ascended Wain's Hill where there are banks which may be ancient.

Evening Meeting.

In the evening, after dinner, a meeting was held in the Public Hall when the President (Sir W. Boyd Dawkins) occupied the chair.

Mr. ROLAND W. PAUL, F.S.A., sent for exhibition a finely executed series of coloured drawings of Heraldic Glass which would be seen in some of the Churches to be visited. Mr. Paul's notes were read by Mr. H. Symonds, F.S.A.

Mr. H. B. WALTERS, F.S.A., sent in a report upon a proposed illustrated monograph by himself on Somerset Church Bells, which was read by Mr. H. St. George Gray. It was very much on the lines of Mr. Walters's paper in *Proceedings*, LXVI, 127–133.

Mr. JOHN MORLAND gave an address based on his paper on "The Roman Road at Glastonbury and the Valley of the Brue," which is printed, with a map and other illustrations, in Part II.

Mr. ALBANY F. MAJOR, O.B.E., F.S.A., read a paper on "The Somerset End of Wansdyke," of which the following is a summary :

Much has been written about Wansdyke in the *Proceedings* and elsewhere and its course has been a subject of much speculation, but reference to earlier writers and to the O.S. maps will show that up to the present our actual knowledge of it remained where it was left by Sir R. Colt Hoare a hundred years ago. There were many gaps in its course as far as Maes Knoll, and beyond that point all was speculation. Following up work that began, as far as Somerset is concerned, in 1914, but was interrupted by the war, the writer, assisted by Mr. G. E. Cruickshank, F.S.A., has this year succeeded in filling up the gaps left blank in the map and in tracing the dyke from Maes Knoll to the ancient shore-line at Portbury near the mouth of the Avon, confirming the indications of its course in the far west given by Collinson, but never verified. Besides this there was an unexpected discovery in the shape of a number of enclosures and entrenchments connected with the dyke, unmapped and unrecorded, except by the Rev. J. Skinner, rector of Camerton, who in the first half of the XIX Century gave the position of a number of " intermediate forts, or outposts " on the line of the dyke. These are surprisingly numerous and suggest that at one time there was a very large population settled along the dyke, or that it was very heavily garrisoned. In addition to these, near the foot of the escarpment between Maes Knoll and Hill Farm are the remains of what appear to have been two extensive village sites. The actual end of the dyke is described on p. xxxviii, but there are indications that it may have thrown off a branch to Stokeleigh Camp, as there is a big bank in Ashton Park, which runs in that direction. Mr. Skinner gave the camp as its termination and said that eastward it ran towards Frome. It is possible that it also branched in that direction at the " Cross Keys," but these and many other points remain for investigation.

As to date and origin it is impossible to formulate any opinion worth having without more spadework than has yet been done on the dyke. An examination of some of the earthworks that have been found along its line could hardly fail to give some evidence and to provide relics that would enrich the Society's museum. This indeed seems to be one

of the most important problems with which Somerset archæologists are confronted, for it is hardly too much to say that there is nothing to compare with Wansdyke and its attendant earthworks in this country south of the Roman Wall.

Second Day's Proceedings.

On Wednesday, July 5th, the members left the Walton Park Hotel at 9.15 a.m. for

Cadbury Camp,

which was approached from the north side of the range of hills, the motor conveyances being left at the Clapton Nursery, in the parish of Clapton-in-Gordano. The members ascended the hill (about 300ft. high in this part) by a lane and crossed the northern boundary of Tickenham parish, coming to a halt at the excavations at the northern entrance of the Camp.

Mr. H. St. George Gray addressed the members on the subject of the Camp generally, the archæological 'finds' which had been made in the immediate neighbourhood, and the trial-excavations which he had conducted on behalf of the Somerset Earthworks Committee from June 14th to 20th. His observations are incorporated in his paper on these excavations, published in Part II of this volume.

The President supplemented Mr. Gray's remarks and thanked him for his address. The members walked round the Camp, descended the hill, and proceeded to

Clapton-in-Gordano.

Clapton Court (in the occupation of Mr. J. A. Laver) was visited first, but only the exterior was viewed.

Mr. Bligh Bond said that the Court was the seat of the Arthur family, lords of the manor *temp.* Edward II, from whose reign the earliest part of the fabric is said to date. Richard Arthur married Alice, daughter of James, Lord Berkeley, *c.* 1465, and their arms impaled on a stone shield attached to the tower-porch attest its date.

The house seems originally to have been a parallelogram with long axis east and west, and a porch on the north. Prior to 1860 some part of the old house existed, but in that year all was demolished with the exception of the tower-porch and a little of the wall adjoining on the east and west sides. At this date the fine XIII Century screen, now in the Church, was removed from its position between hall and buttery. This priceless relic of early English domestic woodwork was turned out of doors and so remained for many years until it was finally placed in the archway between the nave and tower of the Church, where it now stands. It has lost its original tracery of three spherical triangles in the wheel over the arcaded doors, and modern work has been substituted. For its position in the house, see plan in *Proceedings*, x (1860), i, 8.

Church of St. Michael and All Angels.

At the Church, the members were met by the Rev. Sydney Warren, Rector. Mr. Bligh Bond had much to say with regard to this interesting building.

The oldest feature is the tympanum of the south door, apparently of Norman date. This has been cut for the formation of a very late doorway. The fabric generally is of XIII Century date, probably not older than 1250 A.D., which is the date given for the founding of the Church (*Trans. Bristol and Glos. Arch. Soc.*, xxix, 35).

Plan of the Church. The fabric includes tower at west, nave, chancel, a north transeptal chapel to the nave, and a smaller chapel on the north side of the chancel. The tower appears to be of the latter half of the XIII Century. The dog-tooth is seen on the label of the west window. The belfry retains its early corbel table, but the parapet is a late addition.

XIII Century Features. The north door of the nave, now blocked, is Early English, and the priest's door in the chancel is of the same period. The piscina in chancel is of this period, but spoilt by scraping or renewal of stones. There are two inverted Early English capitals, with parts of Purbeck shafts attached, which have been used by the later builders as supports for the XV Century candle-brackets of the reredos.

In the Arthur Chapel, north of the chancel, is an east window of two lights, of Early English pattern. This was obviously removed from the north wall of the chancel when the chapel was built about the middle of the XV Century. This fine little window, to judge from its ' lantern ' cusping, would date from about 1280 A.D.

Altars in the Nave. The Church had altogether at least four and probably five altars. Two of these flanked the chancel-arch, and the hagioscope to that on the north side is still visible. Where we find these features we infer

(1) A chancel-arch of small size in an original church of the XII Century or earlier—very probably a Norman arch.

(2) A widening of the arch, and the construction of hagioscopes following the change in liturgical uses for the exposition of the holy mysteries. Sometimes the hagioscopes were made before the arch was widened.

Structural Changes of the XIV and XV Centuries. The transeptal chapel on the north of the nave is of the XIV Century. It contains a fine Decorated window of three narrow lights in the east wall, dating from about 1330 A.D. In the north wall is another beautiful two-light window, now blocked by the late XVII Century monument within. This chapel still shows the position of the altar-reredos in the recessed sill of the east window. The piscina remains on the south side, and a bracket on the north side of the window. Here, at the south-east angle of the chapel, is a large hagioscope with a slant door to chancel.

The XV Century brings the widening and rebuilding of the chancel-arch. The pier-caps are of the Devonian type of Perpendicular work. The masonry of the double-chamfered arch is probably of the older material. It retains sockets for the insertion of a wooden partition or ' tympanum ' over the screen, such as was common in the XVI Century for the display of paintings as a background for the rood.

Two small lights in the wall higher up, over the chancel gable, would have lit the roodloft. The roodscreen was of the XV Century. A few fragments are preserved on the north wall of the tower. It would have had enclosures for the altars to the west as at Weston-in-Gordano. The stair-turret is in

the wall on the south side of the arch. The east window of the chancel is good Perpendicular, *c.* 1480 A.D.

Old Benches in Nave. These rudely-wrought benches have been regarded as among the oldest surviving. They refer in all probability to the XIII Century church, but have been spoken of as XV Century. The Rev. C. Wood, at the 1881 meeting, gave this opinion, instancing the singular chamfer-stop which is of the same pattern as those of the XV Century doorways to the porch and roodloft turret. The fact is that the benches have been reconstructed and added to in the XV Century. The panelling on the bench-back is XV Century. I suggest that when the Church was enlarged in the XV Century the number of seats was increased accordingly, and the old pattern was followed and imitated to a certain extent, but with such differences as the changes in style and tradition of workmanship would necessarily show. Hence the benches would be XIII Century with some XV Century additions. Those at the west end of the nave are the best; others in the north chapel have been much renovated.

The Choristers' Gallery in the south porch must have been like that at Weston, and would here be a very late insertion. There are two niches over the inner door to the Church. The doorway itself is of the latest period.

The Stone Reredos, with its battlemented cornice and twin brackets for ritual lights, would suggest a XV or XVI Century character. The brass candlesticks, however, are claimed to be Laudian. It is quite possible, I think, that this reredos, built up as it is in part of older fragments (Early English supports) may be the work of some earnest ritualist of the time of Charles I. In Somerset there is much work of that period, in close imitation of Gothic work. At Montacute, last year, the members saw a stone reredos with a rectangular frame and mouldings not very dissimilar to this, dating from the earliest days of the Reformation era.

General. The font is Early English, of the 'quatrefoil' type. Four small brackets lie in the entrant angles of the four cylindrical segments of the bowl. The sanctus bell-cote is original, and retains the old bell, which bears the legend SIGNIS CESSANDIS ET SERVIS CLAMO CIBANDIS. The Arthur

Chapel has a window on the north, of mid XV Century date, and beneath it, traces of an altar. A small hagioscope, much mutilated, remains at the south-east, and retains a painted cross of re-consecration.

Portbury.

The Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Rev. W. Coney, Vicar) was reached at 12 noon, and was described by Mr. Bligh Bond.

Plan of Building. The nave and aisles form a square of 64ft., and the great height of the latter adds a dignity of proportion to the spacious interior.

Architectural History. Of the Norman foundation there remains the south doorway, a fine example ; indications of pilaster buttresses on the external walls, notably at the east of aisles and chancel ; certain quoins or jamb-stones built in flush with the wall face, to the east ; clustered piers of the chancel-arch rebuilt in a later and possibly modern construction ; and lastly the font, removed in 1875 from the west end, and its shaft raised. The date of the pilaster buttresses is perhaps XII Century (see those in the north aisle). The priest's door has the semicircular head of the Norman time, but the jambs are chamfered, and pendent stops added suggestive of a XIII Century alteration of an older feature.

XII Century Work. The nave arcade may be of this date, and late in the century, about the time of the advent of the Early English style, but its plainness makes for difficulty in judging. At Wells and Glastonbury we have pilaster buttresses with the pointed arch, *c.* 1180 to 1200. To this date would belong the stone seats still seen at Portbury around the walls and the bases of the piers. These have been later hacked away for pewing. In any case we must assume the rebuilding of a smaller Norman church, but whether the arcade itself is of the XII Century, or of that meagre period which succeeded the Black Death is a moot point. The latter theory would account for the rudeness of the work and the obvious signs of economy. Remains of colour by the south door suggest a date *c.* 1150.

XIII Century Work. To this period belongs the hagioscope on the north side of the nave, and the beautiful little three-light Early English window which lights it. This can now only be seen from without. The sedilia in the chancel and south aisle are Early English, also the piscina ; their date about 1220 A.D. The plain oak seats in the nave are of early date.

XIV Century Work. This period is represented in many structural alterations and additions. The three-light window in the north wall would be about 1350 A.D., and the corbels on each side of the north door externally are about the same date. The south aisle contains the Berkeley Chapel, founded 1336 A.D. The water-stoup within the south door is XIV Century, as also are the chancel windows. The east window, of early XIV Century design, is notable for the use of red sandstone as material for the tracery. The two windows in the south wall seem to be of the 1336 foundation.

The ribbed stone roof of the chapel on the north of chancel is of the XIV Century, and its pointed barrel-vault is an interesting feature.

East again of this is a building, now the vestry, but said to have been formerly a chapel of the Holy Sepulchre (or perhaps 'Easter Sepulchre'). The doorway shows a XIV Century wave-mould.

XV Century Features. The western tower is a plain example of the Perpendicular period. The large window in the east wall of the south aisle is also of XV Century date. It has five arcuated lights with blunt-headed trefoils.

Roodloft, Roodscreen and Ritual Veils. The door of access to the former roodloft remains, with traces of an opening above. Until the so-called 'restoration' in 1871, the oak screen, now in the tower opening, was across the chancel-arch. It had been much curtailed in length and the tracery-head to the door is missing. In its original form, this screen would have been of the earlier XV Century type, with a horizontal coving to the west, and a gallery-front of simple panels over the bressummer. What was remaining of this in the fatal year 1871 is not now known, but the church chest contains mutilated fragments of screenwork, in the form of traceried panels.

The small window in the east gable wall of the nave, over the chancel roof, is an appurtenance of the roodloft. The sanctus bell still remains in its stone cote, and may be referred to the same period and its liturgical requirements.

Corbels for the support of the Lenten veils may still be seen in the walls north and south of chancel. That on the south side is an old Norman pillar-capital re-used. A secondary corbel remains further east, in the wall opposite the south window, and at the height of its sill. Here would have been the beam for lights.

XVI Century Work. Of this date is the niche over the south door, now seen in a greatly mutilated form. The chest now in the Church, together with the chalice and paten, are Elizabethan, the latter dated 1574.

XVII Century. The little brass of the Kemish family by the north door is dated 1621. Parts of a heraldic stone with a wreath around shield are preserved. These were found by the present vicar. The Berkeley coat is discernible.

Mr. ROLAND PAUL, F.S.A., sends the following note :

In the easternmost window of the north aisle are remains of a border of crosses pattée, between pieces of ruby glass, no doubt referring to the arms of the Berkeley family.

The remains of Portbury Priory were not visited on this occasion. A short history of the priory by Mr. E. Green will be found in *Proceedings*, XXVII, 61–67.

Leaving the Church, the members proceeded to the Portbury Hotel where refreshments were provided ; and at 1.20 p.m., the greater part of the party walked up to the Camp known as " Conygar," from which an excellent view of Portishead and Avonmouth was obtained.

Mr. ALBANY F. MAJOR said that there was said to have been a port at Portbury in Roman times and pointed out that the earthwork in which they were standing, though small, was strongly defended, while there appeared also to be lines of entrenchment on the " Mount " opposite. Wansdyke could be seen in the field below, running up practically to the precipitous foot of the hill, the actual junction being masked by the mill and its garden, etc. Southward the dyke was merged in road banks as far as Oakham Farm. There it turned

sharply west, and they could see it running across the fields to the left of the farm at the foot of Windmill Hill. On its seaward side the hill had been defaced by quarrying, but beyond the road a bank ran down to what was evidently an old foreshore, and was continued by a causeway to what had once been an island between Portbury and Portishead. He could find no traces of the dyke across the island.

Rejoining the motors, the members set out for Backwell, proceeding by way of the Failand Inn, "Belmont" and Flax Bourton. Unfortunately, a change took place in the weather at this point and it rained heavier as the day advanced.

Church of St. Andrew, Backwell.

Mr. Bligh Bond spoke at some length on this Church (the Rev. E. S. S. Caudwell, Rector); the following is a summary of his remarks:

Backwell manor was conferred by William I upon the Bishop of Coutances, under whom it was held by two Norman knights, Fulcran and Nigel, the dual ownership passing after the bishop's death to two Norman families, De Baiocis and Le Sore. The parish to-day is divided into two tithings, 'Backwell Bayouse' and 'Backwell Sore.' In 1274–5, Isabel le Sore granted land to Richard de Rodney and his heirs, and by failure of male issue the lands of the Sore family passed by marriage to the Wykehams who alienated them to the Rodneys, of whom we trace a long line in connection with this place (*see* the Rev. G. S. Master's *Backwell Collections*, Northern Branch, S.A. and N.H. Soc., 1898).

There are evidences of a Norman church in a surviving fragment of enrichment now built into the jamb of a hagioscope from the Rodney Chapel. The old font was described by Mr. Master as of late Norman date; but Mr. Harvey Pridham classified it under early Norman. This had been found buried in the churchyard and was placed in the tower, where it was laid when Mr. Master wrote in 1898. We now see the old font with its cable mould restored to its proper position.

Early English work is represented in the priest's doorway,

in a string-course of the same period carried over a window subsequently inserted, in the plinth along both the aisle walls, and in the relieving arches over blocked lancet windows (Master) visible from within and without. In the Rodney Chapel are two very fine early incised slabs with crosses. Sedilia and piscina are also of this period.

The Church would appear to have been rebuilt in the reign of Henry III. The plan did not include the south chancel chapel, but there is evidence of Early English windows in the walls of both aisles (Rev. E. Burbidge, *Proc.* XXVII, ii, 15–24) ; and the existence of a tower of the earlier period may be conjectured.

The present tower-arch is of the XIV Century. Note the double wave-mould. The south porch appears of the same century, though perhaps earlier, and shows signs of settlement in the arch and jambs. It appears to have been refronted, as there is a superior quality about the masonry of the south wall. The internal doorway is a restoration. Adjoining it on the east is a stoup with an Early English arched bead. The bowl of the stoup is broken. It originally rested on a small shaft, part of the base of which is visible by the floor.

On the accession of Edward III in 1326 A.D., the Rodneys were lords of both the manors of Backwell, and it is probable that they may have been first founders of a chapel on the north side of the chancel. This was Mr. Burbidge's opinion. But the present Rodney Chapel is much later, although its remarkable stone-ribbed roof would at first sight give the impression that it was a work of the XIV Century. We know, however, from documents, that it was built (or rebuilt) and endowed by Lady Elizabeth Chaworth (formerly Rodney) before her death in 1537, and she seems to have enlarged it at the expense of the priest's room adjoining on the east. The window of her chapel is of the Perpendicular period.

In the Rodney tomb, screen, and canopy we have an archæological problem, which Mr. Burbidge has the credit of having solved in a logical way. The canopy, with its crocketed pinnacles and gable would date from the fourth decade of the XIV Century and reminds one strongly of the work at Bristol Cathedral. Like the recesses there, this one may have been

prepared for the reception of a tomb, and at first it would have appeared as a shallow arched recess, with wall at back. Mr. Burbidge considered that the altar-tomb and effigy of Sir Walter Rodney may, on his death in 1466, have been placed beneath this canopy in the recess, and Mr. Master concurred in his view. The suggestion further is that both tomb and effigy were removed to their present position when the widow of the great-grandson of Sir Walter, the aforesaid Lady Elizabeth, built the chapel and opened out the arch below the canopy, filling this with a pierced stone screen as we now see it. It has been thought that the recessed arch may have been used as an Easter Sepulchre originally, before the effigy was placed beneath it. In the will of Dame Anne Rodney, mother of Sir Walter Rodney of Backwell, dated 1546, she desired to be buried under the Easter Sepulchre at Stoke Gifford Church.

The roof of enriched ribs over the Rodney Chapel must be a late copy of the Decorated work, and may replace an earlier one of similar design. Parts of one rib only are of the same elaborateness of workmanship as the canopy outside.

The cell on the north of the sanctuary is a feature of archæological interest. It is entered by a late Perpendicular doorway from the north end of the altar. Its small window, set high in the wall, may suggest that it was part of the XIII Century church as Mr. Burbidge thought, and he suggests that the hagioscope from the Rodney Chapel is formed from older walling which was once a part of this chamber, which may have been an anchorite's cell, or a lodging for the poor brother who was sent to perform the services by the master of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist at Redcliff Pit, to whom in 1306 the bishop granted the rectory.

The differences in the character of the piers of the nave arcades must be noted. There are marks of several alterations in the nave. The arches appear to have been raised and replaced on taller pillars. The altered mouldings of the capitals of the three western pillars on the south have led to the theory that the reconstruction was not all done at one time. Some have claimed that the pillars as well as the arches are XIV Century work, but Mr. Burbidge pointed out certain contrary indications (*Proc.*, XXVII, ii, 18, footnote 4).

Mr. Master considered them all to be XV Century work, and there is no doubt that the XV Century saw the chief alterations in the body of the Church, when the roodloft and screens were added. The indications of the roodloft survive in the large turret and stairs on the south, the corbels for the support of the loft, and the unique little dormer-window on the south side of the nave which served to light the rood and images. The screens are good specimens of the North Somerset type. The presence of the two hagioscopes in the piers indicates the former existence of side altars under the loft. Their dedications are not recorded, but there was a chapel of St. Matthew in the Church and Mr. Master has suggested that St. Luke may also have had an altar in the Church as he pointed out that one of the bells has the inscription, SCE LUCA ORA PRO NOBIS. Of the six bells, one is medieval, and two others date from 1758 (*see* Ellacombe's *Church Bells of Somerset*, p. 23).

The registers are missing down to 1693, with some memoranda from 1674. The plate includes chalice and paten dated 1718. The churchwardens' books contain entries from 1676 onwards. There is an item for the rebuilding of a pinnacle in 1774, and repairing the tower steps. It will be noted that the south-west pinnacle of the tower is rebuilt in a debased Gothic manner.

Chelvey Court.

A short drive brought the members to Chelvey, where Mr. Bligh Bond described the buildings.

Chelvey Court is a mansion of the reign of James I, but now reduced from its former magnificence through the loss of its southern half, and the complete modernization of its upper storey which has lost its ancient outline. Most of the windows are now modernized, and in this respect the west side has suffered least.

Externally, the east porch retains some semblance of its antique appearance. Its twisted columns and enriched parapets are noteworthy.

Internally, the chief feature preserved is the fine massive oak staircase ascending two storeys, above which there still

depends from the ceiling a great Jacobean plaster pendant, with enrichments of foliage and fruit said to be meant for the cocoa plant. At the foot of the great staircase are nailed five horseshoes, and once there were six of these. They are so placed as a security against witches, who were believed to be unable to pass over them.

There are ancient tables along the south wall of the living-room which date from the XV Century and are unaltered. Others of similar character are in the Middle Temple Hall.

Some ancient chimney-pieces are preserved, and also certain panelling to the walls of rooms on the first floor (*i.e.* the east porch level) and here we have an instance of the earliest form of 'graining' dating probably from 1610 to 1616. The inner room, now known as the Blue Room, shows the same original treatment of the panels under a blue-grey paint of later date. The coats of Tynte and Gorges appear in this room.

The original stone-tiled roof was at a higher level and no doubt the house was gabled. Now all gables are shorn off and the external beauty of the house is sadly diminished.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Cottle were cordially thanked for giving the large number of members facilities for seeing their interesting old house. Chelvey Court was well illustrated in *Country Life*, May 21st, 1910.

Church of St. Bridget, Chelvey.

Leaving the Tithe Barn on the right, the members approached the Church from the west. The Rev. H. W. Humphrys is the Rector. Mr. Bond described the edifice.

Plan of Church. The building consists of a nave and chancel, large chapel or aisle on south of the chancel, and a western tower.

Norman Foundation. Traces of a Norman church remain in the south doorway, and there is a little Norman light in the west wall of the south porch which may have been brought from some other part of the original church. The north wall of the nave has masonry apparently dating from the Norman period. The font may be regarded as Norman.

XIV Century Features. The windows on the north side of

the chancel appear to date from about 1300 A.D. One is socketed, as for a small bar. The head of a water-stoup in the porch is of XIV Century type, and has been formed from some part of a window, as it has the glass-groove. It has been cut for the insertion of a shelf. The dado-wall of an early rood-screen remains. It is of stone, and carries a solid wooden sill mortised for balusters, showing it to have been of late XIII or early XIV Century type. There are several ancient oak seats, very similar to those at Clapton and Weston, five being in the south chapel, and five more in the nave. But these are later and less rude in workmanship than the examples cited. The chancel walls are very probably of date co-eval with the windows (*c.* 1300).

The slab, now much worn, beneath the altar of the south chapel, bears the incised figure of a military knight whose dress indicates a date *c.* 1250 to 1275 A.D. It shows a suit of chain-mail covered by a long surcoat, a lance being held in the right hand, which is a rare feature in tombs or brasses. There are three empty canopied recesses in the south wall of the chapel. The roof of nave and chancel runs continuous, there being no chancel-arch.

XV Century Work. The fabric is chiefly of the XV Century, and is an agreeable specimen of the work of that date. The south chapel is that of the Tynte family. It was probably late in the XV Century that a new roof was placed on the nave walls, the north windows of the nave and the east window of the chancel inserted, the south porch added or rebuilt, and the west tower erected. The badge of Edward IV (sun in splendour) appears in the glass of the south chapel lights. The canopied recesses below are of XV Century character.

XVI Century Features. There is a rectangular reredos frame of stone under the east window of the chancel, and another under that of the chapel : both appear to be of the latest pre-Reformation date. Part of the ornamental cornice of the former is ancient.

XVII Century. The tracery of the windows in the Tynte Chapel is of a debased type and probably Carolean. The manorial pew of the Tyntes remains and is a fine specimen of Jacobean woodwork. The pulpit retains its old hour-glass stand.



NAILSEA COURT, 1891.

From a Photograph by Dr. F. J. Allen.

Roodloft and Veils. The position of the beam of the roodloft is marked by a missing stone, which shows where the corbels were placed. Corbels for the Lenten veil are on each side of the chancel.

The Church was restored in 1887 and the architect's report is quoted in the *Trans. Bristol and Glos. Arch. Soc.*, XXIX, 40–42. The lower part of the old churchyard cross still stands, but the medieval head has been replaced by a sundial.

Mr. ROLAND PAUL has added the following note: In the three-light window on the north side of the nave is a shield (now reversed) *arg.* on a fess *sa* between 3 bulls' heads affrontée *gu*, armed *or*, a crescent *or* (said to be *Bodimant*), impaling what appears to have been *gu*, 3 bars and a bordure *arg.* The crescent on the Bodimant coat may be intended for a 'difference' denoting the second son.

Nailsea Court (Plates II, III).

Lt.-Commander C. E. EVANS, in welcoming the members of the Society, said:

In this house may be traced the handiwork of several owners who altered it or added to it as best suited their convenience. Their arms can be seen in the south window of the Langford Room. The earliest known owners are the Le Fryes, who were in possession in 1272. Elyas le Frye, who in a deed granting "a tenement upon Naylesey" to Walter de Chaney speaks of "my court at Naylesey," sold at a date prior to 1331 to Mestre Roberd de la More.

The De la More or Bythemore family held it for two hundred years, and Nailsea Court may be regarded as chiefly of their building. Little remains of the Court of Elyas le Frye. There is the arch of the old kitchen fireplace behind the panelling in the library, and in the eastern wall of the hall are indications of a screen with triple openings, which in his time separated kitchen from hall. In the library we have XIII, XV, and XVIII Century work side by side,—the Tudor arch placed there when the kitchen was made a living-room, and the bread ovens inserted when the Court was used as a farmhouse.

Georgius de la More, Dominus de Naylsey, enlarged and

beautified the house in the beginning of the XV Century. Portions of his work are left in handsome fireplaces, traceried windows carved in Dundry stone, and doorways with pointed arches.

Much of this work was obliterated when Roger Bythemore, early in the XVI Century, rebuilt the manor house in Tudor style and moulded it into the form it wears to-day.

His great-grandson, George Perceval, inherited after him, and this brings us to one of the most interesting personalities connected with the house, his son Richard, born at Nailsea Court.

Richard Perceval was instrumental in giving to Queen Elizabeth tidings of the preparation of the Spanish Armada. He was an extravagant youth and quarrelled with his father, especially over his marriage, some say with a gypsy's daughter. He went to Spain for four years and on his return published a Spanish Dictionary and a romance, " the Myrrour of Knighthood." He was a friend of Cecil, Lord Salisbury, and when a ' pacquet ' of papers was captured from a Spanish ship chased in the Channel, and none of Elizabeth's cabinet could decipher these papers, Burleigh proposed that Richard Perceval should be entrusted with the task. Richard next day presented them himself to the Queen deciphered and translated into Spanish, Latin and English. Her Majesty was so pleased that she took Richard into special favour, made him Secret Remembrancer and gave him a pension of 800 marks a year.

George and Elizabeth carved their initials on the chimney-piece in the Perceval Room and the date 1574, which is the year that Queen Elizabeth visited Bristol. In 1582 they sold Nailsea Court to Richard Cole, a Bristol merchant, for a country house. He was M.P. for Bristol in 1593, and that date is carved on small shields inserted in the spandrels of the fireplace in the Cole bedroom, and similar shields bear his initials and those of his wife Alice in the solar ; to them may also be attributed the beautiful carved door in that room.

The Coles occupied Nailsea Court for a century and during that period two different sets of alterations took place. Alteration of the screen in the hall, of the window in the porch chamber, introduction of wooden staircases, are some in-



NAILSEA COURT, 1922.

From a Photograph by Mr. F. Bromhead, Clifton.

stances. Later work would be the raising of the central portion of the house, insertion of square chimney-piece in the hall, and replacing of the stone traceried windows there by long windows with leaded lights.

Next as owner comes Nathaniel Wade, barrister-at-law. He was a leader in the Monmouth Rebellion, fought well at Sedgemoor, was captured while hiding on Exmoor, and sent to the Tower. In later life he held various offices in the City of Bristol and also was Major of train-bands. He bought Nailsea Court in 1695.

Then appears on the scene the beautiful Madame Rogers, sister to Lord Coleraine and wife of Dr. Rogers, chaplain to George II and sub-dean of Wells. Madame Rogers died in 1745 and left Nailsea Court to her elder daughter Lydia, through whose marriage it passed to the Knights of Tythegston in Glamorgan. Both her daughters married gentlemen from Wales, and Nailsea Court was let as a farmhouse. The tenants for the next 160 years were mostly of the Wilcox family. During the years when it was a farm the old house fell into a ruinous state. Buckler's pictures show it with the southern wing broken down, but its condition in 1906 when I bought it was very much worse. It had been empty for some time and had suffered from robbery and destruction. Seven years were spent in bringing it to its present state. The last portion accomplished was the southern wing, which was rebuilt under the supervision of Mr. Arthur Stratton, F.S.A. It has been a labour of love thus to save the old manor house for the county of Somerset.

Commander Evans spoke in "the Barn," whilst tea was being served and heavy rain descending. Before proceeding to view the chief rooms of the Court, the PRESIDENT cordially thanked the owner of this beautiful house for receiving so many of their members on such a wet day and for his kindness in providing tea. There are some excellent pictures of the Court to be seen in *Country Life*, December 21st, 1912.

Rejoining the motors at 5.15 p.m., the members continued their journey to Tickenham Church (the Rev. S. M. Bridge, Rector).

Tickenham Church.

Dedication. The patrons, Quiricus and Julitta, son and mother, were martyred A.D. 304 under Diocletian. Quiricus appears as Cyr in France, Cyrus in Scotland, and Curig in Wales. Veep Church in Cornwall is dedicated to him, and the joint dedication is found at Newton St. Cyres in Devon, and Luxulyan in Cornwall.

XI Century. The original Church may be considered to have been of this date, the remaining feature being the very plain arch of the sanctuary, now the chancel-arch.

XII Century. To this period we ascribe the rebuilding of the structure. The piers of the nave arcade are plain, furnished in some cases (*see* south side) with ingle shafts. Most have no capitals, the moulding running unbroken from base to apex of the arch.

XIII Century. The south porch is of this date and is remarkable for its trefoiled external archway. Its roof has been lowered at a later time and the niche over the interior door cut through. It holds the remains of a fine water-stoup. From the presence of some XIII Century carving on a pier adjoining the south aisle, it has been inferred that a chantry chapel existed here. Other traces of the older aisles remain in the north door with its hood-mould, now the entrance to the vestry, and formerly the approach from the court-house adjoining on the north. The font is Early English, with bowl squared within and without, angles chamfered and enriched with pointed archlets, and supported by a plain cylindrical centre shaft with smaller shafts at the four angles having moulded caps and bases (*see* Paley's *Fonts*). Near the font are three incised slabs showing crosses and a fourth, now built into wall near the east entrance to the churchyard. Around the inner door of porch are traces of old red and blue colour and an ancient consecration cross on the east side.

XIV Century. The three-light chancel window is of this period, as also the east window of the " Bave Chapel " on the south side in which remains a figure of Our Lord either in majesty or in benediction. The two south windows of this chapel are also XIV Century. One contains a fragment of

glass of the period depicting the Crucifixion (illustrated in colour in *Proceedings*, XXVII, frontispiece). This chapel was the place of sepulture of the owners of Barrow Court for many generations. The west window of the south aisle is a curious specimen of transition from Early English to Decorated. Under it is a raised stone bench. Among the structural features is to be noticed the hagioscope with small bracket for statuette attached to face of one of the plain piers on the north side of the nave.

XV Century. Next the chancel-arch on the south side is the access stair to roodloft, opened in 1890 but now built up to ensure stability to the arch. A great height of plain walling appears above the chancel-arch, and in this the opening to the roodloft is visible in its blocked condition, and also a small squint for the sacristan.

The roofs of the nave and north aisle are of the usual Somerset type. That of the south aisle is a plain open one. This aisle has externally a richly trefoiled pierced parapet.

The churchyard cross stands at the S.W. angle of the enclosure, and is described in Pooley's *Somerset Crosses*. At the east gate is an 'upping-stock.' There is a scratch-dial on the S.E. angle quoin of the aisle ; this is of unusual size.

XVII Century. A good specimen of the Royal Arms, *temp.* Charles I, is attached to the east wall of the nave. The carved Jacobean pulpit stands south of the arch.

The Tower at the west is Perpendicular, reconstructed in its upper part, and is a very graceful composition after the type of Brislington and Chew Stoke. The restoration was done in 1878, and four niches in the parapets filled with statuary, *viz.*, on west, the patron saints ; on south, the Roman governor, Alexander ; on east, St. Julitta as martyr with palm and sword as emblems ; and on north, the Emperor Diocletian.

The three ancient effigies lying in the north aisle have been dealt with by Dr. Fryer. They represent two knights and a lady of the XIII Century (*Proc.*, LXII and LXIV).

It is to be regretted that the whole interior surface of the walls has been stripped of plaster. This was done in 1878 in the nave, and the chancel similarly treated under Mr. Ewan Christian in 1890.

One of the medieval altar-slabs, found under the west end of the nave, has been replaced as the mensa of the present Holy table on six columns of Elton ware.

Mr. ROLAND PAUL has contributed the following on the heraldic glass : In one of the square-headed windows in the north aisle of the nave are 6 shields : 1, *Cobham of Sterborough* ; 2, *Berkeley*—these appear to be a pair, and perhaps refer to the marriage between Sir Reginald Cobham of Sterborough, K.G., with Joan, daughter of Thomas Lord Berkeley. He died in 1361, and his stall-plate is one of those at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The remaining four shields, smaller in size than the foregoing, are 3, of *Basset*, one with a cross on a canton, perhaps of Rauf Basset, and another with a bordure bezantée (borne by Sir Richard Basset, *temp.* Edw. II). The fourth shield bears the arms of *Clavering*.

The rain was very heavy, but a number of the members left the churchyard by a doorway in the northern wall and passed into the old portion of

Tickenham Court

which is now occupied by Mr. Ernest Horne, who kindly gave permission. For particulars of the manorial history readers are referred to the monograph by the Rev. J. Byrchmore, entitled " Collections for a Parochial History of Tickenham," published in 1895 by the Northern Branch of the Society.

Since Domesday, two manors have existed in the parish, held respectively by the Saxons Saulf and Teulf. Under William they passed to William of Ewe, who was executed for high treason against William Rufus. Early in the XII Century Tickenham passed to the Berkeley family being purchased by Robert Fitz Hardinge, Praepositus of Bristol. John Berkeley, last of the male line, died 1480 A.D., leaving as heiress his daughter Cecilia, wife of James Ashe. The Ashe family held the estate till the time of Elizabeth, when it passed by marriage to the Bassets, since whose time the house has passed in rapid succession to the families of Ashfield, Goodrick, Gorges, Codrington, Bamfylde, Protheroe, and Smyth.

The manor house, known as Tickenham Court, is an early

XV Century building, probably *temp.* Henry IV. It was built in the form of an H, the eastern leg of which has gone. The hall occupies the position of the middle bar of the H, and is nearly perfect. The roof is of plain open timber, the principals arched to the collar, with good stone corbels. At the lower end are three doorways as usual to the kitchen, etc. (now destroyed). At the upper end is the arch of a former bay-window to the dais. The withdrawing-room by the S.W. angle of the hall marks the change in domestic habits when the lord withdrew with his family leaving the hall to his dependents. Walls and ceiling are said to have been panelled. Over the mantel were shields of Rice Davis and Rodney. The upper storey is reached by a circular stair in an octagonal turret. Under the late ownership there was neglect and rapid decay, but the present owner has already set about the work of restoration and repair.

Conversazione.

After dinner, a Conversazione was held in the lounge of the Walton Park Hotel at which the Rev. Donald MacArthur, Rector of Goathurst, read a paper on "Old Village Church Music."

Mr. MacArthur dealt particularly with the history of the west-gallery bands which were a feature in village churches up to about the middle of last century. From the very complete records still fortunately preserved in his own parish he was able to show how such a band grew into existence there,—a typical example of the general process. A selection of the music in rural use during the period was sung by a local quartette[1] under the direction of Mr. S. F. Grundy. The lecturer emphasized the fact that a great deal of this old village music, in all parts of England, was composed by the singers and musicians themselves and constituted a minor folk-art which had, so far, escaped the study which it deserved. The substance of his paper will be published as an article in *The Musical Times* of April, 1923.

1. The quartette consisted of Miss Trimmer (soprano), Miss Warrenne (contralto), Mr. King (tenor), and Mr. Drewett (bass).

Third Day's Proceedings.

The motor vehicles left the Walton Park Hotel at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, July 6th, in rough weather for the time of year. The first stop was made at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Yatton (the Rev. F. E. Peart, Vicar).

Yatton Church.

Mr. F. Bligh Bond described this interesting building at some length, and his notes have since been amplified.

The name of this place would appear, according to a charter of 1461 discovered by Mr. H. C. Barnard of Yatton, to have been Yatton Blewett or Bluett, or as in this document "Blwet." The family of Blewett is heard of in connection with the history of Clevedon manor in 1389, when the lands of Edmund de Clevedon passed to his grand-daughter Margaret, wife of John Bluett, and through her to her nephew Thomas Lovell and to his daughter Agnes Wake. The 1461 record is headed "Yatton Blwet Court, held there on the feast of St. Botolph." In the Yatton wardens' accounts for 1451 is a mention of Mill Blewett as a parish.

Yatton Church is a structure mainly of the XIV and XV Centuries. The eastern part of the Church is the older, and this includes the chancel, central tower and north and south transepts. All authorities seem agreed that the tower and the transepts are parts of a former church of cruciform plan dating from the first half of the XIV Century (*c.* 1340), but this XIV Century church was probably not the original one, but itself an enlargement of a still older church.

XIV Century Church. We have the two transepts in their original proportions. The south transept retains in its south wall a fine traceried window characteristic of its period, and the roof, though modernized, is of the same acute pitch as was formerly planned. The north transept also retains its ancient outlines, but here a window of the Perpendicular period has been inserted in the older window-arch in the gable-wall. The two sepulchral recesses under this window are of the Decorated period, co-eval with the transept, and the wall has

been thickened on the outside for their reception. The recesses, which have lost their terminals, are strikingly out of centre, but this seems to be the original plan, space being left at the east for the appurtenance of the altar which may have been that of St. Katherine.[1]

The arch which leads from this transept eastward is of course of later date, but the hagioscope, although now appearing in a modified form, and probably altered a good deal in the late XV Century when the Newton Chapel was built, must nevertheless be regarded as a feature of the older transept, like the other on the south.

The arch in the west wall of this transept leading into the north aisle of the nave is evidently of XIV Century masonry, and it is difficult to suppose that it is not in its ancient position. It is incorporate with the north-west pier of the tower, and at the foot of this pier on the side towards the nave we notice that for a few feet there is masonry of a precisely similar character which has been left, perhaps from motives of prudence, for the support of the later work of the reconstructed nave arcade. So we argue that at this point, in the XIV Century church, there must have been some extension of building in the angle of the original nave and transept, either an older north aisle, or a chapel here covering at least one bay of the nave and leading by the arch we still see into the transept.

The lower part of the tower is now cased with XIV Century masonry and the vaulting beneath the crossing has all the character of the same period. But the question arises whether these piers are original constructions of that date or whether they are yet older piers cased in and altered at that time.

Within the doorway of the stair-turret for approach to the belfry at the south-east angle of the tower there may still be seen the masonry of an ancient hagioscope opening from this angle of the south transept towards the chancel. The channel has been completely blocked up but the trefoiled arched head

1. The Churchwardens' Accounts for 1503 record that 8*d.* was paid for the "carved corbel that Saint Katherine stands on." Probably this is the corbel now in the east wall of the north transept.—H. C. Barnard.

and the curved sill still remain. The apparent date of this trefoil-cusping would be about 1300, and if this be so much history hangs upon the survival of this solitary fragment of work just preceding in date the XIV Century development of the Church. On the chancel side nothing remains visible but a square patch of stucco, over which we see squared ashlar masonry of the same kind as that which flanks the Decorated arch between tower and sanctuary. It would be well if this patch could be removed, and the channel of the hagioscope exposed.

We must not be misled by the fact that the orifice of the hagioscope is now hidden on the transept side within the doorway of the stair-turret, for that doorway is a later addition, and there can be little doubt that originally there was a fairly wide opening here from the transept, and that there stood immediately by the south side of this opening an altar on the east wall of the transept similar to that which we know to have existed in the north transept.

There are abundant instances of a hagioscope contrived upon or within the wall of the approach to a stair-turret. But these hagioscopes are ' makeshift ' features, and are the result generally of the liturgical changes which took place in the XIII and early XIV Centuries, when churches of the older pattern, which were built more according to the Eastern tradition of concealing rather than revealing the Sacred Mysteries, were opened up at a time when our national worship had embraced the idea of the open consecration of the elements, and our chancel-arches were enlarged, and sometimes the whole central part of a church rebuilt on more spacious lines for the purpose of free adoration of the Host.

The chancel is of rather limited dimensions, and although in its more obvious features it looks like a work of the late XIV Century, it may very likely be but a reconstruction of a fabric on much older foundations, say, of the XII Century or earlier. It is a modest work, of low elevation, and its windows are of that simple Perpendicular type which was in vogue in these parts long before the close of the XIV Century. We trace the genesis of this style at Gloucester, *c.* 1340, and it seems to have influenced church building very strongly in the west, as

at Edington Abbey Church (Wilts), though doubtless the two styles ran concurrently for many years. At Yatton the oldest feature is the internal string-course, which is roughly cut and clearly a more primitive feature ; and over the windows is a label-mould which is of similar section, though better worked. The roof has the older pitch and follows the line of a stone drip-course on the tower wall above. Looking now at the outside faces of the tower, we see, just above the apex of the roofs, the windows of the ringing-chamber. An inspection of the light on the south face, over the transept shows it to be a simple lancet, with a plain roll as drip-mould, and this looks like an Early English feature (1230–40). This stage of the tower may be co-eval with the earlier chancel.

Mention may be made of certain faint marks of the former nave roof still visible under the plaster over the arch from nave to tower. These show it to have been steeply pitched after the manner of the transept roofs.

XV Century Rebuilding. The present nave with its aisles dates from the middle of the XV Century, and the upper part of the tower and its truncated spire are of the same period. That date would be *c.* 1440, as we gather from the wardens' accounts that work was still being done upon the belfry in the year 1445. In 1447 the wardens went to Easton-in-Gordano to take particulars of the roodscreen there for the purpose of adapting its design at Yatton. In the same year comes a mason's bill for the erection of a pulpit and two altars. All details of the screen and roodloft are preserved and have been reprinted.

Spires are not very usual features in Somerset churches, and they follow for the most part a certain track. Those in parishes near the sea may have been designed partly as landmarks. We have a string of them following the coast-line at greater or less distances ; beginning at Porlock, then by Stogursey to Bridgwater and on to East Brent and Worle ; thence to Kingston Seymour, Yatton, Congresbury, and inland to Ubley, Croscombe, Doulting, Whatley and Frome.

The churchwardens' accounts tell us that the building of the spire was still in progress, together with the steeple, in 1455–56, at which time stone was being brought from Dundry

for the purpose. By 1582 the spire was giving trouble, and there is an item for repairs to the steeple in the accounts for that year. In 1595, the wardens engaged three freemasons to take down the spire. One of these came from Bristol, and was paid 2*s*. A second, named Jenynge, perhaps a local man, received the same wage, and the third, who is called ' the freemason that came out of the forest ' received 6*s*. So the spire was reduced to its present dimensions, and has once again had to be reconstructed on the same lines.

The staircase of approach to the roodloft is in the north transept and must have communicated with the loft by a small gallery of connection. At present the doorway is blocked up. The two curious extra pier-caps visible in the masonry of the arcades north and south have some connection with the supports of the loft, which in this case may have run the whole depth of the tower, finding its support to the east upon a second screen across the rear archway.

The south porch is of special interest not only from the fine character of the ornamental work upon its southern face and its stone-vaulted ceiling, but also from the traces that remain of a former ' Palm Sunday ' gallery over the inner doorway, approached by the parvise stair in the south wall. This porch was the gift of Isabel de Cheddre and is at least thirty years later than the work in the nave and aisles.

The west front is a noble composition, and there are but few to compare with it. Crewkerne is similar. The niche over the west window still holds the symbolic figure of the Father displaying the crucified Son. The west doorway seems to be a later insertion. The north doorway externally is florid in style, being canopied and crocketed.

The Newton Chapel. Opening east from the north transept is the mortuary chapel of Sir John Newton and his wife Isabel de Cheddre. Sir John died in 1487 and it is considered that this chapel was built by him during his lifetime, perhaps about 1465, if the architectural parallel to the Chain Gate at Wells be considered. The detail of the structure is of interest, the panelled archwork being noteworthy, as also the tracery and form of the windows, so unlike anything else in the Church. At the east end we see two handsome niches in the wall, one

on each side of the altar, and that on the south has its base elevated a few inches above the other, beneath it being the canopied stone piscina. This superior elevation appears intentional, as the same thing has been noted elsewhere, and it is thought that in this manner a greater honour to the statue of the Blessed Virgin is implied. The other niche held the statue of St. John Baptist to whom the chapel is dedicated. (The effigies in this chapel are illustrated and described by Dr. Fryer in Part II of this volume).

The roofs of the nave and aisles are symmetrically proportioned and are of excellent character. The principal rafters are equally spaced, and spring from stone shafts attached to the walls. In the aisles these are surmounted by arcaded oak bracket-pieces along the walls forming an architectural support to the wall-plate, their spandrels filled with Perpendicular tracery of narrow panels, a feature characteristic of several local churches.

The buttresses of the central tower and the turret staircase as now seen would appear to be among the features added at the XV Century reconstruction, and in the case of the south aisle of the nave it will be noted that the south-west buttress has been stopped off short and does not intrude within the Church. On the north side, however, this is not so, as a considerable length of it comes down within the roof and has been roughly chopped off to make room for the passage over the screen. As long as the XIV Century chapel was standing the buttress would not interfere with its roof, as this would have been gabled and the level of its gutter would be below the foot of the buttress. It seems evident that in the final reconstruction of this corner of the chapel the buttress was suffered to remain, together with the stump of the pier or respond of its arch towards the nave.

The doorway and three-light window over it, now seen in the south transept (east wall), are insertions of Elizabethan or later date. There was a gallery in this transept of that period, with a high back probably obscuring the south window and hence needing additional light. All the woodwork in the Church is modern, the parclose screens added from G. E. Street's design, and the screen in the south aisle from a design by the writer, following a Somerset model.

Sir Hercules Read, Mr. J. G. Simmonds and the President made a few remarks upon the ancient cope which was exhibited. A paper on this subject by the late Colonel J. R. Bramble will be found in *Proceedings of the Clifton Antiquarian Club*, I, 92–95.

Mr. Roland Paul has sent the following notes on the heraldic glass : In the large window at the south end of the transept are three shields—two having been reversed when the window was repaired some years ago : 1. *St. Leger* impaling *Gracedieu* : 2. *Le Sor* impaling *Popham* : 3. *Gracedieu* impaling *Cowdray* or *Coudray*. In Collinson's time there was a fourth shield, *France* (modern) and *England* quarterly, and some of the fragments of this shield have been worked up in shield No. 2.

In the east window of the Newton Chapel are thirteen shields, all except two dating probably from about 1829 when the window was restored by the Rev. T. S. Biddulph. The blazon is in more than one instance incorrect. The shield with the arms of *Gournay* paly of 6 *or* and *az.* may perhaps be an original one : and the shield of *Bath and Wells* has been restored in recent years.

Congresbury.

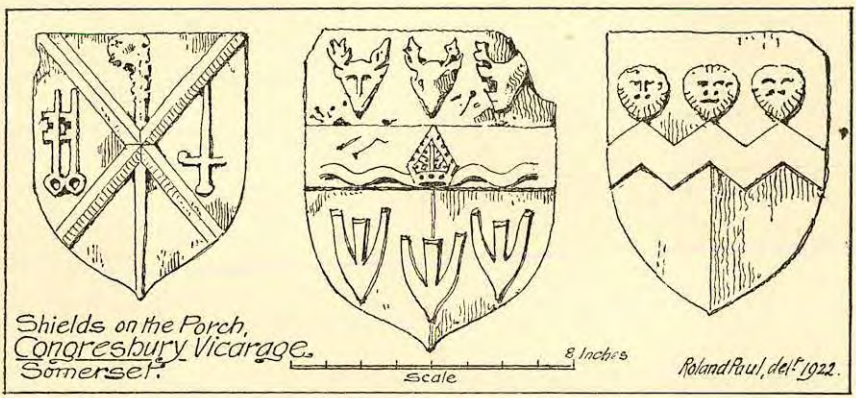
The Old Vicarage.

Soon after 11 o'clock the members arrived at Congresbury, and firstly visited the Vicarage garden to see the south front of the old house. They were received by the Rev. Canon G. E. Laws, the Vicar.

Mr. Bligh Bond said that parts of this building dated from 1446 A.D. The hall or living-room had something of its ancient appearance. The old part was built by Bishop Beckington's executors in fulfilment of his wish. Upstairs was a priest's room with a fine stone chimney-piece, and from it a small doorway led into an oratory over the porch. There were other rooms for assistant-priests, and one of these had also had its door of access to the oratory, but this was now blocked up. The old flat-cambered ceiling of the priest's room had been

removed in recent times to give place to a more lofty ceiling.

Mr. T. G. SIMMONDS read a short paper dealing with the heraldry on the beautiful porch (*frontispiece*, Plate I). He said that the shield above the arch displayed the arms of Bishop Beckington (1443–1464) and suggested that prelate's connection with the building. On the left-hand side was an early example of the composite coat of arms of the diocese, a coat which was found also in other parts of Somerset, but which was not recorded at Heralds' College, the only coat



Shields on the Porch, Congresbury Vicarage (*see* Plate I).
From a Drawing by Mr. Roland Paul, F.S.A.

granted being the St. Andrew's cross for the See of Wells. The presence of the shield on the right was difficult to explain, though from investigations he inclined to attribute the arms to the Pulteney family, but the Somerset Pulteneys did not appear in the county before the XVIII Century, and there was no trace of any member of the XIII Century Leicestershire Pulteneys being connected with Congresbury in Beckington's time or at any other period. He thought that Pulteney, Poultney and Pountney were all one family, the arms recorded being identical and as shown on this porch; but why there, he could not say.

Church of St. Andrew.

Mr. Bligh Bond informed the members that this Church was well described in the *Proceedings* for 1899 by Mr. Edmund Buckle. A few things remain to be said, and previous information may conveniently be summarized.

The nave and aisles, originally Early English of the middle of the XIII Century, were reconstructed in lighter form some time in the XIV Century. The original arcades were heavy, the arches probably nearly square in section, and for their support, pillars with shafts at the four corners somewhat like those now seen in the restored work on the south side, but not so lofty. It may be considered that these early piers were surrounded at their foot by stone seats of square form, and that stone seats also lined the walls of the aisles.

The XIV Century alteration seems to have included the cutting back of the pillar seats and the removal of the now superfluous corner shafts, for the lighter arches with their chamfered edges would not need them. But our modern restorer with more enthusiasm than common sense has replaced these shafts which now support nothing and with their make-believe capitals have a most unhappy effect.

The north arcade is a pleasing contrast. Again the seats have been cut away and look very unfinished, but the piers offer an early example of a type which in the later period becomes nearly universal in the county.

The next change was the usual enlargement of the Perpendicular period, when all the aisle walls were raised and a clerestory added, in this case having two windows to each bay, more like the fine churches of East Anglia. The tower-arch is presumably of the XIV Century and many features of this date remain, notably the windows of the aisles and the south side of the chancel. These are bold in character and simple in detail. There is a series of small figures forming the corbels to the principals of the nave roof on the south wall. The outer doorway of the porch is XIII Century and three scratch-dials are to be seen here. The upper part of the porch is modern. The font seems of two periods, the base Early English with four shafts supporting a bowl with the

cable pattern around it. There is a Jacobean wooden font-cover.

The chancel screen has been reconstructed in some degree but retains what is probably its ancient form up to the head of the framework. The doors are now removed and incorporated in a new screen in the tower-arch. This screen is mentioned in Bond and Camm's "Roodlofts," I, 158, and figured in Plate LVI. Formerly it had a hollow and flattish horizontal coving to the west, with a bressummer supported on stone corbels at the extreme ends and by posts at intervals. These no doubt were highly enriched. A portion of one such post remains at Cheddar. The end corbels survive and they bear inscriptions greatly contracted and uncertain of meaning. The chancel screen stands upon an ancient stone base once ornamented but now defaced. The parclose screen has a similar old stone base in better condition, and there is a little ancient woodwork in the screen itself, though much is restored. This screen has been shortened and the upper part does not fit the lower. There is a seat attached to the aisle screen, facing the position of the chapel altar.

The principal exterior feature is the tower and graceful spire, the latter being unusual in Somerset, though there is a chain of spired churches across this part of the county from west to east, beginning at Kingston Seymour (*Proc.*, XLV, i, 30, says 'Kewstoke'), then Congresbury, Ubley, Croscombe, Whatley, Frome (Yatton and Shepton Mallet never completed): East Brent may be included if we go a little south of the line. There was a chapel in the churchyard dedicated to St. Michael and the base of a churchyard cross, a second one being in the village. The registers date from 1543. The church plate includes a cup, paten-cover, and flagon, all of the same design and late XVII Century. Another feature of special interest in the exterior of the Church is the tabernacle in the parapet on the north side a little to the east of the north door.

Before leaving Congresbury the members elected to visit Dolebury Camp instead of Churchill Church, as the weather was tolerably fine although very windy.

Mr. BLIGH BOND had, however, prepared an account of the

Church of St. John Baptist, Churchill.

and it is given here as it will be useful for reference. It is a small and comparatively plain example of XV Century parish church, retaining some traces of reconstruction from an older plan and several minor features of interest.

On the north side of the chancel-arch is seen a very large hagioscope combined with a passage of approach to the rood-loft staircase : and close by this, penetrating the wall of the north arcade, is a singular quatrefoil opening, which must again be classed as a hagioscope. This one would be beneath the ancient roodloft. Another hagioscope, of smaller dimensions, leads through the wall of the south chapel towards the high altar. The best feature of this Church is the proportion of the nave and tower-arch when viewed from the east. The tower-arch itself is exceedingly well designed. The arcades on the north and south sides of the nave are of entirely different design. On the south we have plain octagonal piers, and on the north, the customary lozenge with four engaged shafts and hollow mould between, so typical of the work in Somerset churches of the later period.

There are a number of ancient benches in a fair state of preservation. These are plain and of early pattern with a little carving on the poppy-heads of the foliated type. There is a monument on the north wall of the chancel to Sarah Latch, in which her figure lies shrouded by the side of her husband who is represented as still living and leaning on his elbow. The epitaph is quaint. A rare feature in this Church is the armour preserved on the east wall of the south aisle chapel. There is a canopied section in the ceiling over this part, indicative of special honour to an altar here.

The font is worthy of note, being an almost spherical bowl, with circular mouldings around the upper edge and the lower periphery, where it rests upon a short cylindrical shaft with moulded base. The date is XIV Century.

Dolebury Camp.

On leaving Congresbury the motors proceeded *viâ* Stock and Churchill Gate to Dolebury Bottom. Here the members

alighted, climbed the hill and entered the Camp by its ancient western entrance.

Mr. H. St. George Gray briefly described the Camp in the most sheltered spot that could be found, for a high wind was blowing. He said that Dolebury ranked as one of the great camps of Somerset, not only in its massiveness of construction, but also in area. The stone walls were regarded as enclosing about 22½ acres, which was more than twice the size of the stone-built fortress at Weston-super-Mare,—Worlebury. Dolebury was in the parish of Churchill, its western entrance 450 feet and its eastern end 600 feet above sea-level. On the opposite side of Dolebury Bottom, that is to the west, were the remains of Dinghurst Camp, which had been practically destroyed by quarrying. Dolebury had also been mined; shafts were sunk for iron, lead, manganese and probably calamine, but little in that way had been done within living memory. The Camp had been described by Dymond[1] and Allcroft,[2] and later by others[3]; but scarcely anything had been done on this important site in the way of excavation.

Mr. Gray went on to say that Capt. J. M. Pollock and himself had carried out a little digging at the Camp for a day or so in 1918, when vertical walling on the outer face of the inner vallum was uncovered on the north side; one of the stones in the walling measured 32ins. by 21ins. An excavation was also made into the fosse.[4]

Very few archæological remains had been found in draining and by search on the surface and in rabbit-holes. Perhaps the most interesting fragment of pottery found there was an ornamented piece of Late-Celtic type exhibited in the County Museum,[5] where might also be seen an ancient British gold

1. *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, XXXVIII, 398–406; and in a somewhat condensed form in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XXIX, 102–110.

2. In *Earthwork of England*, Mr. A. H. Allcroft devoted a whole chapter to Dolebury (pp. 682–697).

3. One of the accounts referred to is that by Mr. C. H. Bothamley in the *V.C.H. Somerset*, II, 487–490.

4. See short report in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXIV, xliii.

5. Figured in *The Heart of Mendip*, by F. A. Knight, p. 201.

coin of the degenerated horse type, found in the parish of Churchill, which the late Mr. F. A. Knight had ground for believing was found on Dolebury, *circa* 1813.[1]

Knowing what the results of the excavations conducted at the Somerset hill-fortresses of Worlebury,[2] Cadbury Castle (South Cadbury)[3] and Cadbury Camp (Tickenham)[4] had been, Mr. Gray had no hesitation in regarding Dolebury Camp as dating from the Prehistoric Iron Age,—that is of the same period as the Lake Villages.

The PRESIDENT, who arrived on the camp after Mr. Gray had finished his address, made a few additional remarks on Dolebury and on hill-fortresses in general. Some of the members then walked to the highest part of the camp.

Burrington.

Rejoining the motors the members drove to the Parish Room at Burrington for lunch. At 2 p.m. they visited the

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

where they were met by the Rev. R. H. Edwards, the Vicar.

Mr. BLIGH BOND said: The Church consists of nave with north and south aisles, chancel, with side-chapels in continuation of the aisles, and western tower; also a south porch. As now seen it is a structure of the Perpendicular period. Tower and chancel may be rather earlier in date than the rest. There is no certain sign of difference of date in the nave arcades, but rather of an intentional variation in detail between north and south—a variation repeated in the responds of the chancel-arch. On the north side the caps are plain; on the south they are carved. The tracery of the windows again is simple in the north aisle, and more elaborate in the south. There is a blocked priest's door in the east wall of the south chapel. This may take the place of an older doorway in the chancel

1. *The Heart of Mendip*, p. 208.
2. *Worlebury*, new edition by C. W. Dymond, Bristol, 1902.
3. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LIX, ii, 1–24.
4. See pp. 8–20 of this volume.



BURRINGTON CHURCH.

Sculptured Stone—perhaps part of an Easter Sepulchre—below the South Window of the Chancel.

From a Photograph by the Rev. Dom Ethelbert Horne, O.S.B.

wall before the addition of the chapel. The north door is a fine piece of XV Century oakwork. The south porch retains the staircase to a former loft or parvise chamber. The oak benches and screens were the gift of the Wills family in 1912, as a memorial to Lord Winterstoke.

Under the north aisle a large vault was found and filled in in 1912 at the relaying of the floors. Two coffins of embossed lead were found therein, one still covered with a black velvet pall; the other lidless and filled with water.

Father ETHELBERT HORNE, in describing the sculptured stone figured in Plate IV, said it was discovered in its present position at the end of 1908 when the wall plaster was being removed from below the south window in the chancel. It is, in all probability, part of an Easter Sepulchre, the central figure representing the risen Christ who holds the long cross in his left hand, and the angels at the sides carrying censers with which they are censing Him. The two kneeling figures possibly are those of the donors of this Easter Sepulchre, who combined it, as was so often done in the XIV and XV Centuries, with their own tomb.

Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY said that the Burrington plate consists of two XVIII Century dishes and an Elizabethan cup without cover bearing the date-letter, 1569. After having seen the Wrington cup, dated 1586, the members will have seen six Elizabethan cups during the three days, the other four being Clevedon, Portbury, Tickenham and Weston-in-Gordano (dating between 1570 and 1574).

Mr. ROLAND PAUL sent the following note on the glass: In the windows of the north aisle of the nave, eastward of the north doorway, are two shields, (1) *France* (*modern*) and *England*, quarterly, and (2) *St. Lo*, *arg.* on a bend *sa.* 3 annulets *or*, a label of three points *gu.* In the south aisle is a third shield, considerably restored, probably the arms of *Kelly*: *arg.* a chevron between three billets *gu.*

AVELINE'S HOLE, BURRINGTON COMBE.

The motor vehicles having been parked in the Combe opposite the Rock of Ages, the members visited the mouth of

the cave known as Aveline's Hole,[1] where they were met by Mr. E. K. Tratman (Secretary) and Mr. J. A. Davies, of the Spelæological Society, Bristol University, who exhibited some of the 'finds' which had been made in the cave.

The members gathered round the cave's mouth and Mr. DAVIES spoke to them from a ledge of rock above. His remarks are incorporated in his paper on Aveline's Hole in Part II, pp. 21–26, where some of the artifacts are illustrated (Plate VII).

The PRESIDENT congratulated the students of the University who were working at the Caves of Mendip, and pointed out that their interesting discovery of a late Palæolithic harpoon (Plate VII), identical with those found in France and in Kent's Hole, Torquay, showed that the Cave men visited Burrington Combe in their hunting expeditions. They had already been proved to have inhabited the caves of Somerset by the exploration of Wookey Hole and the recent discovery of a "baton de commandement" at Cheddar. He further noted that the harpoon was found in Aveline's Hole in association with much later remains, and said that he did not explore that cave in the sixties because of the numerous recent remains in it and of the difficulty of working.

Further remarks were stopped by heavy rain. The members had to take shelter and the drive up the Combe, as far as Blagdon Hill Farm and back again, had to be abandoned. After the sky cleared the vehicles left, *viâ* Blackmoor, for

Wrington.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH.

Here, the members were met by the Rector, the Rev. G. M. Ashdown, and the building was described by Mr. BLIGH BOND in the following terms: The western tower depends upon its excellent proportions for its beauty of effect. In this respect

1. A good illustration of the mouth of the cave is given in Knight's *Heart of Mendip*, p. 243. It is interesting to note that among those present was our member, Dr. H. T. S. Aveline, after whose father this cavern was named by Sir W. Boyd Dawkins many years ago.

it differs from those of North Petherton, St. Mary's, Taunton, and others which rely in part upon great elaboration of detail. Internally, the arch leading to nave with its panelled soffits is a fine piece of work, and there is excellent fan-vaulting to the lower stage of the tower itself. Over the arch to the nave can be seen indications of the older nave roof which the tower was designed to fit. The nave and aisles are of Perpendicular character with good examples of the flat cambered ceilings of the period.

The chancel has been considered as of the Early English period, with additions of XV Century work. The western bay has been corbelled out to allow of the widening of the nave. The extreme width of the chancel-arch is noteworthy, and is typical of a compromise between the two types of church, with and without such structural division, almost peculiar to this county. The chapels north and south of the chancel are in this case arched off from the aisles.

The south porch retains features bespeaking the former presence of a gallery for choristers as at Weston-in-Gordano. The stair and upper doorway remain. There is a niche with figure over the south door. The font is a good specimen of the later period, and has eight angel corbels. In the spandrels of the west door of the tower there is some heraldry of interest.

The roodscreen remains in a comparatively perfect state up to the head-beam of the traceried lights. In its original form this screen, like that of Cheddar and others in the district, had a flat projecting canopy to the west, probably slightly coved. This would have been supported by a bressummer or moulded beam enriched with carvings and again supported at its extremities by two stone corbels still to be seen in the walls north and south, with intermediate standards of carved oak, probably four in number. Two of these would have stood in advance of the central doorway of the screen, to right and left of the gangway. The stair to the gallery is on the north side and is ingeniously concealed in the masonry between the windows. The detail of the screen is late and unusual, but has a rich effect. It is unfortunate that the modern benches in the Church are brought up so near to the screen. This is a constant defect of our modern pewing, and nothing more

greatly detracts from the freedom and dignity of an interior than this crowding of pews to the very limit of the nave's capacity.

Tea and Votes of Thanks.

Tea was served at the Golden Lion Hotel, at the close of which the PRESIDENT took the opportunity to thank all those who had helped in various ways to make the annual meeting the great success it undoubtedly had been. He thanked the clergy who had thrown open their churches, including the Vicar of Clevedon, the rural dean of most of the churches visited; Mr. F. Bligh Bond for his able descriptions of the churches; Mr. A. F. Major for his addresses on the Wansdyke; those who had so kindly thrown open their houses, including Sir Ambrose and Lady Elton (Clevedon Court), Mr. Charles E. Evans (Nailsea Court), and Mr. and Mrs. J. Cottle (Chelvey Court); the local committee and Mr. G. M. S. Farmer (local secretary); and Dr. C. Visger for the loan of a car and much service in the general arrangements, help which he (the President) knew Mr. Gray had keenly appreciated.

Hearty thanks were expressed by Mr. A. F. MAJOR to Mr. H. St. George Gray for the invaluable services he had rendered in his capacity as excursion secretary.

A cordial vote of thanks was likewise passed to the President on the motion of the Rev. Preb. HAMLET.

The return journey was made to Clevedon and most of the members left for their homes in the evening. The proceedings during the three days were attended by about 200 individuals.