

Mr. J. B. Clark, Mr. Henry Corder, Mr. H. S. Howard and Mr. H. P. Palmer; also by the following who were re-elected,—Mr. A. E. Eastwood, Mr. W. D. Miller and the Rev. G. W. Saunders.

Alteration in Rule

The Very Rev. Dom E. HORNE proposed and Mr. A. W. VIVIAN-NEAL seconded that after 'each such member' in Rule VI (b) an asterisk (*) should be inserted, and the following footnote introduced: 'i.e., elected after July 20, 1920.'

An amendment, proposed by Mr. H. SYMONDS, seconded by the Rev. R. G. BARTELOT, was carried.

Rule VI (b), insert after the words 'in each year', in line 4: '(provided that no member elected before July 20, 1920, shall be under obligation to pay more than 10s. 6d. per annum).'

Somerset Record Society

The Rev. Preb. T. F. PALMER, Hon. Secretary, reported that the volume for the current year (1930) was a transcript of the early charters and documents belonging to the city of Wells. The work was being done by Mr. Holworthy and Miss Shilton, who were responsible for the volume on *Medieval Wills from Wells*, no. xl. Publication of the charters had been made possible by a grant from the fund raised a year or two ago by the then mayor, Mr. J. C. Davis.

For 1931, Mr. J. W. Gough, of Bristol University, had offered and the Council had accepted a valuable collection of transcripts connected with the mining rights and laws of Mendip. It should prove a volume of the greatest interest to the historical student, the topographer and the place-name student as well.

The Presidential Address

The President, the Rt. Hon. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, G.C.M.G., then delivered his address, entitled 'Some Village Families'. It will be found printed as the first paper in Part II.

The Rev. G. W. SAUNDERS proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his address, and this was seconded by Mrs. BATES HARBIN, and carried by acclamation.

A civic welcome to the Society was extended by the Mayor, Alderman W. E. TUCKER, who afterwards kindly entertained the members to Tea at the Municipal Buildings. In his welcome, the Mayor was supported by Alderman W. R. E. MITCHELMOORE (Curator of the local Museum) and other members of the Corporation.

At 4.30 p.m., motor-buses and private cars left the Municipal Buildings for

Sherborne

where the Abbey Church was visited (Hutchins' *History of Dorset*, iv, 207-300; *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.* xlii, i, 10-11). An account of the history of the building was given to those members who arrived first by the Rev. Canon S. H. WINGFIELD-DIGBY, the vicar, and to those who arrived later by Mr. F. C. EELES. Mention was made of Mr. W. B. Wildman's *Short History of Sherborne*, and Canon Mayo's *Official Guide to Sherborne Abbey Church*.

Mr. Eeles read the following notes regarding the restoration of the Lady Chapel and the resetting of the ancient glass:

The Lady Chapel has been the scene of recent changes and discoveries, and much has been done to repair the vandalism which followed the suppression of the monastery, when the eastern part was destroyed, and the remainder—the part close to the east end of the choir—turned into a house for the headmaster of the school.

Until a few years ago the ambulatory round the back of the high altar was terminated by a blank wall which shut off this house from the church. The house was a strange mixture, partly the remains of the western third of the Early English chapel and of a Perpendicular south aisle, partly an Elizabethan dwelling-house.

What has now been done is to open out these remains to the church, revealing some most beautiful thirteenth-century capitals and arches and one bay of thirteenth-century vaulting, besides portions of the Perpendicular work. It will be possible

to add a small eastern bay of sufficient size to contain the altar and make the chapel of practical utility, but any reconstruction of the whole is impossible because of other buildings.

In doing this care has been taken not to destroy any of the Elizabethan work that could be retained, for it has both a historic and an architectural interest. On the south side is a fireplace of this period and a picturesque front towards the south. On the north more medieval work had been destroyed, and it was possible to retain some Elizabethan woodwork by using this part of the building as a vestry below and a library above—a scheme for which it was admirably suited. It is important to be clear about what happened in the centre. Here there had been many changes and there was a large stone-mullioned domestic window of Elizabethan type; statements were circulated that this was sixteenth-century work and the church authorities were criticised for removing it, although it was not in the middle and would have effectively prevented the use of the building as a chapel had it been retained. But in actual fact it is known to have been nineteenth-century Gothic of 1839 and it has now been removed, preparatory to the provision of the necessary extension of the portion of the Lady Chapel which has been recovered. As is now the case with nearly all work done under the authority of the Church, care has been taken to preserve every scrap of old work of every kind, and to secure that there is no deception in the renewals and additions which have been unavoidable in order to recover the building for use.

A few years ago a quantity of ancient glass was found stored in a box. It consisted of fragments removed when so many windows were filled with modern glass in the nineteenth century. By the generosity of the late Mr. Hamilton Fletcher, who then owned Leweston, it has been replaced in the Leweston Aisle, or St. Katharine's Chapel, which abuts on the west side of the south transept and is entered from the nave.

This glass is of very exceptional interest, as some of it is of unusual character for its date.

It consists of (*a*) numerous fragments of fifteenth-century glass of the normal kind, viz., floral borders, suns, roses and the like, with various fragments; (*b*) figures of prophets with labels

bearing their names, also of the fifteenth century ; (c) several shields, including some of the Beaufort family and the arms of Bath Abbey ; (d) several heads of lights of the fifteenth century in which there is a pattern background within the usual kind of border. Here the treatment is unusual, for instead of the normal quarries with a design in stain, we find a dark-coloured trellis scheme, consisting of a red or blue background crossed by a trellis of narrow lines of yellow, white, red or blue, much more reminiscent of the general colour treatment of earlier times than of the fifteenth century, although there is something not unlike it in the Beauchamp Chapel at Warwick. The work of repair was carried out by Mr. Horace Wilkinson of London, who also repaired the glass in the almshouse.

On leaving Sherborne Abbey, the members visited the

Almshouse of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist

An Almshouse was established in Sherborne in 1419, but the institution lasted only for a few years. The foundation deed of the present establishment is dated 10 January, 16 Henry VI (1437-8). It is in English, except the transcript of the king's licence which is in Latin.

The founders were Robert Neville, bishop of Salisbury, grandson of John of Gaunt, and Sir Humphrey Stafford of Hooke, near Beaminster. With them were associated Margaret Gough, John Fontleroy, and John Baret.

The chapel was completed in 1442 and the almshouse in 1448. The buildings have survived very much in their original form, only slightly modified by nineteenth-century restoration.

An exceptionally interesting series of deeds and accounts relating to the institution has been preserved. These documents were examined by the Rev. Canon C. H. Mayo who has written a guide to the almshouse.¹

¹ *A Historic Guide to the Almshouse of St. John Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, Sherborne*, C. H. Mayo, Oxford University Press, 1926. This contains the foundation deed, illustrations and descriptions of the reredos and glass, beside a full account of the whole establishment.

The fifteenth-century stained glass in the south window of the chapel has been carefully repaired. 'The centre light is nearly all original glass. It is a very beautiful representation of the Madonna very carefully painted; the pose of the figure is typical of the period, and is one of the best specimens of medieval glass in the county. The Passion shield beneath the figure is almost unique.' . . . 'The figure of the dedicatory saints of the chapel, St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, are shown in the side-lights.'¹

All the glass in the small openings of the tracery was found to have been fixed without any groove in the stonework. It was set in a layer of cow's hair and kept in position by a band of cement.

The triptych which serves as an altar-piece in the chapel is considered one of the greatest artistic treasures in the town. It is now regarded as Flemish work of the fifteenth century.

The party left Sherborne at 6.30 p.m., and dined at Yeovil.

Evening Conversazione

A conversazione was held at the Wyndham Museum and in the Council Chamber which were opened for the occasion by the Corporation of Yeovil, who kindly provided light refreshments before the close of the proceedings about 10 o'clock. For the first half-hour the visitors had the pleasure of viewing the contents of a large, square room containing the collections of the recently established local Museum.

Later, Mr. FRANCIS C. EELES read a paper on 'Consecration Crosses of Somerset and Dorset Churches', the Prior of Downside occupying the chair. This paper is printed in Part II of this volume.

Second Day's Proceedings

This was called the Dorset Day. The motor vehicles left Yeovil at 9.25 a.m., and arrived at 9.40 a.m. at

¹ Mayo, *Guide*, 71.

The Church of St. Mary, Bradford Abbas

where the members were received by the Vicar, the Rev. J. G. Vassall. In the course of describing the building Mr. F. C. EELES said :

The architectural development of this church presents some problems of unusual difficulty and it is here proposed to attempt a solution of them. Attention will be confined to the story of the growth of the building rather than to a description of its details or features.

The church consists of chancel, nave, north aisle the whole length of the nave, south aisle east of the south porch only, short chancel aisles cut off from the aisles of the nave, and tower at the west end of the nave.

Of the two chancel aisles, that on the north is merely a modern addition built outside the east end of the north aisle of the nave, the east wall and window of which still remain in position : in it is re-used the former window from the western part of the north side of the chancel.

It is the aisle on the south side which has been a puzzle to the archæologist and the architectural student. Here there is a side chapel opening from the chancel by an arch of unusual thickness : it is cut off from the south aisle of the nave by a wall in which there is a square-headed Perpendicular window, which was once outside but now faces west into the aisle, and has, and also had anciently, an altar beneath it. At the north-west corner of this curious short chancel aisle a squint looks from the nave towards a former altar within the aisle : along the west wall of the aisle is a stone bench ; in the south wall near its west end is a doorway to the outside with a beautiful miniature vaulted porch, while at the south-east corner is a turret containing a staircase leading to the roof.

An explanation has frequently been sought of the most unusual grouping of these features.

To understand the development of the building in its present form we must go back to the church as it was before the period of Perpendicular architecture, and we must visualise it as having the existing chancel and a nave the size of the present nave, but without aisles or west tower. It was probably built

thus in the thirteenth century or at the beginning of the fourteenth. Soon there was added a tower of no great size on the south side of the chancel, with a staircase at its south-east corner.

Towers at the side are fairly frequent in thirteenth and early fourteenth century churches. Such an arrangement is common in the numerous churches in south-eastern England, particularly in Kent, which escaped enlargement in the later medieval period. We find the same in many of the earlier churches of Suffolk. In Somerset there are thirty such cases, more than half of them in the south of the county, and all or nearly all, not later than the fourteenth century. Lateral towers were almost always at the side of the nave, as at Tintinhull or Stoke-sub-Hamdon, but they were occasionally built at the side of the chancel, as at Barwick, and that was the case here.¹

In the first part of the fifteenth century the existing fine tower was built at the west end, perhaps by some wealthy benefactor. The old tower, no longer required as such, was partially pulled down and the base was turned into a small chapel, with a wide arch leading from the chancel through a very thick wall, windows being made or enlarged on the other three sides, and a small doorway pierced near the north-west corner. In order to make more room in a rather confined space the east wall was cut back below the window to accommodate the altar, while the west wall was cut back to make space not only for the window but for a seat beneath it, and a squint was made so that the altar could be seen from the nave.

About the middle of the fifteenth century it was decided to add two short aisles to the nave, one on the south side, east of the porch, filling the space between it and the base of the older tower, and one on the north side to correspond in length. The stone rood-screen had been made some time before this, and a staircase was cut through the wall east of the respond of the south arcade, leading to the wooden rood loft or gallery that must have existed above the screen and across the entrance to

¹ Two remarkable instances are at Newington-on-the-Street and Harrietsham, in Kent, where the lower parts of towers in this position were subsequently retained as sacristies when west towers were built in Perpendicular times.

the chancel. It was decided, evidently, not to disturb the chapel east of the south aisle and to place the altar of the new aisle against what had been the outside of the old west window of the chapel. The piscina of this altar still exists, and a new altar of exactly the same proportions and general appearance occupies its position, with what used to be an outside window acting as a sort of reredos. It must be remembered that many aisles contained more than one altar, the more westerly altars being set against screens crossing the aisles. Here, with a stone rood-screen and other stone screens in the district, the retention of the older wall and window for this purpose would not have seemed out of place.

The new aisle was finished in ashlar externally and the older chapel further east was cased with it ; a new embattled parapet was made all round porch, aisle and chapel, while a new doorway with a miniature vaulted porch was made on the south side of the chapel in place of the older one in the west wall which now no longer led in from the churchyard. In this ingenious manner the earlier chapel on the south of the chancel escaped alteration within, while the church was made tolerably uniform without, on the south or ' show ' side.

Later on, the north aisle was extended to the west end of the nave, the arcade being continued according to the same design. But a slight alteration in accordance with up-to-date practice was made in the design of the tracery of the newer windows, although at the west end of the aisle the old window was re-used which had formerly been in the north wall of the nave, opposite the window of identical design which is still in the south wall of the nave west of the porch.

This completed the church, the only subsequent structural change being the addition about 1890 of the organ chamber and vestry already referred to on the north side of the chancel.

It is necessary to return to the west tower. At first sight it might seem to be of late date. It has octagonal turrets engaged with each corner—a feature familiar in a number of towers not grouped together in one locality, but widely spread. This treatment is not found in the rich towers of Somerset, Dorset or Devon, and to judge from many examples it might be held to indicate late date, if taken alone. But an examination of the

actual details of this tower tends to show that it is an exceptionally early instance of the type.

A short drive brought the members to the

Church of St. Andrew, Yetminster

the Rev. Canon M. J. W. Morgan, Vicar. This remarkable building, which was described by Mr. F. C. EELLES, consists of a late thirteenth-century chancel and very early Perpendicular nave, aisles, north porch and west tower.

The chancel has rather wide lancet windows, a triplet at the east end and two pairs on either side : it underwent considerable restoration in the nineteenth century, and has not the special interest which attaches to the rest of the church.

The nave and aisles are of three bays. Severe and spacious, they have all the characteristics of the earliest type of Perpendicular work. The windows are alike with trefoil-headed lights and trefoil-headed single-panel tracery lights. The general character of the work is somewhat reminiscent of Yeovil parish church. The tower is very plain : it has a projecting staircase-turret at the east end of the north side ; very fine gargoyles and small pinnacles at each corner. There is a waggon roof of normal West of England construction with three purlins on the nave and lean-to roofs on the aisles. The nave roof has the most unusual feature of painted decoration on the flat surfaces of the common rafters. These have the sacred monogram alternating with elaborate coloured decorations. There are also remains of colour, as might be expected, upon the ribs and bosses. While painted common rafters are quite usual in the Perpendicular roofs of East Anglia and other districts such as the Midlands, especially in the case of low pitched roofs on clerestories, and lean-to roofs on aisles, such treatment is almost unknown in the case of West of England waggon-roofs. The writer can only recall one other case—a church in East Devon where a considerable part of a priceless roof was recently destroyed owing to belated Victorian methods of repair, now happily obsolete. By good fortune a large amount of the rejected material was rescued and it is the intention to replace a great deal of the coloured work. If this can be successfully

done it may be possible to quote this as another example of a waggon-roof with coloured rafters.

The colouring of the rafters here and at Yetminster shows that the original treatment of the waggon-roof was to leave it open with the rafters exposed. Far more waggon-roofs remain in their original condition than is generally believed.¹ The medieval builders panelled specially enriched portions of these roofs with wood, decorated with colour² and usually also with additional carving,³ but the plain plaster panels that look so effective and that are so helpful to the lighting of churches⁴ are additions of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In many cases especially in Cornwall the partial covering of carved and moulded ribs by the plaster in the panels also shows that it is a subsequent addition.

Beside the colouring on the roof there are also traces of an elaborate colour scheme on the pillars and arches of the arcade. Most unfortunately when the church was restored the walls were replastered so that it is now impossible to say whether or to what extent there was any colour decoration upon them.

Not less important than the coloured roof are the traces which exist of an enormous rood-loft of which unfortunately nothing is left. This projected so far west that it covered the whole of the eastmost bay of the nave. The supporting corbels remain for it on either side of the comparatively small and early chancel arch and the traces of colour decoration stop where the front abutted against the spring of the arches over the first pillars of the arcade. Five small windows remain which helped to light the loft: one on either side of the east wall of the nave over the chancel arch, and one high up in the wall of each aisle, west of the eastmost side window. This huge rood-loft almost certainly contained an altar, if not three altars.⁵

¹ In Somerset, the outer north aisle of Minehead, and Lynch chapel: in Devon, the north aisle of Holcombe Rogus: in Cornwall several, e.g. St. Winnow, nave and aisle; Creed, aisle and transept; St. Enoder, south aisle.

² E.g. Hartland.

³ E.g. Hartland, north aisle; or over screens as at Langford Budville and many Devon churches as Lapford, Hennock, etc.

⁴ E.g. St. Decuman's, Selworthy and numberless other cases.

⁵ Altars in rood-lofts sometimes existed in large churches: there was one at Dunster, and another at Tavistock existed as early as 1392. Others could be quoted.

Traces also remain at the east ends of the aisles of where altars were built against their east walls, so that it is quite possible there may have been no less than five altars in this church in addition to the high altar. The rood-loft staircase appears to have wound round the north-east pillar of the arcade which was cut to fit it.

The font is of special interest : contemporary with the church, it is built against the westmost pillar of the south arcade. Fonts built against pillars were not uncommon in certain areas,¹ and cases exist where a sort of reredos was contrived on the pillar above.² Unfortunately Victorian restorers did not understand this and in some instances they removed such fonts from the positions for which they were made and placed them in isolation where an uncarved panel now forms a meaningless disfigurement.

Of the fine series of external consecration crosses it is unnecessary to write here, as they are fully dealt with in pp. 26-27.

There is an important brass now on the wall of the south aisle, mounted on a modern matrix. It commemorates Sir John Horsey of Clifton Maubank, and his wife Elizabeth Turges. Sir John was esquire of the body to King Henry VIII, and died 8 July 1531.

Mrs. ALBERT BANKES kindly allowed members of the Society to visit

Wolfeton House (Plate II)

and herself conducted several parties through the more important rooms.

Wolfeton was the property of the Trenchard family for more than three centuries. Henry Trenchard, founder of the Dorsetshire branch of the family, died *circ.* 1480. He was of Wolfeton in right of his wife, a daughter of John Mohun. The greater part of the existing house was built during the Tudor period. The moulded plaster ceilings are of elaborate design, and the richly carved oak panelling and doors are of exceptionally fine quality. As remarkable as the carved oak work which is in a fine state of preservation, was the collection of heraldic stained

¹ E.g. Kent.

² E.g. Lechlade, Glos.

glass, now unfortunately destroyed. More than a century ago it was intended to remove the stained glass to Lytchett Maltravers, then the chief seat of the Trenchard family, but 'it was so badly packed that when the case was opened, almost the whole was pounded or broken to pieces'.¹

It was at Wolfeton in 1505-6 that Sir Thomas Trenchard entertained Philip, Archduke of Austria, King of Castile, who had been forced by stress of weather to land on the Dorset coast. Sir Thomas sent for his relation John Russell of Berwick who, being a good linguist became a favourite of the archduke, and was recommended by him to Henry VII. In the succeeding reign Russell enjoyed the favour of Henry VIII and became the founder of the Duke of Bedford's family.

There are many curious traditions connected with the history of Wolfeton; notably the story of Lady Penelope Trenchard, elaborated by Thomas Hardy in his *Group of Noble Dames*; and a story, recorded by Aubrey in his *Miscellanies*, that on the day the Long Parliament began to sit, the sceptre fell from the hand of a carved figure of Charles I while the family and a large company were at dinner in the parlour.

Perhaps the most remarkable architectural feature of the house is a newel staircase in the gate-house tower; the forty-one steps are severally cut from solid blocks of oak.

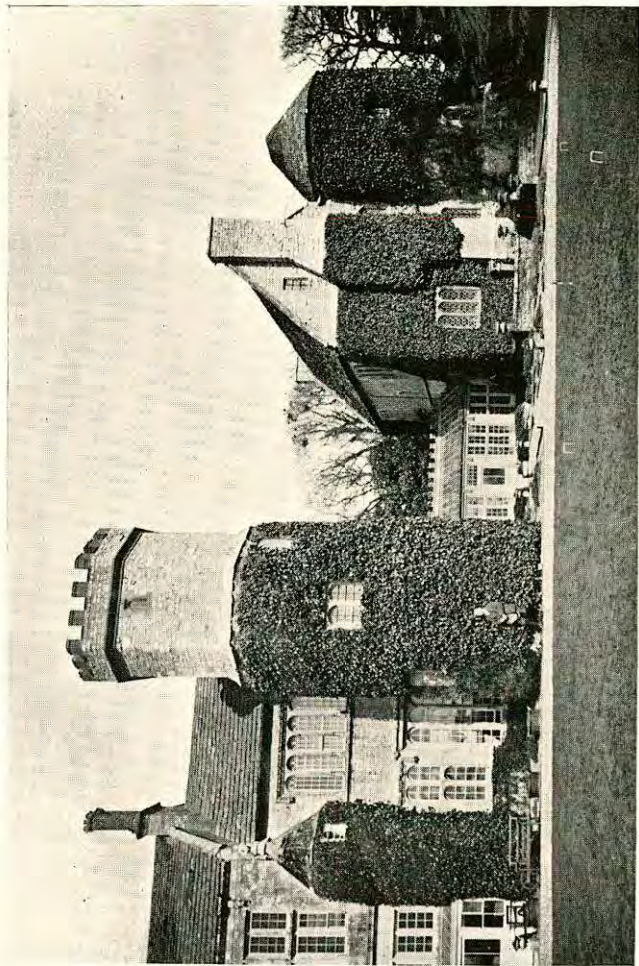
Readers are referred to the fine illustrations and description of Wolfeton House in *Country Life*, 8 March 1902.

Dorchester

The motors arrived at Dorchester at 12.45 p.m., and here the members lunched and rested.

A large proportion of the members accepted the invitation of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society to visit the Dorset County Museum, where in the absence of Capt. J. E. Acland, F.S.A. (the Curator), Mr. C. S. Prideaux, F.S.A., was in attendance. Other members found time to visit Fordington St. George Church where they were met by the Vicar, the Rev. R. G. Bartelot, F.S.A.

¹ Hutchins' *Dorset*, ii, 552.



THE SOUTH FRONT
WOLFETON HOUSE, NEAR DORCHESTER

Maumbury Rings

was visited about 2 o'clock and was described by Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, who directed the excavations undertaken at the Rings between 1908 and 1913. He said: Maumbury Rings is situated outside the southern boundary of the Roman town of Dorchester. It has passed through many vicissitudes, the most serious being its proposed demolition by the Southern Railway Company when making their line over eighty years ago.

The Caerleon amphitheatre in Monmouthshire had three dates of building and alteration, *circ.* A.D. 80, 125 and 215. Maumbury was constructed at three distinctly different periods—the Neolithic age, the Roman period, and the time of the Civil Wars.

The main part of the great earthwork, measuring externally 345 ft. by 335 ft., has been proved to be of Neolithic construction, having inside it an immense circular trench or fosse¹ enclosing a space with a medial diameter of 169 ft. The ditch, according to my calculations as the result of five seasons' excavations, was some 16 ft. deep below the *original* surface, and from that point downwards the great shafts extended to obtain sufficient material in early prehistoric times to form the great encircling bank which to-day stands 15 ft. above the level of the old surface line.

We located the exact position of seventeen of these shafts, and in all cases obtained the dimensions at the top. In seven cases we re-excavated the chalk-rubble filling to the bottom, and found that on an average they were 35 ft. deep below the *original* surface, and 27 ft. below the present turf level over the arena. A line indicated on my plan of Maumbury shows that the middle of each shaft is on the line of a *true* circle following the inner foot of the great bank.

It will be a highly interesting task some day to clear out all the remaining shafts. At the bottom of one we found a large piece of Neolithic pottery, and in all of them red-deer antler picks were obtained.

The Roman settlers of Dorchester, feeling the need of an

¹ The ditch, be it noted, was inside as at Avebury, Stennis and Arbor Low.
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amphitheatre outside their walls, and finding Maumbury in a suitable position, appear to have adapted this site to their requirements, lowering the central area to convert it into an arena, and leaving all virgin chalk *in situ* for the core of the boundary-wall or *podium*.

There can be no doubt that they found the prehistoric encircling trench only partly silted up, and in some cases the upper part of the mouths of the shafts would still be open to a small extent. This is proved by the fact that in the rammed chalk in the opening of the shafts, and below the level of the arena-floor, we constantly found Roman remains mixed with broken antler picks and flint implements apparently of Neolithic type. The Romans had not only to cut out their arena-floor, but to make good the surrounding ground excavated by the former race by means of rammed and puddled chalk, which in places, as would be expected and as we found, had sunk over the position of the shafts below the level of the solid chalk arena.

There is no proof that the Romans increased the height of the great bank, which has, no doubt, from natural causes, somewhat shrunk during the many centuries of its existence.

Then, the Civil War terraces on either side, as proved by excavation, were placed *against* the prehistoric bank and *on* the Roman deposits on the margin of the arena. They may have been used for running up guns when Maumbury was occupied as a fort and garrisoned by the Parliamentary forces to oppose the Earl of Carnarvon's advance from Weymouth in 1642-3. A survey, dated 1649, makes mention of 'Ye Fort called Mambry'.

The Roman arena-floor proved to measure 192½ ft. from north to south by 158 ft. from east to west.

Mr. C. S. Prideaux, F.S.A., of Dorchester, rendered me much assistance in these excavations, and his loan of various tackle made the work much easier than it would otherwise have been.

At 2.20 p.m. the motors proceeded to

Gaiden Castle

where they parked on the down-land on the N.N.W. side of the camp.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, F.S.A., addressed the members, during a slight shower, in a sheltered part of the N.W. entrance.

He said: The great fortress known as Maiden Castle is situated on Fordington Hill, 430 ft. above mean sea-level; it lies east and west, covering the entire summit of a somewhat kidney-shaped hill, with entrances at either end, each masked by overlapping banks and detached mounds.¹

The peculiar plan of the bastion-like projection at the east entrance is especially noteworthy, and is met with in one or two other fortresses of the first rank. The camp measures approximately 1000 yds. in length and 500 yds. in width. The inner area covers 45 acres. The circuit, measured along the crest of the outer vallum, is 2,500 yds., or little less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Externally, the stronghold covers 115 acres of ground. Ham Hill, it might be mentioned, includes some 210 acres within its inner defences.

Along the north side of Maiden Castle, where the approach is less steep than elsewhere, there are three ramparts and three ditches. It is said that, in places, the height from crest to base of the banks is more than 60 ft.² To the south and south-east the number of lines is five, and round the south-west face as many as six, increasing finally about the west entrance to eight. The ramparts on the south are, on the whole, not of such large dimensions, if more numerous than those on the north. The rapid fall of the hill on the south side adds enormously to their strength. Within the two intermediate ramparts on this side are broad platforms capable of accommodating a great number of slingers and other warriors; these platforms towards the western end are figured in Wall's little book on *Ancient Earthworks*.³

With the great banks at such a steep pitch, especially on the north side, it is surprising that the ditches at Maiden Castle

¹ Visitors constantly ask what is the monument to be seen to the west of the camp. It is a memorial pillar erected to Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy (1769-1839), on the crest of Black Down, above Portesham (*D.N.B.* xxiv, 359; *Proc. Dor. F. C.* xlii, xxxv).

² The writer has not measured any of the banks.

³ An excellent illustration of Maiden Castle, made up from two photographs taken from the air, is given in *Antiquity*, vol. v (Mar. 1931), plate facing p. 60.

have not filled up to a greater extent. The ditches of many barrows on the chalk downs have become practically obscured owing to the gradual process of silting (this is not always due to the plough).

In a great number of hill-forts banks and scarps are found to cross the internal area of the camp, dividing it into two or more portions. These traverses have been said to indicate the limits of a smaller and earlier stronghold before the enlargement to present dimensions. In this way the scarps seen at *Caer Caradoc* (Church Stretton) and *Maiden Castle*¹ have been explained; at the latter place, however, it would have imperilled the besieged by giving the assailant as good a position as they themselves held. The traverses in these examples were, perhaps, the adaptation of the various levels of the summits to supplementary defences.

The highest part of the camp is that towards the east. Within this area is a pond which was made in 1868. In the course of this work ancient refuse pits were destroyed. Warne said that there were seven within an area of 16 square yds., containing fragments of pottery, bronze rings, etc.

The late Edward Cunnington (1825–1916) did some digging at *Maiden Castle* in the eighties of last century. He dug out the foundations of one or more buildings of the Roman period in the eastern part of the interior space,² and among his discoveries were painted plaster and roofing-tiles; also a small piece of mosaic pavement; and a number of coins were found ranging from *Helena* (*d. A.D.* 328) to *Arcadius* (*d. A.D.* 408).

The Cunnington collection in the Dorset County Museum also includes the following objects of bronze found at *Maiden Castle*:³

- (a) Thin sheet of bronze, $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $3\frac{3}{4}$ in., perhaps an ornament of a standard; decorated with 'a figure with helmet and lance which may be the aegis of Pallas.'
- (b) Fragment of statue—the breast.
- (c) Round wide-headed nail.

¹ At the point where the *Maiden Castle* scarp passes from the south inner rampart to the north inner rampart, there are contractions in either rampart, most marked on the south side; the total length of the scarp is about 276 yds.

² *Proc. Dor. F. C.* xxiv, xxxiv–xxxviii.

³ *Bronze Antiquities*, Dorset County Museum, by H. J. Moule.

- (d) Two thin rods—perhaps parts of bodkins.
 (e) Plain harp-shaped fibula—twisted union of pin to fibula.
 (f) Fragment of a bracelet, delicately ornamented.

There are other specimens in the Dorset Museum from this great fortress :

At least two baked clay loom-weights,¹ three weaving-combs of antler (similar to those found in the Somerset Lake-villages),² a La Tène I brooch³ from the east end of the camp, and a La Tène III fibula, also of bronze. Several flint celts in the museum are marked 'Maiden Castle', but probably most of them were picked up in the surrounding arable fields.

Maiden Castle, like Ham Hill, belongs to the Duchy of Cornwall. H.M. Office of Works is to be congratulated on the manner in which this ancient monument is kept, compared with pre-war days. A watcher is employed, and it is his duty to disturb all burrowing animals and repair the great banks, etc., when the necessity arises.

At the close of the address the rain stopped, and most of the members walked round the camp, firstly proceeding along the northern side to the eastern entrance, and wending their way along the inner vallum on the south continued to the point at which they entered the camp.

The members left the great fortress at 3.45 p.m., and drove 20½ miles to Sherborne, *via* Cerne Abbas.

After tea at 5 o'clock the party proceeded to

Sandford Orcas

By kind permission of Sir HUBERT and Lady MEDLYCOTT, members were enabled to see the Manor House at Sandford Orcas. The history of the descent of the manor has already been given in the *Proceedings* of the Society, lxi, 38-48.

It is probable that the earlier manor stood on the same site as the present house which is of Tudor date, and was built by members of the Knoyle family, part, it would seem, in the reign

¹ *Glastonbury Lake Village*, Bulleid and Gray, 575.

² *Op. cit.* 274, 278.

³ Figured in *Arch. Camb.* lxxxii, 93, fig. 25.

of Henry VIII, and part in the reign of Elizabeth. The Knoyles were ancestors of the Portmans.

Sir Hubert Medlycott inherited from Mr. Hatchings, who had restored the house very carefully, so that now after the lapse of a generation it is difficult to distinguish the new from the old. Indeed the house and garden have a mellow quality which it would be difficult to surpass. The fine gate house, which is an integral part of the main building, is of particularly successful design; it may be ascribed to the date of the earlier Tudor work at Sandford Orcas, and is characterised by vigorous line and bold moulding.

The hall may have been of the usual type, that is to say twice as high as the other rooms and with an open ceiling, when the house was first built, but it is now entirely Elizabethan and has a comparatively low ceiling and rooms above.

Members appreciated the opportunity of seeing the interesting collection of furniture and Jacobean embroidery.

Additional information is given in the illustrated account of Sandford Orcas in *Country Life*, 9 March 1907.

Evening Meeting

The Evening Meeting was held at the Wyndham Lecture Hall, Yeovil, when the President, Sir Matthew Nathan, G.C.M.G., occupied the chair.

Both the papers were given by Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, F.S.A., the first having reference to the recently discovered Inscribed Stone of the Roman period from Stoke-under-Ham. This is described and figured in Part II of this volume.

The other paper, which was fully illustrated by lantern slides, described the Excavations at Maumbury Rings, Dorchester, which the lecturer had conducted on behalf of a Committee of the British Archæological Association and the Dorset Field Club (now the Dorset Natural History and Archæological Society) for five seasons from 1908 to 1913. The details of this work have been recorded in the form of five interim reports published in *Proc. Dorset Field Club*, vols. xxix, xxx, xxxi, xxxiv and xxxv.

Third Day's Proceedings

The excursion on 24 July was confined to Somerset, and the motors having assembled at the Municipal Buildings at 9.25 a.m., left at 9.35 for

Newton Surmaville

Great interest was evinced in visiting the old home of the late Prebendary E. H. Bates Harbin, who was for several years one of the honorary secretaries of the Society and President on the occasion of the last meeting at Yeovil in 1910.

The members were received by Mrs. BATES HARBIN and Miss BATES HARBIN. Before entering the house Mrs. Harbin gave a short description of Newton, and before the party separated Mr. Philip Sturdy cordially thanked Mrs. Harbin on behalf of the members for allowing them to visit her house at such an early hour.

A large number of the family treasures not usually exposed to view were specially exhibited and labelled for the benefit of the visitors.

An illustration of the house is given in *Proceedings*, vol. lvi (1910), frontispiece; and Prebendary Bates Harbin's paper on the 'History of the Manor of Newton Surmaville' is given in the same volume.

The members left at 10.35 a.m., and proceeded, *via* Ilchester, to the

Church of St. Mary, Limington

where the edifice was described by the Rector, the Rev. E. GLANFIELD. The following is a resumé of his address:

The oldest portion of the existing church is the nave, the walls of which are Norman. It is possible that the Norman church was cruciform with an apsidal chancel, but later alterations have destroyed practically all evidence of the plan of the original building.

The inner door of the south porch is transitional Norman, *circ.* 1250.

The north transept was either built or enlarged in 1329 by Sir Richard de Gyverney as a chantry chapel. It has a groined roof, the exterior of which is formed of stone slabs. Dr. Fryer has dealt in his 'Monumental Effigies of Somerset' with evidence for identification of the recumbent effigies in the chantry (*Proc.* lxiii, 4, 5, 11, 17). It is probable that the existing chancel, the chancel-arch, the south porch, and tower were built at a slightly later period than the chantry chapel, though they also date from the fourteenth century.

The chantry chapel is about to be restored to its proper use, with altar and lists of rectors and chantry priests. It will be floored with Ham Hill stone, and the double tomb will be moved to beneath the arch.

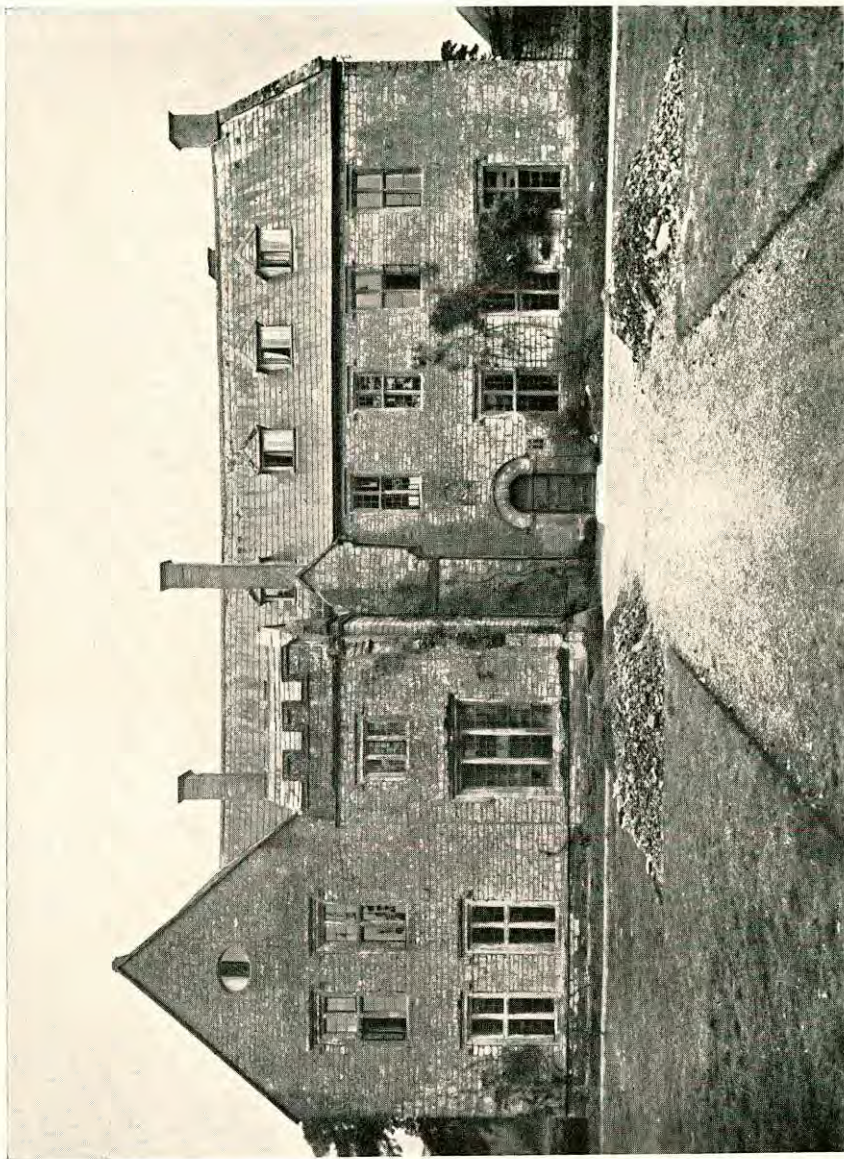
In the choir are four carved bench-ends of great interest; two are decorated with shields of arms, Bonville quarterly with Harrington, the arms of William Bonville, Lord Harrington, who was killed at the battle of Wakefield in 1460. The detail on the bench-ends suggests that they were made not much earlier than 1500. They may have been part of a gift to the church from Cicely, Marchioness of Dorset, daughter of Lord Harrington. It was her husband Thomas, Marquis of Dorset, who presented Wolsey to the benefice of Limington, early in the career of the future cardinal.

The octagonal font is of Ham Hill stone, and is of the latest Perpendicular period. The oldest of the six bells are dated 1677 and 1714.

There are two scratch dials, one on the east side of the inner door of the south porch; the other on the buttress to the west of the priest's door. There are arrow-headed scratch-dials also on the exterior south-west wall of the porch, on the north-west of the west door, and one in an unusual position on the north wall of the nave.

The church plate, consisting of a chalice and cover (1573), paten (1787), and a flagon (1861), was shown; also a water-colour drawing of Limington Rectory as it appeared in 1828. The benefice has always been a rectory, and the list of rectors has been traced back to 1235.

Mr. and Mrs. Glanfield kindly allowed members to see the Rectory, which, although much altered and enlarged about a



hundred years ago, incorporates the medieval house occupied by Wolsey when he was rector of Limington.

(See also description of Limington Church, *Proc.* lvi, i, 79–81.)

From Limington the members proceeded to

Tintinhull

where they arrived at noon. Some of the party visited St. Margaret's Church (Rev. J. T. O'B. Horsford, Vicar) under the guidance of Mr. F. C. EELES, who followed the description of the church given by Mr. F. Bligh Bond in 1910 to a large extent (*Proc.* lvi, i, 79–80).

Some fragments of ancient glass from the church which had recently been sent to the Society by the Rev. J. S. Hyson, son of the late Rev. J. B. Hyson, Vicar of Tintinhull, had with Mr. Hyson's approval been handed over to the church to be inserted in a window which was being erected by Mr. Estcourt Southcombe.

The larger number of members took the opportunity of seeing Tintinhull Court (Plate III) under the guidance of the new owners, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Howard, who were cordially thanked for their kindness.

Mr. H. S. HOWARD has provided the following

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE LIBERTY AND MANOR OF TINTINHULL

The Outhundred of the Manor of Tintinhull¹ consists of the following parishes: Tintinhull, Stoke, Montacute (part), Lufton, Thorne Coffin (part), Northover, Draycott (part of Ashington), Sock Dennis, and Kingstone-Allenshay (*sic*).²

The Manor Court Rolls³ (so far as they are known to exist) begin in the year 1612 and, excepting a few years in the first half of the seventeenth century, are complete to 1885, when the courts ceased to be held. The rolls (1612–1622) are among the

¹ Manor Court Rolls.

² Kingstone-Allowenshay, 3 m. s.w. of Ilminster.

³ The two bundles of membranes of the earlier rolls are endorsed with the records of the courts of the manor of Charlton Adam.

Tintinhull Church documents and the remainder, with the manor constable's staff of office, are at the Court.

The manor was given by king Edmund the Elder (*circ.* 940–946) to Wulfrick his servant and attendant who conveyed the same to the abbey of Glastonbury. At the time of the Conquest the abbot exchanged it with Robert Earl of Morton¹ for the manor of Camerton, from whom it descended to William Earl of Morton, who gave it with the hundred and advowson of the church to his monastery of Montacute. At the foot of Montacute Hill William built a priory for Cluniac monks to whom he gave (*inter alia*) the manor of Tintinhull, with the church, hundred, mill, fair and appurtenances.

At Tintinhull was a cell to Montacute priory the site of which (*temp.* Edw. VI) belonged to John Lyte, of Lytescary.²

It appears from an inquisition (14 Edw. III) that the prior paid tithes for his temporal manor in Tintinhull.³

The manor was granted by Henry VIII (16 Jan., 37 Hen. VIII) to trustees to the use of Elizabeth Darrel for life and after her death to the use of Francis her son and his issue and failing issue to the use of Sir Thomas Wyatt (the conspirator of later years) absolutely.

Elizabeth died and Francis also without issue, whereby Sir Thomas Wyatt acquired the property.

Upon the attainder of Sir Thomas of high treason (1 Mary) the manor escheated to the queen and afterwards came to queen Elizabeth.³

The manor was granted by James I to Lord Fyvie and others, and by them to a younger son of Lord Petre subject in each case to an annual rent reserved to the Crown. Prior to the year 1669 this rent had become the property of the hospital of the poor belonging to the almshouse of Ilton.⁴

In 1669, the title both to the manor and also to the tithes and advowson coalesced, for in that year the manor was purchased by Thomas Napper, great-grandson of Nicholas Napper (the latter being, according to Collinson, vol. iii, 308, grandson

¹ Or Mortaigne, Normandy.

² Collinson's *History of Somerset*, iii, 308–9, 311.

³ MS. note of Thomas Napper, attorney-at-law, of Tintinhull (1717–1760).

⁴ From documents in the possession of the late Viscount Arbutnot.

of Sir Alexander Napier of Merchiston, Scotland). Nicholas Napper had become lay rector and owner of the advowson of the church (12 April, 2 Eliz.) under letters patent from queen Elizabeth. From this Nicholas the title to the tithes and advowson passed in direct male descent for eight generations of Nappers extending over 232 years.¹

In 1792, the manor, with the tithes and advowson, were conveyed to Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot, and in 1793 were settled by his will. In 1840 these had become the property of the Hon. Hugh Arbuthnot, and afterwards of the late Viscount Arbuthnot on whose behalf it was sold in 1913, when the manor, the tithes and the advowson each became the property of different owners.

The name Napper is spelled variously in the court rolls and elsewhere as Napper, Nappier and Napier.

The court is perhaps not later than of the early Tudor period, but parts may be a century older. The earlier or Tudor building was evidently largely restored *temp.* James I. A stone escutcheon over a door on the east front bears the arms of the Nappers. Spanning a hearth in the dining-room is an unusually large monolith of Ham stone measuring 10 ft. 0 in. long, 3 ft. 2 in. deep and 1 ft. 2 in. thick.

Ham Hill

The members ascended Ham Hill from the Stoke-under-Ham side and the cars were parked close to the 'Prince of Wales' Hotel', at 1 o'clock. After an interval for lunch of three-quarters of an hour, the members walked along the eastern side of the northern spur of the great entrenchment, and having seated themselves in the little amphitheatre, known as the 'Frying Pan', they were addressed by Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, F.S.A., who had recently been conducting excavations on Ham Hill on behalf of the Society. A general description of the Hill was given, and a brief account of the result of the excavations. Those specially interested in the hill can refer elsewhere to a fairly large amount of literature on the subject,

¹ MS. note of Thomas Napper, attorney-at-law, of Tintinhull (1717-1760).

as set out in Mr. Gray's bibliography in *Proceedings*, lxx, 104-5 ; since that was printed, reports on recent excavations conducted at Ham Hill have been published in Vols lxx (106-116), lxxi (57-75), and lxxii (55-68) ; and a further part will be issued as soon as possible.

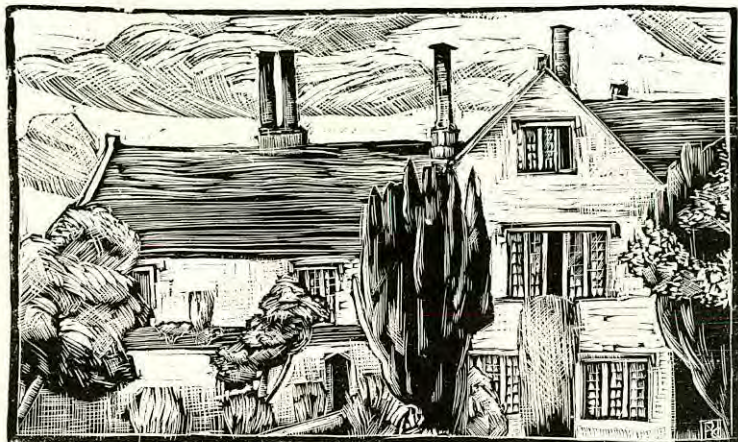
After leaving the 'Frying Pan', the members walked to the War memorial and along the western side of the northern spur to 'Ham Turn'. Joining the vehicles at this point, the party proceeded to Messrs. Trask's Quarries, by permission of Colonel C. J. Trask.

Leaving the Camp by the eastern entrance, in the parish of Montacute, the motors proceeded *via* Odcombe to the

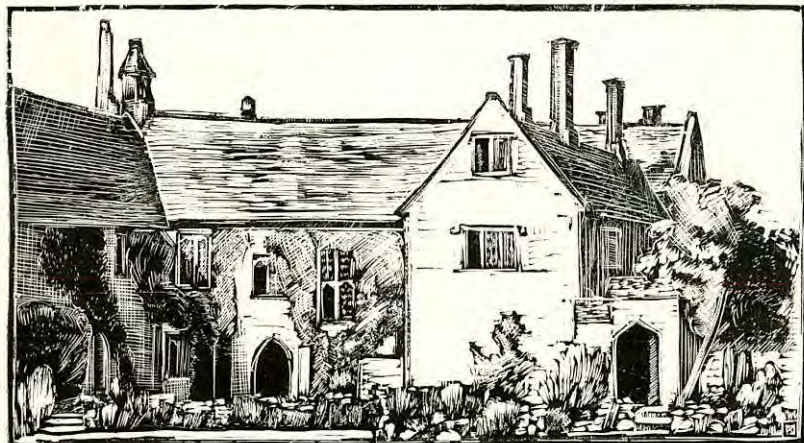
Manor House, West Coker (Plate IV)

where the members were received by the owner, the Rt. Hon. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, G.C.M.G., President of the Society. Here a very interesting forty minutes was spent. Before leaving, Sir Matthew was thanked by the Prior of Downside on behalf of the members for the indefatigable manner in which he had guided the visitors. His remarks have been summarized as follows :

From the bailiff's accounts of the manor of West Coker we know that in 1309 there was added to the then existing manor-house a new room of half-timbered walls with a frame and wattle upper chamber or solar. That house was, however, burnt down on the 1 September 1457, and the main fabric of the present building was probably not erected until about 1500. It faced west, had walls of Ham Hill stone, with stone tiles on the roof and stone flags on the floors of the lower rooms. It followed the usual plan of the time, having a hall with high open roof, a carved stone fire-place on the dais at the north end and tall windows in its east and west walls. From the south, the hall was entered through the screens, and on the other side of these was probably the kitchen, with a wide chimney behind a 14-ft. stone arch and terminating in a small turret with openings to let out the smoke. There was a room above the kitchen, access to which was by a stone staircase contained in a short south-east wing. North of the hall was an undercroft



NORTH FRONT



EAST FRONT

THE MANOR HOUSE, WEST COKER

From Woodcuts by Miss Pamela d'A. Nathan

also with a room above it, now, and possibly then, reached by a spiral stone staircase occupying part of a bay against the west wall. That a considerable time was occupied in the building of this house is suggested by some difference in style in different parts of the building. The hall windows, though they have cinquefoil-headed lights, are square-topped and the chimney-pieces are also of early sixteenth-century pattern. On the other hand the fine hall bay-window is Perpendicular with a quatrefoil in the head between the cinquefoil lights divided half-way down by a simple transom, and belongs to an earlier time. The bay, moreover, differs from the rest of the hall exterior in having a parapet concealing its roof. It may well be that the building of the new house had been begun not long after the destruction of the old one, and was interrupted by the troubled state of the country to be continued when quieter times had come.

In 1591 the manor-house was purchased by John Portman who proceeded to enlarge it to accommodate his numerous family. The chief additions were a north-west and rather longer north-east wing added as projections to the old hall range, and a porch in front of the main entrance door. The walls of these were built of the same Ham Hill stone as the original house and they were roofed with stone tiles. The north-west wing contained a parlour with fine chimney-piece and aumbry; over it is a large apartment with ornamented open roof similar to that of the hall. The north-east wing was erected, probably on the site of less substantial buildings, for a new kitchen and its adjuncts with two sleeping apartments above. To these access was given by a stone staircase that came up between them from the kitchen, as well as by a doorway from the large upper room at the north end of the old hall range. The new work included the ceiling of this room and its ornamentation with a plaster frieze and a plaster panel carrying the Portman arms. At the same time the hall roof was beautified with quatrefoils. Apart from the porch, which has been described as 'a charming piece of work, from the urn-like finial on its gable down to the primitive Jacobean rustication of the arches',¹ the external ornamentation of the house was helped

¹ *Country Life*, 14 October 1922.

by the setting of a new finial on the north end gable of the hall. This the new owner had carved with his fleur-de-lys. This also appears in the coat of arms above the porch entrance which is surmounted by a carved stone carrying the initials I.P. and the date 1600, when it may be assumed the rebuilding was completed.

The Portmans owned the manor-house for 238 years, but no member of the family appears to have resided there after the Restoration. When they disposed of it, it passed through various hands and became a farmhouse, and later a mill and bakery. It was that when purchased by John Moore in 1873. He and, after his death, his brother restored the house. There is little doubt that the restoration by Mr. Moore consisted of more or less drastic renovations, and 'much of the present medievalism is recent replacement of a more or less conjectural kind'.¹ It is said that the north-west wing was pulled down and rebuilt no fewer than three times, in the attempt to get it right, and the replacement of the old stone floor with black and white marble and the shifting of the fine adzed screen from its proper place south of the hall were undoubtedly wrong. But according to a competent critic 'very considerable taste and knowledge have been brought to bear in giving back to the place the aspect, worth and well-being that it had lost'.¹

Since the present owner purchased the manor-house from Mr. Thomas Moore in 1907 the short south-east wing has been extended by the addition of a library designed by Messrs. Aston Webb & Sons, and a few other alterations have been made to adapt to modern requirements a house that still retains many features that recall the life of a long past age.

Coker Court

From West Coker Manor members proceeded to Coker Court (Plate I), where Colonel and Mrs. WALKER HENEAGE gave the Society a very warm welcome. Many members who had been unable to attend the earlier stages of the excursion accepted the invitation to Coker Court. Tea and music were provided

¹ *Country Life*, 14 October 1922.

in a marquee on the lawn, and a brochure giving a full account of the history of the house and of the Helyar family was distributed.¹

At the close of the proceedings the host and hostess were heartily thanked by the President for their hospitality and their kindness in throwing open the Court and its surroundings for the members' inspection.

The oldest part of the existing building, the great hall, dates from the middle of the fifteenth century, and was erected by a member of the Courtenay family, probably by Sir Philip Courtenay, or his son Sir William Courtenay. Although Powderham Castle was the chief seat of the branch of the Courtenays who owned Coker, it is evident from the proportions of the great hall that Coker was a manor-house of unusual importance in the fifteenth century. Few houses which were not actually fortified had a great hall at that period of such large size.

The connection of the Courtenays with Coker ended in 1591, when the manor of East Coker was sold to Robert Dillon. The Dillons resold in 1598 to Edward Phelips of Montacute, Master of the Rolls.

The Court was occupied for only a short time by the Phelips family, and then in 1616 was purchased by Archdeacon Helyar and has remained in the possession of his descendants till the present day. Mrs. Walker Heneage was the only surviving child of the late Horace Augustus Helyar of Coker Court.

It is generally considered that the Jacobean stone screen was erected by Archdeacon Helyar, who modernised the plan of the medieval house to suit the ideas of comfort prevalent in the late Elizabethan period.

In the eighteenth century, Sir William Chambers, architect of Somerset House, reconstructed or rebuilt the southern wing, which still consists of a series of typical Georgian rooms of his design. He also masked the interior of the Gothic hall, turning it into a Georgian saloon. Mrs. Walker Heneage has restored the hall to its original character and proportions, and by a

¹ Additional information is given in the illustrated account of Coker Court in *Country Life*, 2 January 1909.

series of judicious restorations and by the careful placing of the early furniture—much of which had been preserved, has gained for Coker Court a place among the most beautiful and interesting houses in Somerset.

The Yeovil Meeting finished officially at 5.30 p.m., when many had to leave for their homes, but those who were able to stay continued their journey to

All Saints Church, Sutton Bingham

where they were received by the Rector, the Rev. V. A. C. Ransome.

This church, which was described by Mr. FRANCIS C. EELES, consists of a Norman nave with a fine Norman chancel arch of three enriched orders leading into a chancel rebuilt late in the thirteenth century, when it was made the same width as the nave. Probably it was built outside the small Norman chancel which was subsequently pulled down. There are two Norman windows, one on either side of the nave near the west end, small and quite plain, and there are small Norman doorways: the principal one to the north with a plain tympanum, the secondary one to the south, narrow and entirely without ornament, moulding or chamfer. Early in the thirteenth century a narrow lancet window was inserted in what may have been a blank piece of wall east of the north doorway; late in the century a larger window with a trefoiled head was inserted in the south nave wall opposite, probably to give more light than the smaller Norman window, which was no doubt there before.

In the chancel we find similar late thirteenth-century windows on either side, and an east window of two lights with plate tracery consisting of a central circle enclosing a quatrefoil. These windows have foliated or cusped rear arches—a common feature in early Decorated work in Somerset, whether of the end of the thirteenth century or the beginning of the fourteenth.

The latest features of the church are the two-light late Decorated west window, with two niches for bells above it near the top of the gable, and the north porch, which may be of the same period.

The roofs are covered with plaster; apparently they are



POUNDISFORD PARK, NEAR TAUNTON

From a Photograph by Mr. G. L. Dafnis

early examples of the waggon-roof, without ribs or bosses and allied to the single framed collar and brace roof so usual in thirteenth and fourteenth century churches of the simpler type.

The font is Norman and has a cable round the deep circular basin ; it is an interesting example of the transition between the tub-shaped form and the cup-shaped type ; we see the stem beginning to develop.

When the church was reseated in the nineteenth century some interesting wall-paintings were discovered. Most unfortunately they were touched up or outlined in a very crude way and their value is almost nil. One on the north side of the chancel represents the coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary ; this is the eastmost of a series of three which once occupied the north wall of the church, and probably takes the place of an earlier painting of the same subject upon the wall of the earlier chancel.

The only paintings that have escaped 'restoration' are two which have recently been found, viz., a fragment of a scene in which the Crucifixion occurs on the north side of the nave next the font, and a much larger scene, also on the north side of the nave, but further east, representing the death of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in which several figures in an attitude of prayer are encircling her bed, while her soul is represented escaping from her body in the form of a small figure of a child praying. This painting is of earlier date than those in the chancel.

A companion scene representing the Assumption probably occupied the wall further east before the insertion of the window which is there now.

There is a most remarkable churchyard cross in the form of an altar-tomb, out of the western part of the upper slab of which (and of one stone with it) there arises the octagonal base block which supports an octagonal shaft terminating in a moulded top, from which sprang the cross itself, now unfortunately gone.

AFTERNOON EXCURSION

Poundisford Park and Pitminster

On the fifteenth of August 1930 there was an afternoon excursion to Poundisford Park (*Country Life*, 24 June 1916) and

Pitminster for members of the Society living in West Somerset. At Poundisford Park the members were kindly entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. VIVIAN-NEAL before proceeding to the church.

The Society had visited Poundisford Park in 1908 (*Proceedings*, liv, i, 93) when it was occupied by Bishop Moorhouse. The house was reconditioned by Mr. Vivian-Neal in 1929. It was built about 1548 by William Hill, eldest son of Roger Hill, of Poundisford Lodge. William Hill's arms are still to be seen in contemporary stained glass, both alone, and impaled with those of his first wife, a Trobridge of the Devonshire family, in the window of the upper parlour. His initials with those of his second wife, Lucy Ryves, are on the pendants of the Elizabethan plaster ceiling in the hall (Plate V). The most remarkable features of the house as it now stands are the hall and gallery, the series of original plaster ceilings, and the early window fastenings and fireplaces. Unusually slight alterations have been made in the plan and arrangement of the rooms since the house was built, although when the Hill family left Poundisford in 1706 their successors, the Welmans, seem to have modernised doors and staircases to some extent. Linenfold panelling was taken from Poundisford Park by Sir Roger Hill about 1680 to his new house at Denham in Buckinghamshire and is still preserved there (*Country Life*, 18 November 1905).

Little is known of interesting events which took place at Poundisford in the time of the Hills, but from a manuscript note-book of the parliamentarian Roger Hill, Baron of the Exchequer and friend of Cromwell, it would appear that the muniment room at Poundisford Park was rifled by royalist troops during the civil war.

It has been discovered recently that the arms on the lead water-head on the south front of the house are those of William Hill and his wife, Hester, daughter of Agmundisham Muschamp of Horsley, Surrey. (*Gu. a chev. engrailed erm. between 3 garbs or ; imp. or 3 bars gu.*) The water-head may, therefore, be considered to have been made at the same time as the lead tank below it which bears the initials of William and Hester Hill and the date 1671, although the design of the water-head would suggest a date at least fifty years earlier.

After tea members proceeded to the church of

St. Mary and St. Andrew, Pitminster

Mr. F. C. EELES gave an account of the architecture and history of the church. He said that Pitminster Church afforded an example of a very interesting medieval building the ancient character of which had been destroyed by nineteenth-century restoration. Of the church known to have been there in Norman times, and mentioned in the charter of Henry II confirming the possessions of Taunton Priory *circ.* 1150, nothing now remains. The name of the place suggests that there was a church there in the Saxon period. The earliest work existing seems to date from about 1300—the tower, and probably also the spire, and portions of the arcade on the south side. At the end of the fifteenth or the beginning of the sixteenth century the arcading on the north side and the aisles to the chancel were added, and the south aisle windows were made more or less like those in the north aisle.

Then in the nineteenth century the Perpendicular north aisle, the chancel arch, the arcading on the south side and much other ancient work was destroyed and replaced by modern imitation of fourteenth-century Gothic work. The two original responds at the ends of the arcading on the south side of the nave, the arches on each side of the chancel and the east window were left.

Some old glass was spared at the restoration. It is in the windows of the Lady Chapel. Mr. Eeles considered that it was probably the work of the Exeter School.

The fifteenth-century font is in a fine state of preservation, but the carved panel on the east side has been renewed. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the church is the set of three monuments to the Coles family of Barton Grange. Humphrey Coles obtained much of the property of the Priory of Taunton at the dissolution of the monasteries: the monuments were erected in memory of Humphrey Coles and of his son and grandson.