

Somerset Record Society

Mr. A. W. VIVIAN-NEAL, F.S.A., in the absence of the Rev. Preb. T. F. Palmer (Hon. Secretary) read the report of the Somerset Record Society, which was as follows :—

The list of subscribers to the Somerset Record Society shows that the numbers have not expanded as it had been hoped they might when the publication of Bishop Bekynton's Register was taken in hand.

The opportunity of 'temporary membership' which was offered by the Council a year ago has been taken by thirteen subscribers to the Canterbury and York Society. This has meant a slight increase in the amount available for the publication of the Bekynton Register.

Throughout the year, the work upon the Register has proceeded. Mr. Dawes has finished the translation and Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte's annotations and introductions have been completed.

The expense of their publication is straining the Society's resources severely. The balance sheet for 1934 contains no hint of this, as the accounts will not be rendered until we have passed into the financial year 1935.

The two volumes will shortly be despatched to all subscribers.

The Council is considering the publication of *Head Deeds and other documents enrolled with the Custos Rotulorum of the County* as the volume for 1936. A list of these documents was printed in *Som. & Dor. Notes & Queries*, nos. 83 and 84.

The Presidential Address

The President, Sir ARCHIBALD L. LANGMAN, Bart., C.M.G., then delivered his address on 'North Cadbury Court', as follows :

Nearly three hundred years ago, in the year 1659, the then rector, or, as he was styled, pastor of North Cadbury, Samuel Cradock, published a stout volume of spiritual exhortation to his parishioners, from which I do not propose to quote at length, but the opening sentence of his dedication seems so applicable to myself that I cannot refrain from quoting it.

It was addressed to 'The Master and his worthy Friends and Fellowes of Emanuel College in Cambridge, from Samuel Cradock, Sometime Fellow of Emanuel' and began 'Honoured Sirs, it may seem strange that I should adventure to dedicate so plain a Discourse to so Learned a Society, but the Providence of God having by your free choice placed me in this charge wherein I stand, I take myself obliged to render an account to you (above any others) of this my undertaking'. It would be strange if I did not feel a certain diffidence on being asked to say something of interest to the very people one has long looked upon as experts to be consulted and questioned, on points requiring elucidation concerning the subjects which form the *raison d'être* of this Society. I, therefore, propose detaining you only for a few minutes with a few discursive remarks and with a few matters of interest which I have learnt during my ownership of this house and estate.

Of Cadbury Camp or Castle, which it is my privilege to own I propose saying nothing, except a word of explanation and apology. In 1913, very shortly after I purchased the estate, excavations were carried out under the auspices of this Society which were fully described in the *Proceedings* of that year.¹ It was the intention to keep what had been done permanently open, but in the war years that supervened the excavated portion was perforce neglected, and by the agencies of weather and cattle it largely silted up, and the *Proceedings* rather than the site itself must be relied upon for a picture of the work done and its results. The site is let as part of a farm, and has perhaps not received the attention it merits from the archæological point-of-view.

Neither do I propose to take up your time with a discourse on the Church, except to remind you that it was designed to be collegiate though this plan was never carried out.

I owe most of my slight knowledge of the house to my friend, the late Mr. Avray Tipping, who was, I expect, known to many of you personally, or as a writer in *Country Life* on the subject of old houses. He used to say that veneration for the past in domestic architecture speaking generally is a thing of com-

¹ A shortened account of the Cadbury Camp excavations will be found in this volume, pp. 35-37.

paratively recent growth. The desire to be in the fashion has always been a dominant factor in housing, and it was chance that destined whether that fashion should seem to us attractive or the reverse. The houses which have survived untouched and unaltered are either what we generally call the great houses, such as Montacute or Longleat, or the small manors which became farm-houses and which people had neither the desire nor the money to alter. It seems that Cadbury Court is perhaps typical of that long period when people combined the desire to be in the fashion with the then equivalent of a flourishing banking account, which enabled them to put their desires into practice. Some of the alterations to this house were made at periods and in styles which the majority of us now-a-days like for their own sake ; others were made in styles which the taste of the present day leads us to condemn ; but to-day most people feel that the old should be retained and additions made only if essential. That of course raises the interesting point as to whether an addition to an old house should be made in the style of to-day or of the original building. On first consideration the answer might seem fairly obvious, but looking backward the most interesting houses are surely those to which the additions have been made in the prevailing style of the moment rather than in a slavish imitation of the then existing architecture.

In this house the earliest parts, of which portions are left, date from about 1417, when the property belonged to the second Lord Botreaux. The main walls at the west end are of this period, and anyone interested will notice that the design of the string-course which runs round at about 2 ft. 6 in. from the ground is plain, whereas in the Elizabethan alterations it is moulded. The lobby on the top floor shows the roof of what was formerly a great hall. In about 1581 fundamental alterations and additions were made. It happened that this work was in a style that is pleasing to most of us, but none the less much interesting older work was destroyed in the process.

The glass in the oriel window, dated 1593 and placed there by the builder, the third Earl of Huntingdon, President of the North, is of great interest, and was the subject of an illustrated article in the *Proceedings* for 1890.¹

¹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxxvi, ii, 137.

This house apparently satisfied the successive owners for about a hundred and seventy years, when again in 1750 or thereabouts, during the occupation of the Newman family, the desire to be in the fashion, and possibly a wish for more light, led them to Georgianise the wings on the south side, at the same time making two stories of high rooms, in place of the three or four stories of the low Elizabethan rooms. At this time the Elizabethan court in the centre of the south side was left empty as an open court, and in another fifty years or so some rooms were built in it, probably by the Bennett family. This new addition had a pleasing exterior which remains unaltered, but a badly planned interior ; with the help of steel hidden in columns, it has been possible to make it both useful and convenient without altering the outside elevation.

In this connexion there are one or two points that might possibly be of interest. The original Elizabethan stair, built out into a corner of the south court, was of the circular spiral type of stone ; a window still looks down from it into the north hall.¹ It is said that before the introduction of house bells it was customary to call to the servants from such interior windows.

An attractive iron stair was in use until the modern re-conditioning of the house, when the existing oak staircase was inserted.

On the first floor at the west end of the house there is an interesting bath which is said to be one of the earliest country-house baths with ' hot and cold laid on ', the boiler and furnace of which can still be seen in the wall outside the bath room.

Then we come to the present day, when my own task was to effect necessary repairs, to remove some of the still later features and decorations mainly dating from the middle of the nineteenth century, which most of us have come to look on as unattractive, although I should be the last to dogmatize on this. In every alteration for at least six centuries the parts destroyed were used to build the new : thus as part of the walls we found used pieces of medieval buildings, fragments of Elizabethan mullions, and occasionally even charming Georgian marble-work utilized as building material in the final additions.

¹ *Ibid.*, i, 60.

The stone chimney-piece in the north hall was built up from fragments of the original found in the walls.

Two rooms which are now used as a village club date probably from the early fifteenth century, and have an original fire-place and some exposed Elizabethan wattle.

Recently when taking up the circular rose garden a spade struck a stone and investigation showed a very thick wall, the stone dressed on both sides, obviously the wall of a large house, and not of a cottage. There is no history of a house so near the Court, and it would be interesting to know if any hint of the possible date is given by the character of the masonry: for this reason the wall has been left uncovered until the visit of the Society.

The President pleaded for the conversion of old buildings for the use of village clubs instead of the unsightly and expensive wooden huts so often erected for the purpose. He also urged the establishment of village museums in which objects found in the neighbourhood, but not of sufficient importance to be deposited in central museums, and duplicates from greater museums, might be preserved. Such local collections would foster an interest in parochial history.

The address was concluded by a further quotation from the Rev. Samuel Cradock, the Cromwellian pastor of North Cadbury.

The President was thanked for his address on the motion of Mr. P. Sturdy, seconded by Mrs. Bates Harbin.

After tea the members visited

Sherborne School

and most of the buildings and the museum were seen under the guidance of the Rev. D. P. EPERSON and the custos, Mr. ARTHUR SCOTT, who were thanked for their kindness.

It had been proved that Sherborne School was in existence as an institution, independent of the abbey, long before its refoundation by Edward VI. St. Stephen Harding, the founder of the Cistercian order, was claimed as a pupil, and there was a master, Thomas Copeland, in 1437, who contributed to the almshouses. The present school was refounded 13 May 1550; it was endowed with lands of dissolved chantries in the churches

of Martock, Gillingham, Lychett Matravers and Ilminster and the free chapel of Thornton in Marnhull.

The 'school' was partly rebuilt from time to time; the schoolroom was again rebuilt in 1670 and remained as the dining-hall of the present school-house. Small additions were made in land and buildings at various times, but the great extension did not occur until 1851, when Edward, Earl of Digby, gave the governors the site of the abbey cloister with the remaining buildings and the land upon which the present great court was built.

At 5.25 p.m. the members arrived at the south door of

Sherborne Abbey

where they were met by the Vicar, the Rev. W. M. ASKWITH, Mr. F. C. EELES, who briefly described the building, and Mr. W. J. BURT, custos.

Sherborne Abbey has recently been improved by the recovery of the western portion of the Lady Chapel, long used as part of a house in connexion with the school. The ambulatory has been recovered entire with the graves of some of the Saxon kings: the graceful thirteenth-century arches leading to the Lady Chapel can be seen once more, and if it has not been possible to recover the original length of the chapel, an almost unique interest accrues to the building from the way in which it has been found feasible to retain and exhibit all that was old or valuable among the alterations for domestic purposes effected after the dissolution. Some very careful repairs have been made on other parts of the building and fine and unusual remains of fifteenth-century glass have been restored to the Leweston Chapel.

Excellent accounts of Sherborne Abbey are available in *The Official Guide to Sherborne Abbey Church*, by the Rev. Canon C. H. Mayo, 2nd edit., 1929, and a smaller guide, *The Abbey Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Sherborne*, by W. J. Burt, beside the very valuable *Short History of Sherborne from 705 A.D.*, by the late W. B. Wildman, Sherborne, 1902, now out of print.

Chapel of the Hospital of St. John, Sherborne

This foundation dates from 1437, when a licence was granted by King Henry VI to the Bishop of Salisbury and others to found a hospital for twenty brethren in honour of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. There was to be a chaplain, and the house was to provide for twelve poor men and four poor women. It is said that the oldest part of the existing buildings, including the chapel, was finished in 1448.

These ancient buildings contain a church, of which the nave was used as a hall, with an upper storey, both opening into a small chancel through an arch. Latterly this chancel was treated as if it were the whole chapel, and the brethren and sisters were crowded into it in an uncomfortable fashion alien from the intentions of the founders. Ancient hospitals were often arranged with the structural nave of the church forming what we should call the hospital ward, opening on to the chancel through a screen. The remains of this arrangement may be seen at St. Mary's Hospital, Chichester, where the church and chapel are much larger.

St. John's Hospital, Sherborne, possesses an artistic treasure of the first importance in the triptych, or folding reredos, which is almost the only painted medieval reredos existing in England in its original position. Less attractive at first sight, but hardly less important, are the original iron rods from which curtains hung close to the ends of the altar. With the exception of a pair in Herefordshire, these, again, are the only ones left, although Chingford, in Essex, possesses the original staples, with rings, in which similar rods were placed. Another feature of importance is the south window, largely filled with original fifteenth-century glass, representing St. Mary the Virgin holding the Infant Christ in the centre light, flanked by the two patrons, St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, in the two side lights.

Until recently the appearance of these valuable possessions was spoiled by their surroundings, but an admirable scheme of arrangement has now been carried out. The building was described by Mr. F. C. EELES.

Evening Meeting

In the evening there was an informal musical entertainment in the Music Room, Hospital Hill, which was organized by the Rev. E. P. EPERSON. Among those who helped was the Templecombe Choral Society, and the programme was much appreciated. The thanks of the Society were expressed by Mr. P. Sturdy, and Mr. Eperson responded.

Second Day's Proceedings

The motor-coaches left Yeovil at 8.50 a.m., and the Digby Hotel, Sherborne, at 9.20 a.m. for the

Chancel of Old St. Cuthbert's Church, Osborne

where the members were met by the Rev. ALAN WILLIAMS, Rector of Osborne, who described the building.

Between the main road and the Southern Railway a short distance east of Sherborne stands the chancel of the old Church of Osborne which was fortunately allowed to remain when the nave was pulled down in 1861. A new church was built half-a-mile up the valley and the old chancel was only used for funerals. The arch was walled up and a doorway made in the blocking wall. Recently an endeavour has been made to put the building into good order: some of the most necessary repairs have been done, but an appeal has been made for more money in order to complete the work of preservation. The building is of great interest as contemporary incised inscriptions on the stonework of the north and east windows tell us that the chancel was built by John M(yer), Abbot of Sherborne, and John Dunster, sacrist of the abbey and first rector of Osborne in 1533 (Hutchins' *Dorset*, iv, 201). These windows are square-headed and have uncusped lights; the label stops are heraldic and there is a fine example of the royal arms over the east window. There is a plain waggon-roof with the side purlins low down giving unequal spacing to the panels. The pulpit, altar and rails are good examples of early seventeenth century wood-work. The nave seems to have had two windows

on each side with two trefoiled lights : it may have dated from the first part of the fifteenth century : some of the window tracery has been recovered from the rectory garden. It is possible that wall paintings may be found on the chancel walls though no means certain owing to the late date. Recently a grave-slab incised with a latin cross on steps has been found in front of the chancel-arch.

At 10 a.m. the motors arrived at

All Saint's Church, Poyntington

where the members were met by the Rector, the Rev. A. H. BELL, who described the building. Some of the party had the opportunity of seeing the Manor House also, through the kindness of the owner, Mr. F. E. Robertson, whose careful restoration has enhanced the archæological interest of the building.

The parish of Poyntington was formerly in Somerset but was transferred to Dorset in 1896. Particularly interesting accounts of the Church and Manor-house are to be found in the *Proceedings* for 1870¹ and for 1874,² the two papers being by the then Rector, the Rev. J. Heale. The Norman doorway and some Decorated and Perpendicular work have been preserved, but in the unfortunate replacement of much of the ancient fabric, when the chancel was rebuilt in or about 1865 and in the subsequent years, the original character of the building was entirely altered.

It seems to have been in 1844 or 1845 that a series of paintings were uncovered on the faces of two octagonal piers between the nave and the aisle. The most remarkable of these was clearly a small representation of the Blessed Virgin ; 'the colours were extremely vivid ; but they began to fade rapidly on exposure, and portions of the painting dropped bit by bit from the wall.' At a later date encaustic tiles with the arms of Daubeney, Stanton of Whitestanton, and Beauchamp of Hatch, as well as of rare fragments of a hunting scene were discovered.

¹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xvi, ii, 67.

² *Ibid.*, xx, i, 65 ; ii, 98.

In 1844 a volume of the parish register dating from 1618 was found buried under more than a foot of soil which had been allowed to accumulate in the Church, apparently when graves had been dug below the pavement. The process of drying took more than a year, but the register was still legible.

The waggon-roof of the nave was restored in 1896, all original work being preserved where possible.

Poyntington still possesses some remarkable monuments. The fourteenth-century effigy said to be that of Edmund Cheney, son of Sir John Cheney, has been described by Dr. Fryer in the *Proceedings* for 1921.¹ Mr. John Batten gave an account of the connection of the Cheneyes with the manor and of the inscription to the memory of Katherine Streche in his paper entitled, 'The Lady of Poyntington.'² Dr. Fryer also described the late Elizabethan monument of George Tilly and Mary, his wife, and their daughter, Dame Elizabeth Parham.³

The Parhams were staunch friends of Sir Walter Raleigh, and it is said that on one occasion when Sir Walter was staying with them at Poyntington on his way from Devonshire to London, he asked Dame Parham, 'Have the pigs been fed?' She retorted, 'You are the best judge of that!' This seems a very simple piece of wit to have been recorded by no less a person than the great Lord Verulam.

The curious painted memorials of Sir Thomas Malet, Justice of the Common Pleas (d. 1665, aged 83), and of his son Baldwin have been restored recently. A memoir of Sir Thomas was written by Octavius Warre Malet.⁴ The judge belonged to that junior branch of the house of Enmore through which the male line was eventually continued. Baldwin, his second son, aged only twenty, was killed fighting for the King on 3 June 1646 in an engagement on the outskirts of the parish towards Osborne: Mr. Heale tells the story dramatically in the first of his two papers. He describes the village children listening with bated breath to fire-side tales of deeds of valour, done by their village heroes; 'and especially by that knight—the son

¹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxvii, ii, 36.

² *Ibid.*, xlii, ii, 1.

³ *Ibid.*, lxxiv, ii, 51.

⁴ *Ibid.*, xx, ii, 107.

of the great judge who lived in the big house—who is said to have leaped into the battle over the gate dividing the two counties ; leaping on horseback with all his armour on right into the midst of the fight, and, after killing more than a score, to have been within an hour brought back dead to his father's house.'

The Church plate was shown¹: the paten and flagon bear the Malet arms.

Further particulars may be obtained from a pamphlet entitled 'Some Account of the Parish of Poyntington', by the Rev. A. H. Bell, 1928.

At 10.45 a.m. the Society paid a visit to

Charlton Horethorne Church²

where they were met by the Vicar, the Rev. I. B. Davies. Mr. F. C. EELES described this building at some length.

The Church consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles of three bays each, south porch, and west tower. To an early nave of which nothing now remains a south aisle was added late in the thirteenth century or very early in the fourteenth : work of this period still remains in this aisle, notwithstanding subsequent alterations, but the south arcade is wholly modern—a puzzling feature difficult to explain, unless it takes the place of an early wall roughly cut through in the manner often found in Sussex and the south-east of England—a type of construction repugnant to Victorian ideas of symmetry and correctness. The absence of any trace of the original south arcade makes it difficult to determine with accuracy the history of this part of the Church particularly in view of the difference in style of the various windows. On the north side the history is clearer : here an aisle was added in the second quarter of the fourteenth century, largely no doubt with the intention of forming a chapel to contain the monuments provided for by the enriched recesses in the north wall near the east end. The chancel shows traces of two rebuildings, one early the other late in the fourteenth century. In the fifteenth century the

¹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xliii, ii, 229.

² *Ibid.*, xlii, i, 22.

nave and aisle roofs were renewed and the west tower added. In the nineteenth century the building underwent a peculiarly mischievous 'restoration'.

The east window is modern. On the north side is a two-light window with ogee-headed trefoiled lights and a single tracery light trefoiled: further west is a single-light trefoil-headed window with a label which might be late thirteenth century work. The south wall has similar windows, but the two-light one is further east: there is a small plain doorway. The whole of the south side seems to have been renewed, at any rate externally, in the nineteenth century and it is probable that much of the work on the north side is also modern. The lower part of this wall is of rubble, the upper part of ashlar, and the suggestion is that the single-light window and the east window are—or were originally—of the same date while the two-light window and those on the south side represent a later reconstruction carried out at the very end of the fourteenth century. Unfortunately the chancel was so largely rebuilt in the nineteenth century, that it is difficult to say what is old and what is modern. There is a small trefoil-headed fourteenth-century piscina.

The chancel arch has plainly moulded capitals and seems to belong to the late fourteenth century reconstruction, but modern corbel heads have been added to the inner order.

The south aisle is the earlier of the two. Its east window is north of the centre; this suggests that the aisle was originally narrower than it is at present. But it must have been widened as early as the beginning of the fourteenth century. The east window has two sharply-pointed cinquefoiled lights with a cusped vesica tracery light. The eastmost window in the aisle has three sharply-pointed lights the outer ones trefoiled the central one cinquefoiled, the spandrels pierced. This dates from about the same time. West of the porch is a two-light window with trefoiled lights and a large quatrefoil as tracery, looking rather earlier in date. All windows have cusped rear-arches. Beneath the sill of the eastmost is a monumental recess now empty with a cinquefoiled sub-cusped arch terminating in a curious kind of finial projecting above the level of the sill. The south doorway, largely renewed, retains

enough old stonework to show that it was of the early part of the fourteenth century : it has a single sunk roll moulding.

The west window of the aisle is of normal Perpendicular type with three trefoiled ogee-headed lights and two panel tracery with lights trefoiled above and below : the label has square stops.

The north aisle is a fairly complete piece of work of well into the fourteenth century, and of very high quality in spite of its external simplicity. The east window has three cinquefoiled lights and Decorated tracery including as its principal feature three six-foiled triangles in a circle. On the north side there are two modern windows of two lights each. The west window has three trefoiled lights with three ogee-headed quatrefoils. The east window has a beautifully finished rear-arch with leaf ornaments in a hollow, the inner member supported on heads, and a label. There is a plain waggon-roof, with three purlins and one or two very small bosses : this roof may perhaps be of the fourteenth century. The arcade has octagonal pillars ; the moulded capitals have ball flowers carved in one of the hollows. The responds at the ends have their inner members supported on shafts standing on remarkably fine heads, that of a king at the east, a queen at the west end.

In the north wall near the east end are two monumental recesses with cinquefoiled arches, the labels of which have curious flattened leaf-like crockets and large terminals of elaborate leaves. The western recess seems like a modern copy of the other : both sills are modern. No effigies or inscriptions now remain.

In close connexion with these recesses and part of the adornment of the chapel which was once at the east end of this aisle are two of the most beautiful and elaborate niches in Somerset. One is in the north-east corner : this is contemporary with the building and has a flat-fronted architectural canopy and an exceedingly rich mass of foliage supporting the base, a little reminiscent of the great foliage corbels in Exeter Cathedral : below the foliage is a hooded head. A little to the west, on the north wall, is a somewhat later niche, much wider, with the outline of a seated figure against a red background. The

projecting canopy or tabernacle is in four divisions : the base is supported by the head of a lady in an elaborate horned head-dress of well into the fifteenth century. Both niches have traces of colour.

It is tempting to associate this unusually rich work with one of the wealthy and distinguished families which owned the manor of Charlton in the reign of Edward III. The manor was part of the inheritance of Alice, Countess in her own right of Lincoln and Salisbury, who married first Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, grandson of Henry III. She died without issue in 1348 and was buried near her husband Eubole le Strange in the conventual Church of Berling, co. Lincoln. Her extraordinary story is given in some detail by Hutchins (*History of Dorset*, iii, 289). The next owners of the manor were the de Montacute Earls of Salisbury.

On the south side of this chapel is a cinquefoiled ogee-headed piscina. Above this is built out a sort of stone framework for the door of the opening behind the arch, giving access to the rood-loft : this must have been reached from a ladder temporarily placed in the east end of the chapel.

On the west gable of the north aisle is a small bell-cot with a pointed arch, probably moved here from above the chancel-arch at the nineteenth century restoration.

The tower has features one finds in South Somerset though it does not fall into any definite class. It is not one of the rich Somerset towers, but it is more ornate than the average fifteenth-century tower. It has double buttresses terminating in small pinnacles beneath the top string-course. The staircase turret is square in section and is carried up at the east end of the north side : the top string-course is carried round it ; there is an extra string-course above this close beneath the miniature battlements with which it is crowned : it only rises just above the main battlements of the tower. These have a continuous moulding and a small pinnacle rises from each corner of the tower. There are good grotesques at each corner and also at the centre of each side in the top string-course. The belfry windows are in two lights, cinquefoiled, with tracery in two trefoiled lights and they have labels with square stops : the main lights are filled with stone lattice-work : there are also labels below the sills.

The west window has three cinquefoiled lights with tracery in two panels each subdivided into two trefoiled lights. Above it is a good niche with a modern figure. The west doorway has an outer square head with a label with lozenge-shaped terminals and the spandrels are richly carved with leaf ornament.

The tower-arch has plainly chamfered responds and moulded capitals somewhat set back from them in a clumsy manner. The suggestion is that of comparatively early date for a tower of this class. Taking everything into consideration the date might well be about the middle of the fifteenth century.

The font is tub-shaped. It has evidently been re-cut. It is severely plain, the only ornament being a roll-moulding round the middle.

There are no ancient fittings, save some seventeenth-century chairs, and a good semi-hexagonal credence table.

There are two sixteenth-century brass alms-dishes of the Nuremberg type.

In the south-east corner of the nave, just outside the chancel-arch is placed an upright stone which is said to be part of a Roman altar.

Miss M. Parsons gave the members an opportunity of seeing the Manor House on the north side of the churchyard. At the east end of the house the visitors were much interested in the circular stair-turret.

On proceeding to West Camel at 11.15 a.m., *via* Wheat Sheaf Hill and Corton Denham, beautiful views were obtained, including the south side of Cadbury Camp.

All Saint's Church, West Camel

Here the members were met by the Vicar, the Rev. M. L. Thorp, and Mr. EELES described the Church, of which there are good accounts already published in the *Proceedings*, xxxvi, i, 40-43, and lix, i, 34-36. Mr. W. D. Caröe also made a few remarks.

The remains of a Saxon cross in this Church had been described by Dr. G. Forrest Browne, Bishop of Bristol, in *Proceedings*, xxxvi, ii, 70-81. This valuable carving was placed in the Church in such a position that it could be knocked by the

fully opened south door, and the hope was expressed that no time would be lost in placing it in a different situation.

At 12.30 p.m. the conveyances arrived at the

Church of St. Barnabas, Queen Camel

of which the Rev. C. K. W. Thorn is Rector. Time did not allow of a thorough examination of this fine edifice. Mr. Eeles pointed out the main features, and referred those present to Mr. E. Buckle's description in *Proceedings*, xxxvi, i, 43-46, and that by Mr. Bligh Bond in *Proceedings*, lix, i, 32-34.

After luncheon at the Sparkford Inn, the conveyances proceeded to the Church of Holy Trinity, Sutton Montis (Rev. J. Bayliss, Rector), which was described by Mr. Eeles. A short description of it will be found in *Proceedings*, lix, i, 38-39.

A short drive brought the party to South Cadbury. A few of the members visited the Church of St. Thomas the Martyr (Rev. J. Bayliss, Rector), a description of which will be found in *Proceedings*, lix, i, 40-41, but the great majority visited

Cadbury Camp

The members ascended the Camp from the N.E. side, up 'Castle Lane' and past 'King Arthur's Well'. They then crossed the gradually rising ground of the camp to a point called 'Arthur's Castle', where they settled down to see some grand views and to hear an address by Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, F.S.A., based chiefly on his illustrated paper in the Society's *Proceedings*, vol. lix for 1913, pt. ii, pp. 1-24.

The camp or fortress, known as Cadbury Castle, Cadbury Camp, Camelot or Camalet, was naturally often confused with two other Cadbury camps in Somerset, viz. that at Tickenham, near Clevedon, where the speaker excavated in 1922, and the less important area at Yatton. Then there was 'Cadbury Castle' another fortress between Crediton and Tiverton; the name also occurred elsewhere in the south-west.

The speaker proceeded to give some particulars of the various traditions attaching to that interesting place. Most of them had been collected by the late Rev. J. A. Bennett, at

one time an honorary secretary of the Society (*Proceedings*, xxxvi, ii, 1-19).

Referring to the Arthurian legends as a whole we read in a new book, *A History of the Anglo-Saxons*, by R. H. Hodgkin, that they were 'a gorgeous web of fiction weaved round the sordid realities of the Britons' long struggle and their ultimate defeat'. But other authorities have thrown no doubt on the existence of the national hero whose memory has from time immemorial been associated with this site and with Glastonbury, as well as with distant parts of England and Wales.

But if we were really to know anything of the Cadbury of the past we must first withdraw beyond the influence of the spell which the beautiful romance of the days of chivalry had cast upon the spot. The large number of Roman coins which had been found there and in other parts of the parish, from before the time of Leland to the present day, had probably been the chief reason why various writers (not of this century) had regarded the camp as being of Roman origin, in spite of the fact that it lacked all the characteristics of a Roman fortress.

Mr. St. George Gray said that this prehistoric camp ranked among those of first-class importance like Maiden Castle, which latter however was larger. What one saw at Camelot to-day dated back, as was the case with most of the large hill-top camps in the south-west, to the Prehistoric Iron Age. That was rather a wide date in terms of modern archæology, but it was as far as they could venture safely until further excavations were conducted there.

Camelot was a remarkable and very striking contour-fortress standing 500 feet above sea-level, the natural hill being composed of inferior oolite which came to the surface at the bottom of the hill. There were four successive ramparts of enormous proportions with intervening ditches; and the highest vallum was 190 feet above the lowest, measured vertically. This fortress, therefore, was of immense strength, with two entrances, N.E. and S.W.

The base of the hill exceeded a mile in circuit and the upper vallum covered a length of more than two-thirds of a mile. The vallum was to-day supported in some parts by a stone-

built wall. The area enclosed on the top was about eighteen acres, and there could be little doubt that the inhabited part included a large number of pit-dwellings.

On the southern footings of the fortress a fine series of lynches, lynchets or cultivation-terraces were to be seen. The methods of construction and the precise purposes of these terraces were still the subject of controversy: Mr. C. S. Orwin and the Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Oxford, were conducting further investigations in the south of England, as he was not at all satisfied with the generally accepted explanation that they were made by ploughing downhill.

Mr. Gray made some excavations at Camelot in 1913, and Sir Archibald Langman, the owner, rendered him some assistance. Perhaps the chief cutting was that made in the upper fosse on the south side of the camp, which was found to be 9 feet deep down to the rock bottom. None of the shards of pottery found on and near the bottom were of earlier date than the Prehistoric Iron Age. A cutting was made at the highest part of the camp; the rock was soon reached and the objects found were valueless from a dating point-of-view, but red Samian pottery and a calcined flint axe were associated in the shallow soil.

The cutting made across the s.w. entrance was interesting; a stone wall was found on either side and the space between was cobbled or pitched. The relics found, all at slight depth, were of the Late Celtic and Roman periods.

Roman occupation of the camp had been proved, but Cadbury Castle was essentially an Iron Age fortress. Whether the site was occupied in any part in the Bronze Age or in the Neolithic Period would not be known until excavations on a large scale could be undertaken.

The Society's museum contained a number of specimens from the camp, including pottery, Roman coins, polished flint celts, quern-stones, spindle-whorls, sling-bullets, a bronze bracelet and a bronze terret. Some of these were 'chance finds' and not found in our excavations.

The members returned to South Cadbury, walking along the crest of the inner vallum to the N.E. entrance. At 3.50 p.m. the motors arrived at the great collegiate

Church of St. Michael, North Cadbury

The great Church of St. Michael, one of the finest in Somerset, was built between 1407 and 1417 by the Lady Elizabeth Botreaux with an exceptionally large chancel intended for the accommodation of the clerks of a collegiate establishment which she intended to found. Although she obtained the Royal License, her intention was never carried out. This early Perpendicular church is a building of exceptional symmetry and contains a remarkable series of carved benches added more than a century later, in 1538. The unusually massive nave-roof, of the familiar mid-Somerset enriched king-post type, is the earliest of its class and may well be the prototype of the other local examples.

Mr. Eeles described the church, and Mr. W. D. Caröe also spoke on certain of the architectural features.

Accounts of the building are to be found in *Proceedings*, xvi, i, 16; xxxvi, i, 54; and lix, i, 42. Its importance coupled with certain questions raised in regard to it suggest the desirability of a much more detailed account than has yet appeared.

North Cadbury Court

After the visit to the Church the members were entertained to Tea at North Cadbury Court, by the kindness of the PRESIDENT, Sir Archibald L. Langman, Bart., C.M.G., and the Hon. Lady Langman, after which the house and gardens were viewed. The building, etc., have already been described in the President's Address on p. 20, where other references are given. The host and hostess were cordially thanked for their hospitality by the Rev. Prebendary Ross.

Before leaving at 5.30 p.m., some of the members saw the village club.

Twenty minutes drive, *via* Sparkford and Queen Camel, brought the members to

Warston Magna Church

where they were met by the Vicar, the Rev. A. J. Bartlett. Mr. F. C. EELES said :

The Church of St. Mary consists of chancel, nave, west tower, chapel on the north side of the nave at the west end, and south porch at the west end.

The east end of the chancel has a Norman clasping buttress of shallow projection at each corner: the lower part of the wall which is of rubble is of this date and so is the greater part of the north wall of the chancel: near the east end of the north side is a plain square-headed window chamfered outside with a round-headed rear-arch: further west are some courses of herring-bone masonry. The east window is a group of three thirteenth-century lancets, the centre one very little higher than the others and the upper part of this wall and the south wall are of lias ashlar. A small, plain south doorway may be of this period, but the windows on either side are Perpendicular: that near the east end having three cinquefoiled lights under a square head, with trefoiled tracery lights. The window near the west end has two cinquefoiled ogee-headed lights with trefoiled tracery lights: it has a pointed head and a large external hollow moulding. This seems later than the more easterly window. The chancel roof is modern. The chancel-arch has two continuous orders, the inner one with wave moulding: these are stopped off with cushion stops on a rather high level. On the north side of the chancel near the west end is a curious break in the wall surface surrounding an early fifteenth century square-headed window with two trefoil-headed lights.

The nave has small and rather plain doorways close to the west end: there is a south porch now converted into a vestry with a segmental-headed outer doorway with two orders in the arch both moulded with sunk rolls. Further east on the south side are two three-light Perpendicular windows and there is a third near the east end of the north side: these have trefoil-headed lights, with trefoil tracery lights in two panels, the tracery being set very near the outer wall surface. A small square window near the east end of the nave seems to be a later insertion. The nave roof is modern. The date of the nave with the chancel-arch seems to be before the middle of the fifteenth century if not earlier. There is a rood-loft staircase in a slight thickening of the north wall near its east end.

On the north side of the nave at the west end a chapel or short aisle was added towards the end of the fifteenth century or even later. It covers the north door : east of this it is connected with the nave by a single arch with clustered responds and rather rich mouldings : these consist of three orders, all wave-moulded but with a deep narrow hollow or cut between them. The general effect is earlier than the period of the aisle, and there is some resemblance to the arches at North Cadbury. The aisle has a doorway, small and plain in its westmost bay : the two bays further east and the east end have large Perpendicular windows in three trefoiled ogee-headed lights with trefoiled tracery lights in two panels each : the west window is of the same type but in two lights. There are plain buttresses dividing the bays and one at each corner, and the ashlar parapet is plainly moulded. The roof is comparatively modern and plastered inside. On the north side of the east window within is an elaborate niche with a canopy in five divisions under a rounded cornice with a delicate cresting, and miniature vaulting within.

The westmost bay of the chapel is cut off by a screen which encloses a passage-way to the south door of the Church and also supports the east side of a wooden loft, of which the floor remains. It has simply moulded beams and there is a staircase to the loft in the thickness of the west wall. The screen is made up very roughly of several different sections which do not fit. There are some seventeenth-century scraps among them, and a plain eighteenth-century wooden gate which is not central. The beam above is prepared for the uprights of the central doorway, but it is not clear how the existing remains of screen-work fitted in. There are some lower panels with cinquefoiled heads ; the tracery lights are much narrower and have an unusual trefoiled treatment at the top. The present arrangement is so muddled and confused that only a measured drawing would adequately describe it. It is possible that some of the woodwork was in the arch leading into the nave.

The question arises, why are the north and south doorways at the extreme west end of the Church instead of in the second bay eastwards, as usual ? The answer may be that when the nave was first built it extended further west but that there

was no tower and merely a bell-turret like those of Ashington or Chilthorne Domer. When the tower was added it may have been found impossible to build so far westward with the result that it was necessary to pull down the westmost bay of the nave to make room for it.

The tower is a not very late example of one of the simpler Perpendicular towers. In general proportion it is reminiscent of the comparatively early tower of North Cadbury. It has three stages with angle buttresses, the south-east buttress being combined in a rather awkward way with the staircase-turret, the projection of which is not very great. There are only two embrasures on each side of the parapet, which has continuous narrow mouldings and very small pinnacles set on each corner. The string below terminates in large grotesque heads at the corners. The stair-turret is plain at the top. The belfry windows have each two lights trefoiled, with a blind quatrefoil in the tracery, and no label. There is a plain slit in the south side of the middle stage. The west window has three lights trefoil-headed, with trefoil-headed tracery lights in two panels. Above it is a label with large square stops tilted, each charged with a Tudor rose. This device also appears immediately above the window and on each central merlon of the battlements. The west doorway is small with narrow mouldings. The tower-arch has two recessed orders chamfered.

In two tracery lights of the window on the north side of the nave the ancient fifteenth-century glass remains. One light has the crowned head of a king whose hand holds a scimitar; another a chalice having a flowered knop and circular foot with the host above shedding forth rays in the form of a cross. This glass is in white and yellow stain. In two tracery lights of the eastmost window on the south side are two upright lily flowers in black and white, a most unusual and striking treatment.

In the westmost window on the south side of the chancel have been re-set some remains of fifteenth-century glass, chiefly crowns from borders, but including two small censuring angels and scraps of inscriptions in black letter reading '*Maria*' and '*Amē*'.

The font is Norman : it has a narrow moulded base, a thick circular stem and a not very deep circular bowl like a multi-form cushion capital with various devices on the semi-circular facets at the top of the volutes : four of these are plain, suggesting that the font originally stood close to a wall.

The pulpit and sounding-board are good plain work of the eighteenth century.

Before leaving the parish some of the members visited a small early seventeenth-century house to the s.w. of the church.¹ Others saw the moated site to the s.e. of the church. Edward Hutton in *Highways and Byways in Somerset* states that this place, known as 'Court Garden', is said to have been the site of an episcopal palace, but 'which may well have been that of a grange of the house of Polsloe. . . . The Church in the reign of Richard I was appropriated to the Priory of Benedictine Nuns at Polsloe'.²

There are very distinct outlines, grass covered, of a building here, and the quadrangular moat seems to have been filled from a stream which borders one side of the field.³

The motors returned to Sherborne a little before 7 o'clock.

Third Day's Proceedings

The motor-coaches left Yeovil at 8.50 a.m., and the Digby Hotel, Sherborne, at 9.20 a.m. for the

Church of St. John Evangelist, Milborne Port

of which the Rev. A. N. S. HOLBROOK is Vicar.

Mr. EELES emphasized the outstanding architectural importance of this Church. He said that it would be hard to find anything quite like the great arches supporting the central tower which were neither normal Saxon work nor yet the usual

¹ The date, 1613, is on the back of the house. The frontage is illustrated in *Trans. Devon Assoc.*, lxvii (1935), 352, and Plate xxvii. ³ *Ibid.*, 352.

² Polsloe Priory (St. Katherine's Priory) is 1½ miles n.e. of Exeter city and 300 yards n. of the Bristol road.

E. Hutton (p. 238) gives Dorset, and on the same page 'Polshoe' for 'Polsloe'.

A well illustrated account of this Priory, by A. W. Everett, is given in *Proceedings, Devon Archæol. Explor. Society*, ii (1934), 110-119.

type of Norman. These with their capitals and the chancel with its remains of external pilaster ornament might be regarded as undoubted relics of a church of exceptional importance erected at the very end of the Saxon period, just before the Norman conquest. He drew attention to Dr. Allen's very careful re-examination of its architecture which was printed in the last volume of *Proceedings*, vol. lxxx, and expressed the considered opinion that Dr. Allen's conclusions were right. He pointed out the great beauty and value of the screen with its exceedingly delicate tracery which Mr. Bligh Bond had rightly classed with the very similar screen at Winsham. He suggested that as the straight head pointed to an earlier date than that of the fan-vaulted screens of the Queen Camel and Trent type, it might be guessed that the lost rood-screen of Yeovil was a larger example of the same type as the Milborne Port screen.

Ven House¹

Here the members were met by the tenant, Major A. A. STUART-BLACK, and the owner, Sir HUBERT MEDLYCOTT, Bart., who described the building. Both of them were cordially thanked at the close of the visit.

Ven, begun 1698 and completed 1701, was built by James Medlicott, an ancestor of the present baronet, Sir Hubert Medlycott.

Interesting as being one of the best conditioned and complete examples of a country-house and garden devised and perfected by Englishmen in the reign of William and Mary, it retains much of its original appearance.

With the Restoration, let us remember, came a revival of building that had lapsed during the Civil Wars and Puritan ascendancy, but in the interval a change had come over architectural fashion.

Inigo Jones (*d.* 1652) sowed seed that sprouted forth into rapid maturity under the restored kingship. So it must be conceded that though the fashion of attributing to Inigo Jones this or many a house erected during the half century that

¹ Illustrated and described in *Country Life*, 24 June 1911.

followed his death, is wrong in fact yet it is largely right in spirit.

In one respect Ven exhibits classic principles even beyond what Inigo Jones deemed fitting for an English country seat. It may perhaps be called the design of Whitehall Banqueting House translated into the terms of a country mansion.

With architects of William III's time the flat roof was frequently adopted and there was no more favourite design than a classic order comprehending two storeys with a third storey superimposed as an attic above the entablature and surmounted with a balustrade. Such is Ven.

Richard Grange who signed the drafts, we may conclude, was the originator of this most excellent and stately structure.

Nothing whatever is known of him like many others of his time and this helps us to realize how widespread was the almost instinctive taste that then prevailed.

He used a finely made red brick but literally supplemented this with freestone for all dressings and details and used the fashionable new sash windows with their thick sash bars and the effect is excellent. These windows loom large in James Medlicott's accounts.

The clay for the bricks was dug close by—over half a million being used. The ashlar came from several quarries at some distance, the carting costing 3s. a load.

The total of the items included in the accounts amount to £2,492 6s. 4d.

The gardens are so completely of the style that prevailed under William, that they were no doubt designed at the same time as the house, though it may have taken a long time to perfect them.

The hall with the gallery standing on fluted Ionic columns presents a fine decorative scheme, but looks a little later than the date of the building, so perhaps James Medlicott paused a while before launching out into this additional expense. His portrait by Kneller hangs here and the ceiling picture is a copy of Poussin's '*Le Temps soustrait la verité aux atteintes de l'Envie et de la Discorde*', in the Paris Louvre.

Certain important alterations were made in 1836 by Thomas Cubit under Decimus Burton, the architect of Hyde Park

Corner and virtual founder of the town of St. Leonards-on-Sea, but their work was more in keeping with the original structure than many reconstructions made elsewhere in the nineteenth century, and Ven remains a singularly perfect example of a stately house of the time of Dutch William.

At 10.50 a.m. the motors continued the journey to

Purse Caundle

At the Manor-house, the members were met by the owner, Lady VICTORIA HERBERT, who gave a brief description of the building and the families who had lived there—the Aleyns, Longs, Hanhams and Hoskyns. The Hoskyns sold the manor to a London merchant named Raw, by whom it was left to a relative, Colonel Huddleston, who after some years of residence here sold the property to the present owner.

Dr. Peter Mew, Bishop of Bath and Wells and subsequently Bishop of Winchester, was born at the Manor-house and baptized in the Church in 1618. He distinguished himself at Sedgemoor.

Little of interest remains in the Church, which was ruined in the 'restoration' of 1883.

A short description of Purse Caundle Manor will be found in *Proc. Dorset N.H. and Antiq. F. Club*, xlix, pp. xxxiii-xxxv; see also Hutchins, *Dorset* (1870), iv, 143-149.

Lady Victoria Herbert was thanked on behalf of the members by Mr. C. H. Biddulph Pinchard, F.R.I.B.A.

At 11.45 a.m. the members arrived at

Henstridge Church

(Rev. B. W. Shepheard-Walwyn, Vicar). It was described by Mr. F. C. EELES.

The Church of St. Michael the Archangel is an unusually large building consisting of chancel and nave, north aisle to both, west tower and south porch. It was almost entirely rebuilt in the nineteenth century. Of the old church there remain the north aisle walls, the arcade north of the chancel, the arch between nave aisle and chancel aisle, the tower-arch

and a window on the south side of the chancel. The last is the earliest feature, unless perhaps the chancel arcade which has an octagonal pillar and responds. The south window is of three cinquefoiled lights with triangular tracery lights, apparently of the end of the fourteenth century. The restorers rebuilt the north nave arcade: in doing so they retained the four western arches with two recessed orders and sunk roll mouldings. In the west wall of the aisle is an old doorway: in the north wall are three windows, Perpendicular, in three lights cinquefoiled with two panelled trefoiled tracery lights. Almost the same type is found in the chancel aisle though recut if not renewed. The roofs are modern. The tower-arch is old, probably of late fifteenth century or early sixteenth century date.

The visit to the Church was made in order to see the two monuments in the north chancel aisle which there is some reason to call unique.

Between the chancel and the aisle there stands the splendid altar tomb of William Carent of Toomer and Margaret Stourton his wife constructed in 1463, with its canopy still retaining considerable remains of original colouring and remarkable painted inscriptions in black letter. In the centre of the lower or altar part of the monument on the chancel side is the excessively rare if not unique feature of an aumbry or locker designed for use in connection with the Easter Sepulchre. This is internally $25\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, 16 in. deep and $12\frac{1}{2}$ in. high: its sill is $31\frac{1}{2}$ in. above the chancel floor.

The monument itself and the effigies have been fully described by Dr. A. C. Fryer in our *Proceedings*, vols. lxxviii, p. 508; lxx, p. 74; see also xvi, i, 41.

It must have been made in Carent's lifetime and after the death of his wife, because we find that on 20 November 1463 Bishop Bekynton granted an indulgence of forty days to those penitents going to the tomb erected by William Carent in the prebendal church of Henstridge and praying there for him and for others named and for the soul of Margaret his wife.

According to the Sarum missal and consuetudinary the reserved Sacrament was placed in the Easter Sepulchre on Maundy Thursday, the altar cross was taken there on Good

Friday and both were removed again on Easter Day before Mattins; a light was burnt before the sepulchre during the time it was in use. This was part of the dramatic ceremonial of Holy Week and it went on with variations all over the north of Europe. The sepulchre was set up on the north side of the high altar and it took various forms. Most usually it was a moveable framework of wood hung with curtains and enclosing imagery. In the eastern counties the sepulchre was sometimes an elaborately carved structure of stone. Sometimes a permanent base was provided for it like an altar tomb. More often a monument to some person was used to contain or support the moveable structure and imagery, and there are instances where we find this use of a monument specified in a will in which its erection is ordered. The sepulchre had to include two sections; the one contained the imagery representing the resurrection scene, the other had provision for the Eucharist and perhaps also the cross. At Hawton in Nottinghamshire there is a stone structure like a mural monument with carved imagery enclosing a large recess that would have contained the principal figures with the cross, and also a small aumbry which had a door and was undoubtedly intended as a place of greater security for the reserved sacrament.

If we examine the Carent monument at Henstridge in the light of these facts we see clearly that the space above the effigies and below the canopy would have been used for a moveable structure containing the images and that the locker or aumbry in the lower part of the monument was for the reserved sacrament and probably the altar cross.

The following are definite instances where it is known that monuments in this position were intended to be used for the Easter Sepulchre.

At Stanwell, Middlesex, in 1479, Thomas Windsor directed in his will that his body be buried in the north side of the choir before the image of our Lady.

‘Wher the sepultur of our Lord standith; whereupon I will ther be made a plaque tombe of a competent hight to th’entent that y^t may ber the blissid body of our Lord and the sepultur at the time of Estre, to stand upon the same.’

At Hurstmonceux, Sussex, in 1531, Thomas Lord Dacre directed in his will that his body be buried

‘in the north side of the high auter there, where the sepulchre is used to be made, and one tombe to be made and ordeyned convenient for the making and setting of the said sepulchre.’¹

The question is sometimes asked whether such aumbries were used for ordinary reservation of the eucharist instead of the hanging pix. Certainly the permanent carved stone Easter Sepulchres of the eastern counties resemble the rich Sacrament Houses of Scotland and such use is not impossible. We have in Somerset two almost undoubted examples of Sacrament Houses, one of the fourteenth century at Orchardleigh and one of the fifteenth at Lovington. And it is practically certain that the thirteenth century plain aumbries in the walls of chancels, usually on the north side, were used for this purpose in smaller churches before the hanging pix became so common as it was latterly. But at the date of this monument one would expect a rather more dignified arrangement for permanent reservation than this locker in the lower part of an altar-tomb. It is not however a matter on which it is wise to be too dogmatic and it is unsafe to read back into the medieval period the ideas of later times.

In the north-east corner of the aisle is a kind of miniature altar tomb with canopy of Purbeck marble : however it is not diminutive in scale, but it is curiously shortened so that it has the appearance almost of an enlarged niche on a base. It has the ornamental detail common to a type of monument that was exported from the Purbeck area all over the country. Its form was clearly adapted in order to clear the two adjacent windows : hence the sloping west side and the shortening of the main structure. It measures 2 ft. 8 in. along the edge of the west side of the slab, 3 ft. 3½ in. along the south edge. The canopy is set back somewhat : it is supported at the front corner on a narrow octagonal shaft with hollow sides. There was probably a brass on the wall beneath its canopy. The base has evidently been repaired in modern times. No inscription is now to be found. Probably it commemorates a later William Carent who by his will proved in 1516 directed that his body be buried in this aisle of the blessed virgin Mary.

¹ *Easter Sepulchres*, Alfred Heales, *Archæologia*, xlii, 263–308.

The conveyances left Henstridge at 12.15 p.m., and proceeded, *via* Wincanton and the Maiden Bradley road to the Spread Eagle Hotel, Stourton, for refreshments.

At 1.40 p.m. by kind permission of Sir HENRY H. A. HOARE, Bart., and Lady HOARE, the members visited

Stourhead House

This famous house stands on high, chalky ground and is surrounded by one of the most beautiful parks in the south of England. The history of Stourhead can here be told only in brief.

In 1720 Henry Hoare purchased the estate and shortly afterwards demolished the ruined remains of the ancient castle of the Stourtons. Henry Hoare was second son of Sir Richard Hoare, Lord Mayor of London in 1712 and virtual founder of the banking house which still bears his name. The central block of the existing house was built by Henry Hoare from the designs of Colin Campbell (*d.* 1729), and is illustrated in that architect's *Vitruvius Britannicus*. The two wings were added by Sir Richard Colt Hoare (*b.* 1758, *d.* 1838), the antiquary and collector, to provide space for a library and a picture gallery, but it was not until after his death that the great portico was attached to the east front. To the master-hand of Sir Richard Colt Hoare is due much of the lay-out of the garden and the park. Many of the pictures collected by him hang in the suite of rooms on the piano nobile. His library has a very large lunette filled with remarkable stained glass by Francis Eginton (*b.* 1737, *d.* 1805), whose name has an honourable place in the history of English glass painters: there is a full description of this window in the account of the house given in *A Tour in Quest of Genealogy* by a Barrister, published in 1811.

A part of the gardens and beautiful grounds were seen as the members proceeded to the famous Bristol Cross.

It was a second Henry Hoare, son of the purchaser of Stourhead, who built the well-known landmark, Alfred's Tower in 1772, and who previously had transported the ancient high cross of Bristol to his park in Wiltshire about the year 1766. This cross, according to the detailed particulars given in the

Tour quoted above, 'formerly stood near the centre of the four principal streets in Bristol when it was first erected in 1373, and was afterwards adorned with statues of several of the English kings, benefactors to that city, prior and subsequent to its erection—King John, Henry III, Edward I and Edward III. In the year 1633 it was taken down, enlarged, and raised higher, when four other statues were added, Henry VI, Elizabeth, James I and Charles I. It occupied its original site till the year 1733, when to give more room to the streets at their confluence, it was taken down and removed to St. Augustin Street, College Green'. The cross appears to have become the property of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol and it passed from their custody to Mr. Hoare; the then rector of Stourton was brother of Dean Barton. It is curious that even in the eighteenth century such an interesting piece of antiquity should have been thought worth preserving only by an enlightened collector.¹

In 1399, within shadow of this cross at Bristol, William Lord Scrope, Earl of Wiltshire and Treasurer of England, and others, were beheaded without trial, by order of the Duke of Lancaster. Only a year later, Lord Spencer was beheaded there for having conspired against Henry IV. His head was afterwards sent to London. Under the Cross there was a great day of rejoicing in 1542, when a proclamation was made that Bristol had been made the seat of a bishopric.

A few of the members had an opportunity of paying a hurried visit to Stourton Church.

At 3 o'clock the members arrived at the

Church of St. Michael, Meare

of which the Rev. I. G. Cameron is Vicar. It was briefly described by Mr. F. C. EELES, who afterwards was thanked on behalf of the Society by Mr. H. Corder for all the work he had done in describing the churches during the three days of the meeting. A short account of Mere Church will be found in *Proceedings*, I, i, 45-46; see also C. E. Ponting's paper in

¹ See 'The Bristol High Cross at Stourhead', by C. E. Ponting, *Wills. Archæol. Mag.*, xxix, 171-177.

Wilts. Archaeol. Mag., xxix (1896-7), 20-70. The Churchwardens' Accounts of Mere have been transcribed by T. H. Baker, *Wilts. Arch. Mag.*, xxxv (1907-8), 23-92 and 210-282. Mr. Baker also wrote 'Notes on the History of Mere', *Wilts. Arch. Mag.*, xxix, 224-337.

Later the members visited the Chantry House, on the south side of the Church, by permission of Admiral Garwood. It was described by Lt.-Colonel E. G. Troyte-Bullock, C.M.G.

Zeals House

A short drive brought the members to Zeals House, the residence of Lt.-Col. E. G. and Mrs. TROYTE-BULLOCK, and here they were kindly entertained to tea and inspected the treasures in the house, to which, in the dining-room, a fine collection of costume and needlework had been added for the occasion.

Zeals House stands on a knoll of Greensand affording an ample supply of good water—a fact which probably led the ancient builders to select the site.

In the *Inquisition p.m.* of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, 'the jurors of Seles say that there is a certain capital messuage there, with a grange, a house and garden: and it is worth 6s. 8d. per annum: held by William de Goviz': date A.D. 1304. This probably refers to the original house, and it is noteworthy that an expert architect has expressed the opinion that the lower portion of some of the north walls of the existing house date back to 1350 or earlier.

In Lord Stourton's survey of the manor of Zeals Aylesbury (6 Ed. VI, 1552), among the Zeals papers, no mention is made of the house, but in a later survey of 1585 it is stated that the house, of which the situation is exactly described, was in a ruinous state. No record has been found of the re-building, but from a deed of 1651 it is evident that the Chafyn family had been living there for some time, and details of the rooms and outbuildings are given.

Since the date of the engraving in Hoare's *History of Wilts.*, larger windows must have been inserted, and after the death of William Chafyn Grove in 1859, his son, William, added a

large block to the south side of the house, put up the present tower, pulled down the old offices on the east side, and built the block of servants' rooms surmounted by the clock tower, and attached them to the old kitchens, on the east side, by a passage. A stone porch to the front door was also added at the same time, the building being completed in 1862. A moat originally enclosed three sides of the house; the survey of 1585 describes it as 'moated about'. The greater portion of the fifteenth-century roof remains, covered by a modern one. This was erected probably about 1859, when slate was substituted for the original stone tiles in order to lessen the weight.

Before leaving Zeals at 6 o'clock the President thanked Col. and Mrs. Troyte-Bullock for their hospitality. The coaches passed through Wincanton and Charlton Horethorne on the return journey to Sherborne, and this visit concluded the Meeting of 1935.

AFTERNOON EXCURSION

Bishop's Hull and West Buckland

On 3 October 1935 there was an excursion to the above parishes for members of the Society living in West Somerset. The conveyances left Taunton Castle at 2 o'clock and proceeded to the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

Bishop's Hull

where the members were met by the Vicar, the Rev. G. F. C. Raban. Among those present was Mr. F. C. EELES, who had come prepared to describe both Bishops Hull and West Buckland churches.

Accounts of Bishops Hull Church by the late Vicar, the Rev. R. C. W. Raban, and Mr. F. Bligh Bond will be found in *Proceedings*, lviii, i, 71-76—to which Mr. Eeles had not a great deal to add. He regarded the addition made to the south side of the building in 1826 to be interesting work of its kind. The oldest part of the Church was the base of the tower, which

dated from the thirteenth century. The chancel was rebuilt c. 1523 and the north chapel in 1530. At

West Buckland Church

the members were received by the Vicar, the Rev. J. H. D. Grinter. The decorations for the harvest festival that evening had just been completed. Mr. EELES said :

The Church of St. Mary, anciently a chapel to Wellington, has some very unusual features. Its situation on a hill in the western part of the Vale of Taunton is remarkable, and the view of the great tower from the low ground to the westwards is very striking.

The tower is large in proportion to the building : the nave is high in proportion to its length : it has but two bays.

The building consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles to both, south porch and west tower.

The earliest work seems to be the chancel-arch : this was originally of the thirteenth century. Next comes the north arcade ; the south arcade is a little later : both belong to the fourteenth century. The arch between the chancel and the south chancel aisle seems to be of the same date as the south arcade of the nave. The south aisle wall may contain work of the same period : the south doorway has a single sunk roll moulding, and the early Perpendicular window to the west of it may date from before the end of the fourteenth century. The south window of the chancel comes next, perhaps early in the fifteenth century, and then probably the east window. Later in the fifteenth century the north aisle was rebuilt, the other Perpendicular windows were put in and embattlements added to the south aisle. The tower is known to have been in building about 1509. Somewhat later the north chancel aisle was added : it has a lower roof than the aisle further west and no embattlements. The south porch is a modern rebuilding.

The chancel-arch and its responds are puzzling beyond words. Originally of the thirteenth century, the capitals must have been re-carved in the fifteenth. The responds seem to have been cut away below on either side to accommodate screen-work, perhaps at first a stone screen. The north side

appears to have been cut back a second time later. The outside or north side of the north respond of the nave arcade seems to have been cut back to give a better view into the later north-eastern chapel. Here the arch from the north aisle to the north chancel aisle is similar in a way to that on the south—both are of two recessed orders chamfered—but it is probably a later rebuilding on a higher level than the one on the south side, which looks fairly early. At the same time it must be remembered that the tower-arch of *c.* 1509 is of the same early type.

The nave arcades are of the fourteenth century. The pillars are octagonal and low, the arches very large and wide. The pillars and responds have hipped stops at their bases, but in the south arcade they have a necking: so too, the capitals on the south side are a little less plain, and the southern arches have sunk rolls, while the northern are merely chamfered. Probably the work was done before the middle of the fourteenth century, though the south arcade may be later.

The aisle walls were no doubt much lower originally and the aisles were very likely covered with a roof of steep pitch continuous with that of the nave.

The east window of the chancel is of four trefoiled ogee-headed lights supporting long tracery lights, trefoiled top and bottom, and reaching to the arch of the window. Internally the rear-arch is supported on small shafts.

The south chancel window has three lights trefoiled with two trefoiled tracery lights of the same width: it has a plain label. The small north chancel window is modern.

The two windows in the south chancel aisle, the eastmost in the south aisle and both in the north aisle are in three lights cinquefoiled, with triple panelled tracery lights with trefoiled openings: the west window is similar; so is the second window in the south aisle, except that the tracery lights have panels of trefoiled lights with only two in each division. None of these windows have labels: the north windows and the arches of those on the south side are of local stone, the tracery of the south windows of Ham Hill stone. The sills of the windows on the south side have been raised in modern times.

The window west of the south porch is of three lights cinque-

foiled with two wide cinquefoiled tracery panels and a label with large head stops, and is earlier in character than the other windows.

There is no window at the west end of the south aisle, but traces of one exist at the west end of the north aisle : there is a small blocked north doorway.

The windows of the north chancel aisle are square-headed and of three lights, with depressed trefoiled ogee heads : the tracery of the east window is a modern renewal. The arch to the chancel has clustered responds and mouldings of the usual late Perpendicular type.

There are no piscinas, but there is a very perfect plain semi-octagonal stoup in the east wall of the porch and a miniature pointed-headed plain niche above the south doorway.

At the east end of the south aisle of the nave in the thickness of the wall is the rood-loft staircase.

There is a curious thickening of the wall on the south side of the chancel in some connexion with the small plain priest's door there.

The nave has a waggon-roof of the fifteenth century with five purlins and foliage bosses : the wall-plate is classical in design, suggesting renewal, or perhaps covering, in the eighteenth century. The aisle roofs are late and plastered : the chancel roof modern. The flat tower ceiling has plainly chamfered beams and is ancient.

The tower is very remarkable : we know its date, for in 1509 John Peryn left 3s. 4*d.* to the building of the new tower of Buckland (*S.R.S.*, xix, 137).

It has three stages—or four if we only consider the west front, and angle buttresses, with their off-sets below the adjacent string-courses. The buttresses finish beneath the top string-course. There is a semi-octagonal staircase turret on the south side towards its east end, quite clear of the corner : its embattled top rises just above the battlements of the tower itself. These are divided by a projecting shaft in the centre of each side resting on an angel corbel a little below the top string-course and carried up into a pinnacle, of equal height with the corner pinnacles. There are grotesques at the corners of the top string including each corner of the stair-

turret where it encircles it. The belfry windows are each in two trefoil-headed lights with a tracery quatrefoil and no label. They have secondary tracery of the usual Somerset type. There is a small lancet in the west face of the central stage. The string below is carried over the top of the west window, like a label. This window has three cinquefoiled lights and tracery in two panels, each in three lights. The tracery is set exceptionally far back in the wall which is of unusual thickness. This part of the tower is ashlar, the rest is rough cast. There is a west doorway, with continuous mouldings which include a hollow between two wave mouldings, more like the work of an earlier period. The tower-arch within consists of three recessed orders chamfered, of which the two inner members fade into the responds.

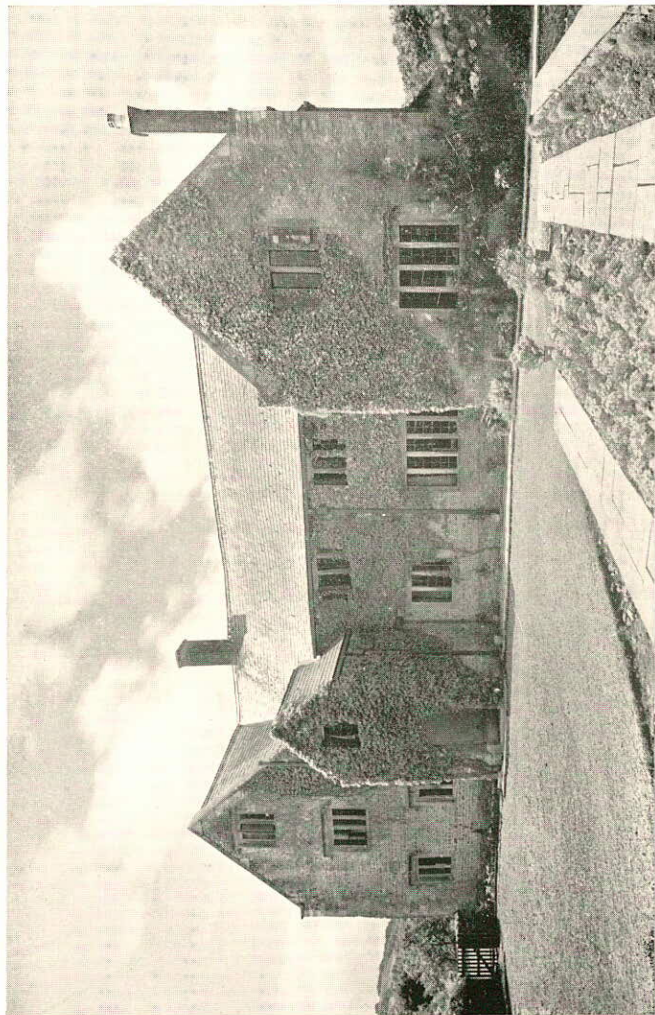
There are a few old benches of the sixteenth century in the south chancel aisle, with plain rectangular ends.

The font has a square thirteenth-century basin of Purbeck marble set on a modern base. The basin has shallow arcading on two sides, and large flat four-leaved ornaments on the other two sides. It belongs to a type found all over the south of England and evidently worked in the Purbeck area and exported from there.

There is a seventeenth-century joint stool, and two fine sanctuary chairs of the Charles II style and period. A good carved seventeenth-century credence-table of large size was probably the altar at one time. The present altar and its hangings very accurately reproduce what the original altar may well have been like.

Gerbestone Manor (Plate II)

Later in the afternoon the members were welcomed at Gerbestone Manor by Mr. and Mrs. LLOYD H. FOX, who entertained the members to tea in the old barn (now converted into a squash racket court). Afterwards Mr. Lloyd Fox described the building and its early history in the hall of the house. It was pointed out that the Society had visited Gerbestone on two previous occasions—in 1892 and 1912. It could not be included in the Wellington Meeting programme in the previous



GERBESTONE MANOR

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year because the owner was abroad at the time. Before leaving the host and hostess were cordially thanked on behalf of the members by the Rev. Prebendary J. D. Gedge, after which Mr. St. George Gray made some announcements, and apologized for the absence of the President, Sir Archibald L. Langman, who was in Scotland.

Since the meeting on 3 October the history of Gerbestone has been amplified.

Short accounts of the history of this ancient house and its owners have been given in the *Proceedings* on two previous occasions (xxxviii, i, 25 ; lviii, i, 36), and an illustrated article appeared on it in *Country Life* for 16 November 1935, only a few weeks after the visit of the Society. The following notes recapitulate what has already been published, and include further information and references collected by Mr. A. W. Vivian-Neal.

It seems probable that the name is derived from that of a certain Gerebert de Wellington, knight, who was either owner or occupier of property in the neighbourhood in 1235 (Cal. MSS. Dean and Chapter of Wells, i, 244). A John de Gerberdestone is mentioned in the earliest court roll extant of the manor of Wellington under date, 12 December 1277, when he was a juror (Humphreys' *Materials for History of Wellington*, ii, 166). In 1334 another John de Gerberdeston and Agnes his wife settled Gerbestone on John de Moleton of Ashill and Isabella his wife with remainder to their son Thomas (*S.R.S.*, xii, 171) ; it is perhaps indicated that Isabella de Moleton was daughter of John and Agnes de Gerberdeston. Two years previously, Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury had granted licence for celebration of the Sacrament during one year in John de Gerbarston's chapel (*S.R.S.*, ix, 139). Then, in 1365, John de Moleton sold the property, subject to the life interest of Agnes, his wife, to Sir Henry Percehay of Kyton in Holcombe Rogus, Justice of the Common Pleas (*S.R.S.*, xvii, 60). Sir Henry was a shrewd collector of reversions. He died in 1383 and was survived by his son, William Percehay, only for some seven years. Had William Percehay lived to succeed to all the properties his father intended him to inherit and continued the male line, the Percehays would have been one of the wealthiest families in

West Somerset, but he died without issue, and Sir Henry's estates were divided between his nieces and their heirs (*S.R.S.*, xvii, 207). Thus the Warres acquired Hestercombe, the Hulle or Hill family were enriched, and a third share came to Nicholas Hele in right of Alice his wife. The manor of Combe Florey was to be held by Sir John Hulle, Judge of the King's Bench, and Mathilda, his wife, for their lives, and was afterwards to pass to Nicholas and Alice and the heirs of Alice in perpetuity, but property in West Bykeleigh (? West Buckland) which perhaps included Gerbestone, probably came to Nicholas and Alice at once. According to Gerard (*S.R.S.*, xv, 52), whose account is generally accepted in this particular, Alice, the daughter of Nicholas Hele and Alice his wife, married William Francis and brought Combe Florey to him. In the Court Rolls of Wellington for 1432 (Humphreys, ii, 194), William Fraunceys makes default of common suit; therefore in mercy. Above the entry is written, 'by fine heretofore'. Evidently by 1432, Gerbestone was recognized as an outlying appendage of the Combe Florey property. Whether the Francis family used it as a subsidiary manor house or as a dower house, or whether it was always occupied by their tenants during the fifteenth century does not appear, but the discovery in the course of the recent restoration of somewhat elaborate wood-work of pre-Tudor character in the screens and hall suggests that the house was of considerable importance at least a-century-and-a-half before it was given its present architectural form. However, in the sixteenth century the manor of Gerbestone is known to have been let at least twice. In 1556 Richard Buckland of Martock, by his will, left to his wife Cecilia his lease of the manor of Gerberdiston which he had of the demise of Sir William Francis, knt., deceased. In 1581 John Perry left to his wife Elizabeth 'all such wenscott, bordes, bedsteeds, and hangings within my house at Gerberston', together with all the farm and stock and growing crops, also the lease made to him by John Francis (to whom he left a short gown furred throughout with collaber) of the farm and barton, dated 22 October, 12 Elizabeth, with remainder to John Perry of Halse, his brother, and his children. Elizabeth Perry of Gerbestone, widow, died in 1595.

The pedigree of Francis of Combe Florey in Weaver's *Visitations of Somerset*, does not make clear the relationship of William Francis, who is supposed to have married Alice Hele and who may be identified with the William Francis who owned Gerbestone in 1432, to the later generations of the family. He was probably the great-grandfather of the John Francis who married Florence, daughter of John Ayshford of Ayshford by his wife Florence, daughter of Sir William Poulett of Hinton St. George, it would seem during the reign of Henry VII. Nicholas Francis, the son of this marriage, married Cicely, daughter of Sir William Courtenay of Powderham, and had a son Sir William Francis, killed at Clist St. Mary in the rebellion of 1549. Sir William Francis married Mary, sister of Sir Maurice Berkeley, and had a son John Francis who married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Wyndham of Orchard Wyndham. The eldest son of John Francis was named Thomas and his will (*Som. Wills*, vi, 21) provides evidence that he lived at Gerbestone. It is suggested that on his marriage Gerbestone was made over to him, his father continuing to live at Combe Florey. This marriage would seem to have taken place at some date after the death of Elizabeth Perry, the tenant, and before 1606; and it seems likely that Thomas Francis enlarged the old manor house, renewed all the windows, and was responsible for the late Tudor or early Jacobean appearance of the building to which it has been restored by the present owners. The wife of Thomas Francis was Mary, daughter of the Sir John Chichester of Raleigh who died of gaol fever in 1586 after the Black Assizes at Exeter, and niece of Queen Elizabeth's Lord Deputy of Ireland. Thomas died without issue during his father's lifetime in or about 1615, and his widow married again. In his will, dated 15 June 1606, he directs that he is to be buried in Buckland Church, and mentions various members of his family and property in Devon and Cornwall. That he was responsible for the enlargement of the house would account for its evident importance at the beginning of the seventeenth century. His father died before 30 June 1620 (*Som. Wills*, vi, 21), and his younger brother, John, inherited the property. John Francis married at Dunster on 29 June 1612 Susanna, daughter of George Luttrell, and died in 1636

having had by her fourteen children of whom a list is given in Brown's MSS. After the death of her husband, Susanna Francis retired to Gerbestone. Her will (Wootten, 579; Brown's MSS., xiii, 8) is dated 2 November 1637, and in it she is described as Susanna Franceis, widow, of Garbreton in West Buckland. She directs that she is to be buried at Combe Florey near her husband John Franceis. The will was proved 26 June 1658. It is not known whether she continued to live at Gerbestone during the troublous times of the Civil War, but she had powerful friends on both sides. Her eldest son, John, who died in 1647, had married Katherine, daughter of Sir Francis Popham, and his two daughters and co-heirs married Sir William Bassett of Claverton of a cavalier family, and Edmund Prideaux of Forde Abbey, grand-son of Cromwell's Attorney-General. It was through this latter marriage that her descendants owned Forde Abbey until 1847 (Hutchins, *Dorset*, iv, 528), when it was sold after the death of John Fraunceis Gwyn.

No alteration or addition of architectural importance seems to have been made at Gerbestone after the death of Thomas Francis in or about 1615. The house was no doubt fully occupied in the time of his sister-in-law, Susanna, but later on it was clearly larger than was required to provide accommodation for its inhabitants, and only part of it was kept up as a dwelling-house. In 1894 William Temlett Marke, a member of an old West Buckland family, purchased the place from trustees. Mr. Hubert Lidbetter was architect for the restoration carried out in 1925 by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fox, the present owners, who purchased the house in 1924.

NOTE.—Further particulars relating to the pedigree of Francis of Combe Florey may be found under Gwyn of Ford Abbey in Burke's *Landed Gentry* (1851 edition). The account there given makes William Francis, who was the first owner of Gerbestone of this family, great-great-grandfather of John Francis who married Florence Ayshford. It seems probable, however, that Henry Francis, who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Bampffield, and died in 1457, was the son and not grandson of William Francis and Alice Hele. Nicholas, the son of Henry and Elizabeth, married a daughter of Nicholas Winard or Wynard, and as it was their son John Francis who married Florence Ayshford, it may be accepted that the generations in the pedigree and the list of the marriages of the Francis owners of Gerbestone are complete, although research would no doubt bring to light much forgotten information concerning this interesting series of Somerset squires.