

Mr. Palmer remarked that in this connection the preservation and safe-keeping of documents of county interest was a matter of deep concern to the society, and it was therefore fitting that the report for 1930 should contain reference to the public-spirited action of the County Council in equipping the cellars of the Shire Hall for the safe-keeping of documents and in making provision for facilities for their study.

The Presidential Address

The President, Mr. WILLIAM WYNDHAM, then delivered his address on School Museums. It will be found printed as the first paper in Part II.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE in proposing a vote of thanks to the President made allusion to Mr. Wyndham's magnificent gifts to the county of lecture halls and his support of museums.

The motion was seconded by Mr. A. W. VIVIAN-NEAL, and supported by the Very Rev. the Dean of Wells, Dr. ARMITAGE ROBINSON, who spoke of the great help which Mr. Wyndham had given to the cathedral city, and, incidentally, to the Dean and Chapter, who had housed in a cloister for many years the museum for which Mr. Wyndham was now helping them to provide better accommodation.

The vote of thanks to Mr. Wyndham was carried with great applause.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY made some observations on the discovery of megalithic remains on Exmoor, and expressed the opinion that there remained much more to be done in that area by the antiquary interested in prehistoric remains.

Dunster

After Tea at Newcombe's Café, the members left for Dunster at 4.15 p.m., and were welcomed at St. George's Church by the vicar, the Rev. Prebendary W. T. REEDER, local correspondent of the Society for Minehead and Dunster. He described the Church and Priory, and pointed out the chief points of interest. Members are referred to the late Prebendary Hancock's account of the Church in *Proceedings*, lii, i, 56-61,

and to his book, *Dunster Church and Priory*, 1905, with which should be read the later account by Sir H. C. Maxwell Lyte in *A History of Dunster*, 1909; there is also a small handbook by Prebendary Hancock, *Dunster Church and Priory*, 3rd edit., 1927.

At 5.15 p.m. the members visited Dunster Castle, where they were received by Mr. and Mrs. GEOFFREY F. LUTTRELL, who kindly conducted the party over the chief rooms. They were heartily thanked before the visitors left. Full information with regard to the Castle can be obtained from *A History of Dunster*, by Sir H. C. Maxwell Lyte.

At 6.10 p.m. the party left for

The Old Manor, Lower Marsh

where they were received by Mr. and Mrs. W. L. BLAND and Mr. F. C. EELES who acted as guide.

The history of Lower Marsh is recounted in part ii of *A History of Dunster* by Sir H. C. Maxwell Lyte, pp. 460, 464-7, where there is an illustration of the outside of the porch and the chapel over it. The building is one of much interest although considerably altered at various times. It consists of a great hall of the early part of the fifteenth century with an arch-braced roof and another hall at right angles to it also with an arch-braced roof. Late in the fifteenth century a porch and chapel above it were added. The chapel is very small: it has a beautiful waggon-roof, a Perpendicular east window of two lights, an image niche and a piscina, and it seems to have been entered from a gallery now destroyed. Its architecture is allied to that of the towers of Minehead and St. Decuman's and it may therefore be dated in the last quarter of the fifteenth century. Subsequent floors have obscured the early great halls whose roofs can now only be seen from the rooms upstairs.

Evening Reception

After dinner a Reception was held in the hall at the 'Plume of Feathers' by the Minehead Urban District Council, of which Mr. H. Chidgey is chairman and Mr. W. H. A. Thorne, clerk. A Local Committee had been formed to carry out the enter-

tainments that evening and also on the following evening in the Blenheim Gardens.¹

The proceedings began with an address of welcome by Mr. CHIDGEY. Mr. W. A. HOOK had arranged for that evening a programme of folk songs, most of which had been obtained from local inhabitants in past days. For instance 'Admiral Benbow' was taken down by the late Mr. Cecil Sharp from the late Capt. Lewis of Minehead. 'The Watchet Sailor' was obtained from the late Capt. Vickery of Minehead. A heaving chanty, 'Heave Ho! my Johnny' also came from Capt. Vickery. 'Spanish Ladies' was 'collected' by Mr. Sharp at Over Stowey, and 'The Two Magicians', better known locally as 'The Coal Black Smith', came from the late Mr. Sparkes of Hightertown (Minehead). These, and other songs were sung by Mr. J. H. Upham, Mr. J. Andrew, Mr. E. M. Hill and Mr. F. A. Webber.

Mr. T. H. Hosegood gave some dialect stories, including a yarn of 'Jan Stewer's' about the visit of an archæological society to Muddicombe, finishing with the diverting story of how Stewer 'played the viddle'.

During the evening Mr. H. W. KILLE read a paper on 'The Minehead Hobby Horse', which has been amplified and is printed in Part II of this volume.

While refreshments were being served later in the evening, an opportunity was given for seeing the local exhibition of objects gathered together for the occasion by a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. C. E. Kille, A. V. Cornish and H. E. Cranmer. A list of the exhibits is given below.

Mr. PHILIP STURDY, on behalf of the visitors, heartily thanked the local committee and those who had taken part in the proceedings that evening for the great success which had attended their efforts. He congratulated Mr. Chidgey on his striking address of welcome, etc., from which it was evident that those who controlled the affairs of Minehead and district were en-

¹ The Local Committee for the Entertainments consisted of:—Mr. H. Chidgey (*Chairman*), the Misses Forman and V. C. Sharpe, the Rev. Preb. W. T. Reeder, and Messrs. A. H. Andrew, A. E. H. Berry, A. V. Cornish, H. E. Cranmer, F. C. Eeles, W. A. Hook, C. E. Kille, T. Luxton, J. H. Upham and W. R. Rainforth.

deavouring to do all they could to preserve and maintain the beauties of the countryside and the 'ancient monuments' of which the West-country had a goodly share.

EXHIBITION AT RECEPTION

- Mr. H. E. CRANMER. Geological specimens, Watchet; watchman's rattle (London, 18th cent.); old glasses (18th cent.); English verge watch, 1830, in going order.
- Mr. T. E. COLLINGS. Coach-horn used on the Minehead-Lynmouth route; two coins dug up in Minehead.
- Mr. A. V. CORNISH. Flint axes, arrowheads, implements, etc., from a 'floor' on Hopcott Hill, Minehead; flint arrowheads and implements from a 'floor' near Selworthy; flint implements, including a holed adze-hammer, from near Dunster Station; flint implements from the North Hill and Millbridge Road, Minehead; relics from the great Minehead Fire of 1791.
- Mrs. J. ESCOTT. Two pipe bowls (18th cent.).
- Mr. R. FRENCH, occupier of Yenworthy Farm. 'The Long Gun of Yenworthy' (by permission of Miss Halliday; see description in *West Somerset Free Press*, 20 June 1931).
- Miss L. HAMMETT. Picture of old Minehead.
- Mr. NORMAN HADDEN. Flint flake from Badgworthy Valley.
- Mr. C. E. KILLE. Flint arrowheads, scrapers, etc., from Minehead and district; fox key (a dental extractor, *circ.* 1840); rush-light holder; clay pipes (17th cent.), Minehead; enamel patch-box, etc.
- Mr. H. W. KILLE. Two ancient indentures; old books and pamphlets; and a penny of Edward I, dug up in Blenheim Gardens, Minehead.
- Mr. A. STADDON. St. George's sword used by the Minehead Mummers (last performed *circ.* 1880); cannon ball dug up near Minehead Church; man-trap from Periton; pictures of old Minehead.
- Mrs. C. STADDON. Pictures of old Minehead.
- Mr. W. H. A. THORNE. Allotment of Ordnance to Minehead—deed dated 1702.
- Mr. ALLEN THORNE. Two old maps of Somerset.
- Miss TORR. Picture of old Minehead.
- Mr. HERBERT VICKERY. 'Serpent' used in parish church orchestra at Luxborough; and three old keys.
- Mr. A. VOWLES. Mesopotamian relics; pictures; and French camera, *circ.* 1860.
- Mr. J. WEBBER. Case of coins, many of which were dug up in Minehead.
- Mr. R. WILLIAMS. Excise stamp, dated 1842, found in an old house in Bampton Street, Minehead.

Second Day's Proceedings

This was called the Porlock Day. The motor vehicles left Minehead at 9.30 a.m. for

Bratton Court

After members had assembled in the courtyard, Mr. EELES gave a short account of the architectural features of the house. It is remarkable for the use of oak for mullions and window tracery which would have been made of stone in parts of the county nearer quarries from which suitable stone for such purposes could be obtained. Although there was a very early medieval hall on this site, there seem to be no clear indications that any part of the existing building is of earlier date than the fifteenth century.¹ The gate-house with its massive oakwork and original oak gate, and the oak Perpendicular window frames which have fortunately been preserved in those parts of the court which are not used as a farmhouse, were the source of much interest. Although oakwork of this character was common in West Somerset, and many examples survived until recent years, there is little now to be seen except in Porlock Vale. Mr. Bernard Hosegood kindly allowed members to walk through the house.

For the descent of the manor in the families of de Bratton, Fry, and King, see Chadwyck-Healey's *History of Part of West Somerset*, 323-339.

The members proceeded to

Selworthy

where they arrived at 10.20 a.m. After having seen the fourteenth century tithe barn in the rectory grounds by kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. J. N. Wallis, the party strolled through Selworthy Green, and were met at the Church by Mr. F. C. EELES, who described the building.

¹ F. Hancock, *Minehead, Somerset*, 42-51; other particulars in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.* lii, i, 35-37.

There is scarcely anything to compare with Selworthy. The rare combination of so fine a church in such an extraordinary situation with an entirely unspoiled village and so splendid a view with all its richness and variety of woods, fields, moorland and colouring may quite well exist nowhere else. Where the situation and circumstances would lead one to expect some small and rude if ancient and picturesque building, the visitor is almost startled at finding a large Perpendicular church with north and south aisles, including some of the most remarkable work of its period in the whole country. The south aisle of Selworthy dated 1538 has perhaps the third finest waggon-roof in all the west of England, and an arcade and windows whose beauty of proportion and refinement of execution are unsurpassed anywhere else. The north aisle is simpler, the chancel earlier, the massive west tower earlier still—perhaps late fourteenth century—while the cup-shaped font is the sole relic of the Norman church. The nave roof has very remarkable bosses, while in the south aisle are two exceptionally fine classical mural monuments. Much of the seating is ancient, the pulpit is of the early part of the sixteenth century, while the 1750 west gallery is a beautiful thing of its kind. A fifteenth-century monument, probably the base of an Easter sepulchre of a type found elsewhere in the district, has just been replaced on the north side of the altar. In the churchyard are the steps, base block and shaft of a fine cross. The Church and its contents have been described with great fulness in *The Church of All Saints, Selworthy, and its chapels of Lynch and Tivington*, by Francis C. Eeles: Taunton, Barnicott & Pearce, 1929.

The members were loth to leave Selworthy, but were almost up to time when they reached

Lynch Chapel

This is a perfect example of a small manorial chapel all built at one time, evidently by the same masons who produced the beautiful late Perpendicular work at Selworthy. It is probably somewhat earlier in date. It is remarkable for the narrowness of its windows and for its possessing three doorways and only two side windows. The original waggon-roof has never had

plaster added over the rafters. Recently it has been most carefully repaired and refurnished as far as may be in the ancient manner, under the direction of Mr. W. H. R. Blacking.

On proceeding to Porlock some of the private cars drove through part of the main street of the beautiful village of Bossington, but owing to the difficulty of narrow roads, the coaches took the nearer route. Doverly Court Reading Room was reached at noon but the building was not visited officially. It was described on the occasion of the Society's former visit to Porlock (*Proc.* lii, i, 31-32).

At 12.15 p.m. the members met at

Porlock Church

where they were welcomed by the rector, the Rev. D. Christopherson. At this stage in the day's programme a thunderstorm developed with heavy rain, and the Church was so darkened that it was necessary to use the electric light. Mr. EELES described the Church as a very remarkable building, consisting of chancel and nave without a division, south aisle, north porch, east end vestry and west tower and spire. The spire is curiously truncated at the top, the result of a gale about 1700. The east end, the tower, and the wooden framework of the spire date from the early part of the thirteenth century and there are remains of thirteenth-century work in the south aisle wall. But the wonderfully massive red sandstone arcade more probably dates from about 1400 when the aisle was raised in height and provided with its present windows. During the fifteenth century the porch was built and two-light windows of slightly varying character inserted in the nave walls, but the Church escaped enlargement in the rich style of the later Perpendicular period which has left its mark upon nearly every other church of equal size for many miles round. In the south aisle is a cross-legged effigy probably representing Sir Simon FitzRoger or Fitz-Roges, *circ.* 1260,¹ in a recess made in the fourteenth century for some other purpose, but the chief glory of the Church is the famous though sadly mutilated

¹ Fully described by Dr. Fryer on p. 81 of vol. lxii of *Proceedings* (1916).

altar-tomb with alabaster effigies of John, 4th Baron Harington of Aldingham and Elizabeth Courtenay his wife. It was probably placed in its present position in the eighteenth century, but it originally stood in the middle of the eastern part of the south aisle before the Lady altar, at which a well-endowed chantry was founded in 1475. The effigies are thought by Dr. Fryer¹ to date from about 1461, just after the death of the lady's second husband William, Lord Bonville of Chewton, while the monument belongs to the period of the chantry foundation. Its canopy which retains traces of colour is exceptionally lofty. On the north of the high altar is an Easter sepulchre base, in the form of an altar-tomb, of the early part of the sixteenth century, with very delicate carving. An earlier monument of similar type is in the porch.

The earliest carved stone in any church in the whole area is preserved here in the form of a small fragment of a pre-Norman cross-shaft with interlaced ornament.

The Church like others in Exmoor is of Celtic foundation, its patron saint being St. Dubricius or Dyffrig first bishop of Llandaff. Just over the Devon border the parish of Brendon commemorates one of the most famous of the early Irish missionaries, while at Porlock Weir there was a chapel of St. Olave which points to a settlement of Christianised Scandinavians. In few areas can we trace so many streams of Christianity. At a much later date, in 1642, King Charles I appointed as rector, Dr. Adam Bellenden, Bishop of Aberdeen and Chancellor of the University there, who had been deposed by the Covenanting Assembly of 1638 with the rest of the Scottish bishops.² Here he remained till his death in 1647. Although buried at Porlock his grave is unknown, but his memory is now perpetuated in the splendid reredos which has just been erected and in which the history of the locality is exhibited in sculpture, painting and heraldry. Unusual care has been taken in doing this work to provide something that, while reproducing the principles of the Gothic altar, is not imitative in detail, yet sufficiently in the Gothic spirit to blend with its surroundings.

¹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxx, 78-79.

² See *Aberdeen University Review*, vol. xix, no. 55, Nov. 1931, p. 1.

The Church has been described more than once, with great fulness ; in the late Prebendary Walter Hook's *History of the Ancient Church of Porlock*, London, 1893 ; in *A History of part of West Somerset*, C. E. H. Chadwyck-Healey, p. 339, where the important chantry foundation charter will be found, p. 477 ; and in *A Description of the Monument and Effigies in Porlock Church* by Mrs. Maria Halliday, Torquay, 1882, where the Harington monument is described and illustrated in detail with reproductions of the colouring on the effigies and the canopy.

After a buffet luncheon at the Castle Hotel, Porlock, the weather improved and the motors left at 1.45 p.m. for Porlock Weir where they remained until 4.35 p.m. In the meantime the greater part of the members walked *via* Worthy and Ashley Combe (by permission of the Countess of Lovelace) to

Culbone Church

where they were met by the rector, the Rev. E. Williams, and Mr. Eeles.

This tiny church, in an extraordinary situation amid woods overhanging the sea, inaccessible save by walking or on horse-back, is literally and truly the smallest complete parish church in England. Notwithstanding its diminutive size, its nave is comparatively lofty. Originally Norman or earlier, it was re-roofed and new windows were inserted in the fifteenth or the sixteenth century. The chancel has been partly rebuilt later, but it retains traces of very early masonry on the north side, where there are relics of a now destroyed adjunct, possibly an anchorite's cell, and a reused window cut out of one piece of stone and undoubtedly of very early date. There are a cup-shaped late Norman font, and a Perpendicular screen. The nave-roof and most of the seats are also fifteenth or sixteenth-century work. One of the two small bells, though uninscribed, is of the fourteenth century. The little building has just been repaired with great skill and care by Mr. Huish of Porlock under the direction of the eminent architect, Mr. William Weir.

All the members met again at Tea at the Castle Hotel, Porlock, after which the journey was resumed to

Luccombe Church

which was fully described by Mr. F. C. EELES.

The Church of St. Mary is remarkable for the extreme beauty of its situation under the very shadow of Dunkery, a large part of which is in the parish.

It consists of chancel, nave, s. aisle, w. tower, n. porch and vestry on the north of the chancel. The chancel is of the thirteenth century and is the earliest part of the Church, though it is possible that there may be earlier work in the north wall of the nave. As at Porlock it is of the same width as the nave and there is no chancel-arch: indeed there is great similarity between the Early English work here and that at Porlock.¹ The great west tower was added in the fifteenth century: slightly more developed than that of Dunster, which it somewhat resembles, it may be dated about 1450. Probably the porch and the nave roof belong to the same time. In the second quarter of the sixteenth century the south aisle with its beautiful east window and arcade and its richly carved roof was added, and the chancel roof renewed. Similar to the south aisle of Selworthy which is dated 1538, but not so rich, it may well be a few years earlier. The windows on the north side of the nave were placed there at the same time. The Church underwent a drastic restoration in 1840, when all the old fittings except the pulpit were taken away, the rood-screen pulled down and valuable ancient glass removed from the east window of the aisle. The tracery of the side windows was mutilated and the cusping sheared off. The east window was renewed in a misleading manner, a vestry added and various other moderni-

¹ The eminent architect Mr. Buckle who repaired the church in 1895 believed that here as at Porlock there was a south aisle in the thirteenth century: the existence of a vertical chamfered edge against which the east respond of the arcade is built shows that there was either an aisle or a transept here at that time. A difficult problem is presented by the height of this jamb, which suggests a transept without an arch, as it runs higher than the spring of an arch of the requisite height: yet it is abnormally far east for a transept. Further, a fragment was discovered in 1895 of what is almost certainly an octagonal pillar, which suggests an arcade. But whereas at Porlock the doorway in the aisle is definitely of the thirteenth century, here it is of the sixteenth.

sations effected, making the interior very dull. In 1895 Mr. Buckle repaired the fabric with great care and did what he could to undo the mischief done in 1840. We know exactly what he did and why he did it, and although modern opinion would question some things and in the light of present-day knowledge would wish to do a certain amount more, we may be very thankful that the Church was handled by a man of such great knowledge and with such care.

Architectural Description.—The east window is of three lights in a simple opening as at Porlock : it is an exact restoration by Mr. Buckle from remains he found when removing the flimsy sham Early English triplet of 1840. He found the sill 2 ft. below that of 1840, with the original jambs and two stones of the mullions. On the north side he discovered and opened out a tall lancet of the thirteenth century, 7 ft. 3 in. high and $12\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide, probably blocked in 1840. On the south he found another lancet, shorter, because above the piscina. This has a trefoiled arch and a double basin. Close to it is a single *sedile*, also with a trefoiled head, and beside that again is the chamfered jamb of the aisle or transept already mentioned.

The north wall of the chancel further west was unfortunately partly removed to provide for an organ, the vestry of 1840 being enlarged westwards in 1895 to include it. West of that a new two-light window was inserted in 1895 in place of a sham Early English one of 1840. This is over the base of the rood-loft staircase, which entered from the chancel and turned to the left—the more usual arrangement is for these staircases to enter from the nave side of the screen as at Selworthy and Minehead. The north wall of the nave contains a modern window on each side of the porch, the inner doorway of which is of the fifteenth century, recut in 1840, the outer doorway having been renewed in 1840. The rest of the porch is ancient, probably of the fifteenth century. It has a plain waggon-roof, a plain window with a square head on each side, a broken fragment of a stoup in the right-hand corner and a plain niche over the door.

The aisle has four bays. The clustered pillars with wave mouldings between the shafts, of the usual Perpendicular type, are exceedingly well proportioned and two of them have very fine wreathed capitals with grapes and vine leaves. They are

not so graceful and beautiful as at Selworthy, but the work is of an exceptionally high quality, and was no doubt carried out rather earlier by the same group of masons, probably working in Dunster. The eastmost pillar, which would have been largely hidden by the roof-loft, and the two responds, have moulded capitals like those in the north arcade at Selworthy. The east window of the aisle is exactly like the larger windows in the south aisle of Selworthy: the side windows were like the shorter one on the west side of the porch at Selworthy or those on the north side there. Having been so cruelly mutilated in 1840, Mr. Buckle entirely renewed them in Ham Hill stone, as he did the two in the nave. The west window of the aisle has two lights under a square head.¹ There are quatrefoils in the angle lights, but the cusping of the main lights is gone: Mr. Buckle presumably left this window and that in the vestry (probably a former chancel side window) to show the sort of mutilation which had gone on in 1840. There is a small, plain doorway in the aisle opposite the main doorway: it has a very depressed head and a plainly chamfered edge. As at Selworthy the piscina is earlier than the rest of the aisle: it is of the fourteenth century, and has a pointed arch with many mouldings. The altar in the aisle was probably dedicated in the name of St. Katharine.

The roofs are of exceptional value and interest. They are all of waggon type with three purlins and carved bosses and are almost entirely original. That in the nave is the earliest and its bosses are similar to those in the south aisle of Porlock and the naves of Dunster and Carhampton. The aisle and chancel roofs have carved ribs, as in the south aisle of Selworthy—an unusual feature in this district though common in some parts of Devon and all over Cornwall.

The Tower.—The tower is over 80 ft. high, in three stages. It has angle buttresses and a projecting staircase-turret of square section at the east end of the south side. Here we have the interesting peculiarity of the angle buttress being retained at this corner and combined with the staircase-turret, giving

¹ Mr. Buckle believed it to be a fragment of the transom of a bigger window, but there does not seem to be any evidence for this, although it is certainly an unusual window for this position.

the tower an unusually picturesque appearance when seen from the south-east. The tower-arch is tall and massive : the inner member has circular shafts and unfinished capitals. The west doorway has been renewed : it has simple mouldings. The west window, in three lights, has Perpendicular tracery with cinquefoiled lights supporting tracery-lights in two panels each containing two trefoiled lights. This tracery is a modern renewal, though not a recent one. The floor of the tower is a few feet higher than that of the nave. The belfry windows are rather tall, with cinquefoiled lights, and each has a quatrefoil tracery-light except that in the north side, which has two Perpendicular lights each trefoiled. The embattled parapet is beautifully treated with quatrefoils in each merlon of the battlements and grotesque heads on the string-course below, two on each side and one on each corner. There are bases for small pinnacles on the corners. The whole tower is very like Dunster save for the rather richer treatment of the parapet and the way in which the s.e. buttress is carried up the staircase-turret. Dunster we know was built by John Maris of Stogursey in 1443 ; Maris very likely built this one a few years later, and he may also have built the smaller and plainer tower of Exford a little later still. The roof of the ground floor of the tower has moulded ribs and carved bosses and seems to be largely original.

Fittings and Ornaments.—The pulpit is a fine piece of seventeenth century work, evidently from the same workshop as those of Minehead, St. Decuman's and Timberscombe. There are four panels from the old reading-desk worked into the front of the choir-stalls.

The screen which was taken down in 1840 was not of the rich fan-vaulted type, but of the earlier straight-headed kind, and might be compared with those of East Quantockshead and Pawlett. After its removal, the upper part was adapted for a reredos or altar screen, which stretched across the whole of the east wall, while some of the lower panels were worked into the front of the west gallery. Mr. Buckle found a lot of deal imitation work mixed with it, and he made use of various pieces of original work in a dwarf screen between nave and chancel and in panelling behind the altar. This was a mistake, as it would have been possible to have constructed a screen

which would have included the old work in its proper place, and this might be done even now. The upper part had numerous mullions with trefoiled ogee-heads supporting a series of circles containing quatrefoils enclosing leaf ornaments, as in the old Enmore screen, now at Huish Episcopi.

The seating is modern and replaces box pews of 1840 which were of no interest. Any of the earlier seating that remained must have been destroyed in 1840.

The Font.—This is of a usual Perpendicular type, octagonal, with a quatrefoil in each panel containing a leaf ornament, and two narrow trefoil-headed panels in each face of the stem. It is generally similar to the fonts at Porlock (though not so massive), Wootton Courtenay, and Dunster (though earlier and not so rich). The pyramidal crocketed cover seems to date from 1840, but it is not unlike what may have been there before : there is a somewhat similar ancient example at Old Cleeve. But if the font itself is without any very noteworthy architectural character, it has the special distinction of having been covered with the font veil down to the nineteenth century. The font veil was of course a very usual ornament in medieval times and it can be found in parts of the Continent to-day. But it fell out of use in England, no one quite knows when, save in a few places in the west. The writer when a boy about 1886 was told by Mr. Kitnor, the old clerk, that he could remember the font being covered in white. And a traveller records having seen the veil here in 1807.¹ In 1908 the writer was told by a woman in Culbone that her mother used to wash the great linen cloth used for the fonts in Lynton and Martinhoe, while the churchwardens' accounts of Madron, the mother church of Penzance, in Cornwall, and its chapelry of Morvah, prove it to have been in use there in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

The Easter Sepulchre.—On the north side of the aisle near the east end is a large altar tomb, with two rows of panels richly carved with floral and leaf designs. Between these rows is a large wreath or band of embossed carving. This monument used to be in the tower. Mr. Buckle moved it here in 1895 because this is said to have been its former position : Savage,

¹ Chadwyck-Healey, *West Somerset*, p. 158.

writing about 1830, mentions it as having been here. Its proper place is no doubt the north side of the high altar, as at Porlock, Monksilver and Winsford, or as in the case of the numerous monuments, *e.g.* at Spaxton, East Quantockshead, or Dunster, which were probably used for the same purpose, namely the erection of the movable frame for the Easter sepulchre, containing figures representing the resurrection of our Lord. The sepulchre was also used for the mystic burial of the consecrated eucharist and the altar cross in the course of the dramatic ceremonies which set forth the events of Holy Week.

When moved by Mr. Buckle it was found that one section of it was richly carved on the reverse. A replica of this portion was made and included in the reconstructed monument, while the original was placed for preservation inside the blocked doorway in the south aisle. It clearly formed part of another altar tomb, no doubt of earlier date, though of the Perpendicular period. The carving is of great beauty and refinement; it may have formed part of a previous Easter sepulchre.

The Lost Stained Glass.—Savage, in his *History of the Hundred of Carhampton*, Taunton, 1830, p. 163, describes a stained glass window which then existed here as follows :

‘In one of the windows of the south aisle of Luccombe Church, there is some good painted glass, the figures being executed with much spirit and in good taste. The Virgin and Child, St. John the Baptist with the Paschal Lamb, and St. Christopher passing a river with the infant Christ upon his shoulder, are the principal figures. There is a representation, but it is unfortunately broken, of a king holding in his hand the globe surmounted by a cross. From the armorial bearings of the Arundel family being in this window, it is probable that this glass was placed here under the auspices of some person of that family . . .’

Some of this glass is believed to have found its way to Holnicote whence it was taken to Selworthy Church and fixed in the east window of the north aisle there.¹ A story was current

¹ This is fully described by the writer in *The Church of All Saints, Selworthy*, Taunton, 1929, p. 19, and two armorial medallions are illustrated in Chadwyck-Healey's *West Somerset*, p. 66.

some forty years ago to the effect that the bulk of it was buried in the rectory garden at the time of the 1840 restoration.

Just before going to press the welcome news came that Mr. Howard, who has just been appointed to the rectory, had found a little of it in a box, returned by Miss Cox, the daughter of a former rector, in 1902, as being church property. Careful examination shows us what this glass was really like, and that it is of a kind which is almost unknown in this country. Portions of the figures mentioned by Savage were found, and in a remarkably fine state of preservation. They are (1) the head of the B.V. Mary, (2) part of St. John Baptist, (3) the hand and staff of St. Christopher and the holy child, (4) the orb and the head (?) of our Lord. There is also part of an arabesque Renaissance border with the inscription ✠ SENT ✠ IAN ✠ BATTIS ✠ in Roman letters. The whole of the work is carried out without any colour save yellow stain and pigment. Similar treatment is found in the window on the south side of the chancel of Winscombe, where we have the same exclusion of all colour except yellow stain. Apparently the heraldry had its proper colours. It is difficult to think that all this glass was of the same origin. There is a Gothic letter border describing the arms at Selworthy and some of the fragments here are of Gothic letter inscriptions. These latter and probably the arms are English work, but the rest seems to be Flemish and not merely work done here under Flemish influence, like the window at Winscombe. The heads which have just come to light are Flemish work of very high quality. The date is late, probably about 1540.

Monuments.—There is a brass in the nave floor to William Harrison, 1615, with an effigy: it is reproduced in Chadwyck-Healey, *A History of part of West Somerset*, London, 1901, p. 147. On the south wall of the aisle is a fine and severely simple mural monument to members of the Worth family 1649, while on the north wall of the nave is a large tablet to the famous Royalist rector, Henry Byam, 1669. The inscriptions on both monuments are given by Chadwyck-Healey, pp. 152 and 170.

Two plans of the Church, one before and the other after the restoration of 1895, will be found in Chadwyck-Healey, pp. 156–7, where the manorial history is fully dealt with.

The members returned to Minehead at 6.30 p.m.

Evening Entertainment

In the evening (8.30 p.m.) the members of the Society were invited by the Minehead Urban District Council and the Local Committee to an exhibition of Folk Dancing and a display by the local Hobby Horse in the Blenheim Gardens. There was an audience of about a thousand people. The entertainment was a great success, but unfortunately the evening was rather damp and cold for the time of year. Miss M. Forman was responsible for the organization of the country, morris and sword dances which were performed by young people from Minehead, Alcombe, Timberscombe, Kilve, and Holford. The popular 'Selling's Round' by the massed teams, which included the 1st Minehead District Rangers, brought the programme to a close.

During the interval in the dancing Mr. R. Martin entered the ring with the 'Hobby Horse'. In this display he was assisted by W. Webber (drum), O. Atkins (accordion), and H. Burgess, all being attired in jerseys and white ducks. The performance was voted a great success (*see* Mr. H. W. Kille's paper in Part II on this subject).

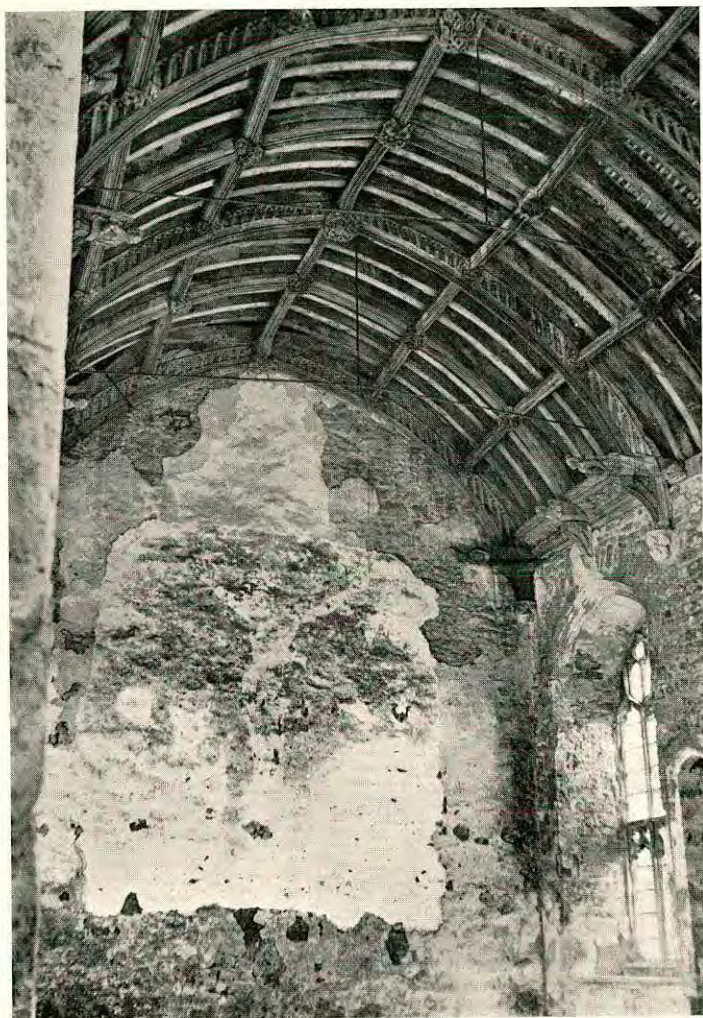
Third Day's Proceedings

On the third day the Society devoted its attention to places east of Minehead, including Cleeve Abbey, Nettlecombe, and Orchard Wyndham ; but before leaving Minehead the

Church of St. Michael

was visited at 9.20 a.m., and here the members were received by the vicar, the Rev. Preb. E. Parry Liddon. The edifice was described by Mr. F. C. EELES, who had recently issued a full description of the Church as a handbook to visitors. Other information is obtainable from the late Prebendary Hancock's account of the Church published in our *Proceedings*, lii, i, 19-24 ; and in his book, *Minehead in the County of Somerset*, 1903.

The motor-coaches left the Square at 10.15 a.m. for



CLEEVE ABBEY

The Refectory with Remains of Fresco of the Crucifixion

From a Photograph by Mr. F. W. Hembry.

Cleeve Abbey

where Mr. Eeles acted as guide, and explained the many architectural features. There is so much literature on the subject that it will be unnecessary to give any description in this place. Members are, however, referred to Mr. Eeles' paper in Part II of this volume, which deals mainly with the excavations which have been in progress in the area of the Church during the year 1931. The visitors left the Abbey at 11.40 a.m., and at noon were met at the inner gate of

Nettlecombe Court

by Sir WALTER J. TREVELYAN, Bart.,¹ who gave an interesting account of the history of the estate and house. He afterwards conducted parties through the library, hall, and older rooms. In the library were shown the medieval chalice and paten (*Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.* xlv, 1899, 167-170). They are among the oldest pieces of English plate, bearing a date-letter, known to exist. The hall-marks on each piece are distinct—(1) leopard's head; (2) date-letter for 1479, a capital Lombardic B. with double cusps; (3) maker's mark, a dimidiated fleur-de-lys. The quality of the design and workmanship must have been unusually high even at that period, and the chalice and paten may have been a gift to the Church from the rich and much-travelled Sir John Trevelyan who died in 1494.

The estate was granted to Hugh de Ralegh in the reign of Henry II. The male line of the Raleghs died out in 1440, and Thomas Whalesborough, whose mother was Joan Ralegh, inherited. His daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, married Sir John Trevelyan, ancestor in the male line of the present Sir Walter Trevelyan.

Nettlecombe Court is fully described in *Country Life* of 1 February 1908, and in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.* liv, i, 77-85. As it now stands, it dates from the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, but it is not improbable that the ancient hall of the Raleghs was incorporated, though no medieval work is visible. The

¹ Sir Walter Trevelyan died at Nettlecombe on 23 December 1931, at the age of 65 years.

house is remarkable for fine examples of plaster work of three distinct periods. (*Decorative Plasterwork in Great Britain*, Lawrence Turner. Illustrations: 105, 109, 110, 209.) The ceiling of the hall is Jacobean, as is also the overmantel which bears a shield of arms surrounded by a bold design of strap-work, above which the plasterer has introduced a deer-hunting scene. The old dining-room has a moulded ceiling and mantel, the latter dated 1641. This is a fine example of unsophisticated country-work of the Caroline period, and is an interesting contrast to the exquisite decoration of the walls and ceiling of the staircase hall, dated 1733. Here we have a rare instance in plaster of rococo design with chinoiserie *motifs*, a formula afterwards developed by Chippendale.

One of the most notable pieces of furniture at Nettlecombe is the great table in the hall. It has been restored in recent years to its original position.

Much interesting information relating to the history of Nettlecombe and its owners will be found in the *Trevelyan Papers*, published by the Camden Society, 1857, 1863 and 1872.

Sir Walter Trevelyan was cordially thanked by Mr. F. C. Eeles. The church bells were rung to welcome the visitors, the sexton, who is 86 years of age, being one of the ringers.

Some of the members who did not devote too much time to the Court had an opportunity of inspecting the Church before the whistle gave notice of departure at 1 p.m.

Nettlecombe Church

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin which stands only a few yards to the s.e. of Nettlecombe Court, is chiefly remarkable as possessing the early altar-plate mentioned above, and for the famous Seven Sacraments font, the subject of a paper by Dr. Fryer published in this volume. But the Church is not without architectural interest, although devastated by injudicious restoration in 1869. The tower, which is at the west end, appears at first sight to be the oldest part of the existing structure, and seems to date from the first half of the fifteenth century, but it is probable that the walls of the chancel and nave which show no work now which can be definitely assigned

to an earlier date than the end of the fifteenth century, are actually those of a thirteenth-century church, or at any rate follow the foundations of an earlier building.

An arcade of three bays on each side separates the nave from the aisles. The pillars of the arcades have foliated band-capitals. The north aisle was extended along the north side of the chancel to form a memorial chapel to Sir John Trevelyan who died in 1522. This chapel is divided from the chancel by an arcade of two bays and is remarkable for the rude character of the moulding on the pillar and arches. The east window of the chapel is contemporary work of somewhat better quality. Two north windows seem to have been added early in the seventeenth century. These three windows contain remains of ancient glass, elaborately restored. The two large heater-shaped shields in the N.E. window of this aisle are of the arms of Raleigh and Whalesborough. These are almost certainly fifteenth-century glass, and judging from their size and character, may well have been removed from the clerestory when the Church was restored. At this time attractive, if misleading, clerestory windows of thirteenth-century type were put in. Although several fifteenth-century windows were left at the restoration, there does not seem any reason to suppose that the windows of earlier character then inserted were copies of those which were replaced, so that without evidence of what the windows were like before the restoration, it is difficult to discover whether the original church had aisles or not.

The roofs of the nave and north aisle have been completely renewed, but the south aisle has a barrel-roof, divided into square panels which have been plastered. The moulded ribs and some of the carved bosses seem to be original.

This aisle, which does not constitute part of the parish church but belongs to the Trevelyan family, seems to have been the burial place of the Raleighs. Three effigies of members of this family are preserved in two, deep, porch-like recesses in the south wall. The effigies are fully described by Dr. Fryer in *Proceedings*, lxii, 79 *et ante*; lxiv, 42; and lxvii, 35. It is probable that the altar in this aisle was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of the Raleighs. The paved altar-base is still in position, and five interesting encaustic tiles have

been set in it. On one of these are the arms of Raleigh, *a bend fusilly*; on three of them, a shield charged with three chevrons and part of a floral border above each shield; and on one tile is *a lion statant guardant*, boldly designed. There is also a tile decorated with a chequer pattern, the glaze well preserved, let into the wall near the site of the altar; if in its original position, a rare survival of the use of encaustic tiles for wall decoration.

A few carved bench-ends of various sixteenth century types have been preserved, and the pulpit which is entered from the rood-loft stair is a fine example of late seventeenth-century oak wainscot with carved ornament above and between the panels.

Into the exterior of the east wall of the south aisle a stone coffin lid has been built. It is decorated with a plain cross—the moulding has an almost semicircular section—rising out of a small square base. The arms of the cross extend almost to the edges of the stone.

A buffet luncheon was provided for the members at the Egremont Hotel at Williton, from whence a departure was made at 1.50 p.m., for

Battlegore

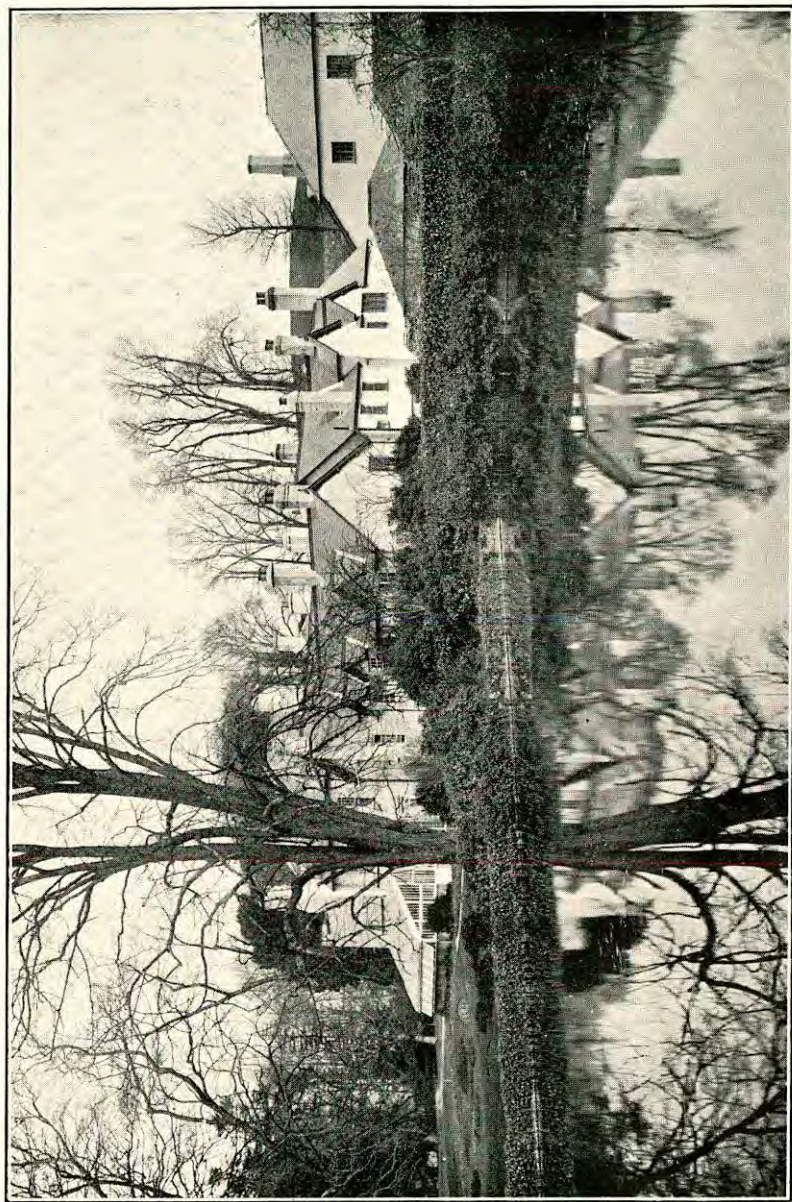
where excavations had been conducted by Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY in the spring. As the field was covered with long grass the outline of the mounds and earthworks was scarcely seen. Mr. Gray did not say much on the spot as he would be reading a paper on the subject at Minehead that evening, and illustrating the same by a series of lantern slides. (*See Part II of this volume*),

The next stop (2.25 p.m.) was at

St. Decuman's Church, Watchet

where the members were met by the vicar, the Rev. W. Burgess.

This is the third largest church in the district and is of great value and interest. Messrs. Cox of Williton are about to publish a very full account of it by Mr. Eeles which will contain the inscriptions on the remarkable series of Wyndham monuments. Here it will be sufficient to recall its salient features.



ORCHARD WYNDHAM from the South

From a Photograph by H. H. Hole, Wiltton

It consists of chancel and nave with aisles, south porch and west tower. The chancel has a fine east window with plate tracery of *circ.* 1300. The south aisle is Perpendicular work of the middle of the fifteenth century; the north aisle and tower belong to the end of the century. Two distinct varieties of local Perpendicular work are here; the tower resembles that of Minehead and the waggon-roofs are very fine. Strange irregularities in the arcades and a second rood-loft staircase are explained on the supposition that the Church was once cruciform with a central tower and that the change of plan was gradual. The different steps in the process are worked out in detail in the book already referred to. There are many thirteenth and fourteenth century tiles, no doubt made at Cleeve Abbey; a great deal of interesting screenwork remains, of an earlier type than the group of rich screens in the district; there is a fifteenth-century font and a fine Jacobean pulpit. But perhaps the chief feature of interest is the wonderful series of monuments to the Wyndham family, including an important Elizabethan altar-tomb with a canopy which stands free of it, and some very unusual embossed portrait-brasses. A modern altar with hangings in the family heraldic colours has recently been placed by our President in the south chancel aisle. The churchyard contains the remains of a fine fifteenth-century cross, and the holy well of St. Decuman with three basins at intervals is on the hillside beneath the west end of the Church.

The members left St. Decuman's at 3.10 p.m. and proceeded to

Orchard Wyndham¹

via Bowhays Cross, Burrow Rocks and Lower Stream. They were welcomed by Mr. WILLIAM WYNDHAM, and he and his sisters kindly took them over the house in parties.

This house has an exceptionally complicated plan, and it is hard to reconstruct its history.

On the N.E. side are remains of an early house with kitchens, etc., and hall with double framed arched brace roof of simple character. The doorways leading out of the kitchen still

¹ The description of this house has been to a large extent taken from notes by Mr. F. C. Eeles.

remain. This work is probably of the middle of the fifteenth century. The present condition of the buildings make it impossible to discover the whole of the original plan.

In the reign of James I extensive changes were made in Tudor style by Sir John Wyndham, son of John Wyndham and Florence Wadham. The old kitchen still remains but it has subsequently been put to various uses, though its purpose was not disturbed by the Tudor enlargement which cut doorways in the s.w. side leading into a new hall that was erected then at right-angles to the earlier hall. The side of this hall is now the front of the house. Originally the plan of this side seems to have had a projection from the wall to enclose a doorway, while at each end the buildings themselves projected to the line of the porch-front. In the nineteenth century or perhaps somewhat earlier when no one very much cared about the original plan, they set forward the wall of the central portion on either side of the doorway, so that the front of the house is now flush and not, as before, on the 'E' plan. Sir John seems to have built floors across the fifteenth-century hall and constructed rooms with ceilings and panelling of the time. Work of the Tudor period can be traced further s.e. in a new range of buildings, and also in an eastern range which completes the large rectangular plan of the whole building. Within what was once a courtyard, a large staircase was built in the eighteenth century, and more rooms were added and reconstructed in various parts of the house. Many subsequent alterations were made, and it would be necessary to break plaster and make elaborate investigations if the many difficulties regarding the history of the various parts of the building were to be cleared up.

At present the following are the most noteworthy parts of the house: the early hall disguised by later additions; the fine panelled room built inside it as a second storey; the great hall built in Tudor style; the small Tudor room in the s.e. range; the excellently-planned eighteenth-century staircase; and the fireplace of pink Periton marble in a late seventeenth-century room in the front range. This fireplace (Plate V) was repaired by Mr. Wyndham in 1930. While this was being done a Tudor mantel consisting of a mutilated stone lintel and jambs was revealed; it was left untouched and now exists behind the



ORCHARD WYNDHAM

Fireplace in late XVII Century room in the front range, after repair in 1930.

From a Photograph by H. H. Hole, Williton

mantel illustrated. Some white Queen Anne tiles in cheeks built across the angles of the Tudor opening at a later date were left *in situ* ; over these cheeks, still later, other brick jambs had been built up to accommodate a tiled grate.¹

So many works, alterations, partial destructions and additions in fact are concisely summed up by the owner's own metaphor, ' a palimpsest '.

Mr. Wyndham exhibited a painting which shows the old dovecot, since unfortunately demolished. The site may be seen on a knoll in Pigeon House Close near the house.

Of particular interest are the lead water-heads on the front of the house which bear the arms of Sir William Wyndham, secretary-at-war and chancellor of the exchequer to Queen Anne, and his wife Lady Catherine Seymour, second daughter of Charles Duke of Somerset.²

Tea was provided on the lawn during the afternoon, and Mr. Wyndham was heartily thanked on the proposal of the Rev. Prebendary Reeder, seconded by Mrs. Bates Harbin. The opportunity was also taken on Mr. Wyndham's spacious lawn to thank Mr. Eeles for the vast amount of information he had provided in the description of the churches, etc., visited during the meeting. Mr. H. D. Badcock gave expression to the thanks of the members, and Mr. Eeles replied.

The members left Orchard Wyndham at 5.10 p.m., passing the northern lodge and Williton Church *en route* for

Withycombe Church

which was described by Mr. F. C. EELES.

St. Nicholas, Withycombe, is the best example in the district of a small church which escaped all enlargement in the Perpendicular period. It consists of nave and chancel only, with a massive tower on the south of the nave, the ground floor of which forms a porch. There is a modern vestry on the north of the chancel.

The whole building seems to be mainly of the thirteenth

¹ This tiled grate has been restored by Mr. Wyndham in its original condition as we illustrate it.

² Collinson, iii, 490.

century, although nearly all the windows were renewed in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The fine screen is later still. The plain chancel arch has a narrow chamfer and is of the thirteenth century.

The fourteenth century east window has three trefoiled ogee-headed lights with three ogee-headed quatrefoils in the tracery.

On the south side of the chancel are first a thirteenth-century lancet window and then a fourteenth-century window with two trefoiled ogee-headed lights and a quatrefoil in the tracery : the head is rather depressed for a window of this type.

Between these windows is a small doorway with a plain chamfered arch externally, but with a rear arch of curious ogee-headed form. The whole appears to be of the fourteenth century although the outside doorway looks earlier.

On the south side of the nave is a large Perpendicular window of three cinquefoil ogee-headed lights running up to a square head. The tracery is set back in the wall so that there is a large hollowed splay externally. There are remains of a very narrow label.

On the south side of the nave west of the tower is a fourteenth-century window in two ogee-headed trefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the tracery and remains of a plain label.

The west window has three cinquefoil-headed lights with tracery in two panels, each subdivided into two trefoil-headed lights.

On the north side of the nave, about the middle, is a Perpendicular window of three cinquefoil-headed lights, with tracery consisting of four trefoil-headed lights running up to the head in a manner common in the rest of England, but not common here, though there is an example in the west end of the north aisle of Selworthy.

At the east end of the north side of the nave, probably inserted to light the northern side of a former screen, is a square-headed window of three trefoil ogee-headed lights in very red sandstone, apparently of the latter part of the fourteenth century. Above it is a small single light window with a plain square head, probably inserted to light the existing rood-loft.

The original north side of the chancel has been largely cut away to make room for the organ and vestry.

The tower is low and massive, very striking in its extreme simplicity. Embattled at the top, it is absolutely devoid of ornament, and has no stringcourse, off-set course or buttresses. It is covered with rough-cast like the rest of the church, because it is built of very rough rubble which was not intended for exposure.

The plain outer doorway without mouldings and covered with rough-cast, has been filled, no doubt early in the seventeenth century, with an oak frame, which has simple mouldings, to contain a door—the original door still remains—the whole being very like the type of doorway one so often finds in the earlier cottages in West Somerset.

The inner doorway is of some size : it has two recessed orders chamfered and a label with a plain half-round moulding of late thirteenth-century type. On the left is a fine and large holy-water stoup, consisting of a square block of stone projecting from the wall with edges chamfered and a basin worked in it.

In the upper part of the tower are narrow rough lancets to light the belfry, one in each face.

The position of the tower may be compared with Sampford Brett and Treborough.

The screen is one of the local group of seven which was probably made at Dunster. Its date is perhaps about 1500 or a little later. It is large in scale for the church. Whereas the St. Audries' screen, now at Exford, made for a small church, is remarkably small in scale, here the bays are large and there are only five, arranged to cover the whole width of the nave just outside the chancel arch. The details of tracery and vaulting are common to the other screens of the group. The treatment of the lower panels is like that at Carhampton and Timberscombe, having cinquefoil ogee-heads to the tracery with little quatrefoils in the angles. At the base of each panel is a square, divided saltire-wise with a leaf ornament in each division on the north side, but containing a quatrefoil in the remaining panels on the south side. The panels themselves have been renewed in the seventeenth century and now contain shallow carving of the usual Jacobean type. This suggests that there had been at one time figures of saints which Puritan iconoclasts had destroyed.

The southernmost bay of the screen has been mutilated to provide access to the pulpit: the whole contents of it have been removed and there is a little seventeenth century panelling below the pulpit stairs. The pulpit is modern. The mullions have been removed from the rest of the screen and the doors are gone. The cornice has been very fine, but one member and both crestings are gone. The whole screen has been covered with brown paint and varnish, and its condition is worse than that of any other screen in the district. Its need of careful repair is known to the authorities and causes them some anxiety.

The rood-loft staircase was in the south wall: at some time it has been removed, but the entrance remains.

Above the altar and beneath the east window a carved beam crosses the chancel. It is much earlier work than the screen and is probably of the fourteenth century. It is ornamented with very vigorous carving in relief on a flat background. From the mouth of a grotesque head thrice repeated, naturalistic foliage spreads in both directions. The central section is smaller and is divided from the other two by places where projections have been sawn off. An interesting problem is presented by this arrangement which suggests two other beams at right angles. Was this the cornice of an earlier screen? And were there two screened chapels at the east end of the nave, one on either side, somewhat as at Guilden Morden in Cambridgeshire? If so, this would account for the peculiar provision for beams projecting at right angles with just enough room for a passage way between them. That some such arrangement may have existed here is suggested by the notable effigies in the nave, one of which, with its strange stone candlesticks, is not now in its original position. If this conjecture is correct, the effigy with its candlesticks stood in a screened chapel at the east end of the nave, and there may well have been a companion chapel on the opposite side. Somewhere about 1500 when rich fan-vaulted screens became fashionable, the fourteenth-century chapels may have been found in the way and removed. The population may have increased and there may have been no endowment for keeping up these monuments, which by that time might have seemed to have

been taking up space needlessly. It is unlikely that this carved beam is part of the wall-plate of a roof, because it is doubtful if a roof would be so richly decorated in the fourteenth century.

It is very unfortunate that the appearance of this beautiful little church has been spoiled by the plaster having been stripped from its walls sometime before the War. It is hoped this may be replaced.

The font is of the thirteenth century. It has a circular cup-shaped bowl with a series of slightly vertical sinkings like very wide flutings. Beneath the bowl is a cable moulding. The stem is cylindrical and roughly hip-stopped on to a plain base. A few tiles remain which were probably made at Cleeve Abbey.

Reference has already been made to the early monuments in the nave.

Of these one represents a civilian of about 1290, according to Dr. Fryer, who describes both on p. 20 of the *Proceedings* for 1917, vol. lxiii. It is in a plain recess on ground level in the south wall of the nave.

The other is a beautiful figure of a lady, probably of the Fitzurse family, about 1300, and is now lying on the sill of the Perpendicular window on the north side of the nave—clearly not its original position. At each end is a most interesting vase-shaped stone candlestick, of square section, embattled at the top, and carved with naturalistic foliage of a date somewhat later than the effigy. These are described by Dr. Fryer and illustrated, facing p. 8 of the same volume, and the effigy facing p. 4. Both effigies are of Ham Hill stone.

In the churchyard lies the base block of a cross of octagonal section above, hip-stopped on to the square below. The cross once had a lantern head, a fragment of which with the figure of a bishop in a niche at one side was recently found built into a gate-post in the village and is now preserved in the church.

Leaving Withycombe at 6.10 p.m., the motors arrived at Minehead at 6.30 p.m.

Evening Meeting

A meeting for the reading of papers was held at the Gymnasium, Minehead, at 8.30 p.m., when Prebendary W. T. Reeder occupied the chair. There was a good attendance.

The first communication was entitled 'Excavations at Battlegore, Williton', by Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, F.S.A., which was illustrated by lantern slides. This paper has since the meeting been considerably amplified, and is printed, with plans, drawings and photographs, in Part II of this volume.

The other communication, also illustrated by lantern slides, was by Mr. F. C. EELES, F.S.A.SCOT., on some special features of West Somerset Churches.

Fourth Day's Proceedings

This was called the Exmoor Day. The motors left Minehead at 9.25 a.m., and reached Exmoor *via* Porlock and the toll road through the woods, from which fine views of Porlock Bay are obtainable.

The coach-road was then taken to the entrance to Glenthorne, a little beyond County Gates, and from this point the members walked a short distance to

Old Burrow Camp, Exmoor

which Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, F.S.A., described in the following words :

'This camp is in the parish of Countisbury, Devon, but the village of that name is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant to the west, Lynton $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles west. Although in Devon we are only 800 yds. to the west of the Somerset border at Coscombe Linhay. From the edge of the sea-cliffs there is a rise to the centre of this camp of 500 ft. The view is very commanding with Hurlstone (Hurtstone) Point on the east, and Countisbury Foreland and at a greater distance the Great Hangman on the west. The property belongs to Miss Halliday of Glenthorne.

'The outer earthwork has the general appearance of being circular, but a careful survey shows flattening on the N., S., E. and W., the minimum diameter from crest to crest being 258 ft., and the maximum 285 ft. Outside the bank is a well-defined fosse. On the S.S.W. an entrance is seen, which by excavation was proved to have existed in early days.

'A large part of the enclosed area is occupied by a square enclosure having double defences and rounded corners. The

square is seen to be of slighter relief than the enclosing outer earthwork and occupied an area internally about 80 ft. square ; in the centre a small slight mound is traceable which produced nothing on excavation. The outer bank of the square is decidedly more feeble than the inner one, and has a ditch on either side of it. The average width covered by the square and the double earthwork is 144 ft. The sides of the square practically correspond with the lines of flattening of the outer earthwork. The entrance to the square is clearly seen on the north.

‘ The rocks of Countisbury are the Foreland grits, apparently the oldest group of Devonshire rocks in North Devon. Mr. Ussher informed me that the fine grit is composed of quartz and apparently felspar with particles of white mica, and is more or less ferruginous, weathering brown.

‘ The excavations were carried out by Dr. W. M. Tapp and myself in 1911 under a scorching sun at the end of the summer. Eleven cuttings were made.

‘ The s.s.w. entrance proved to be $9\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, and the outer ditch averaging 5 ft. deep was cut into the Lower Devonian grit. Another outer ditch cutting was made on the N.N.E. in the position where there is a little gap through the vallum which did not look ancient. No entrance causeway was found here, and there was no ancient entrance in this position. The depth of the V-shaped ditch here was 5.5 ft.

‘ In trenching in the central space a few fragments of weathered pottery were found apparently of Romano-British type, a scrap or two of flint, and some charcoal. We also made cuttings across the double entrenchment of the square in two places. One proved that the entrance on the north of the inner enclosure was 13 ft. wide. In another cutting, the most southern, two flakes of black flint were found under the inner bank on the level of the old surface, and at the same level our most interesting find, an iron axe-adze broken across the oval socket to which remains of the wooden handle still adhered. Its total length was $17\frac{1}{4}$ in., the axe end being much larger than the adze end. It probably was a tool used in the construction of this little camp. It is not unlike a modern “cross-axe”. The tool is perfectly adapted to trenching work in rough soil.

The nearest parallel to our specimen was found at Novaesium in Germany. I have entered into more detail on this implement in my paper in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, xlv (1912), pp. 703-717. In this paper I have discussed the finding and the scarcity of Roman coins in the extreme west of Somerset.

‘The scarcity of archæological remains at Old Burrow was disappointing, and what little pottery there was, much weathered and very fragmentary. When the axe-adze and the pottery are considered together the evidence weighs strongly in favour of the square enclosure being of Roman date and type. The Romans probably never penetrated Exmoor, but the work may be ascribed to the Romano-Britons. There is no reason to suppose that the Celtic inhabitants of West Somerset and North Devon, if not so thoroughly Romanized as elsewhere, were not used to, or unable to procure, tools of Roman manufacture and pottery of the Roman type universal in the country.

‘As to the purpose there can be little doubt that the area was used as a post of observation, probably by Romanized Britons, among others, down to the time when, in the late seventh and early eighth centuries, the Danes and Norse were hovering about the Channel and settling in South Wales.

‘It may have been constructed as part of a system of road-patrols, and, probably, signal-stations, initiated in the middle or late fourth century, and comparable with the well-known Yorkshire coastal signal-stations.’

The members walked back to the motors and proceeded, *via* County Gates and the new road to

Dare Church

where they were met by the rector, the Rev. E. Williams and Mr. F. C. Eeles.

Famous for having been made the scene of Lorna Doone's marriage by R. D. Blackmore in his novel, this Church is believed to be more visited by tourists than any other in the west of England. Blackmore did not invent the Doones but authentic records are silent as to any marriage at Oare. The building consists of a much altered medieval nave and chancel

with a mid-nineteenth century prolongation of the chancel eastwards and a rebuilt west tower. A marriage of the period at which Blackmore places Lorna Doone would have taken place between the modern choir-seats, some way west of the present altar. The nave is interesting for its untouched eighteenth-century arrangements, box-pews, pulpit and reading-desk, with some curious quaint local mural tablets. The pointed wooden doorway is allied to the domestic work of the late mediæval period in West Somerset, and there is an interesting piscina basin in the old chancel consisting of a head clasped by two hands. The two-light fifteenth-century window in the north wall of the extended chancel is the original east window.

This Church and also that of Culbone are fully described in *Oare the Church in 'Lorna Doone' and Culbone the smallest church in England*, by Francis C. Eeles : Taunton, Barnicott and Pearce, 1928.

Malmsmead

(Bridge and Lorna Doone Farm)

In spite of the narrowness of the roads all the motors had arrived at Malmsmead by 11.50 a.m. Some of the members remained here and took short walks and had luncheon. The more energetic proceeded under the guidance of Mr. ALFRED VOWLES to walk up the Badgworthy Water to the

Doone Valley

from which they returned at 2.15 p.m. Mr. Vowles' pamphlet (with map) on 'The Doone Valley' gives all the chief points of interest.

A forty minutes' drive, *via* Hawkcombe Head, brought the members to the

Porlock Stone Circle

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, standing on the largest stone, briefly described the remains, which he had surveyed in 1928, and fully recorded, with plan, in *Proceedings*, lxxiv, 71-77. Whereas this circle is 80 ft. in diameter, the similar circle on

Withypool Common is 120 ft. in diameter and consists of a larger number of stones (*Proc.* lii, ii, 42–50).

At the Porlock circle twenty-one stones remain, some very small, the largest (now recumbent) 6·3 ft. in length. There are ten standing stones and stumps remaining, and eleven stones prostrate, all of which fall pretty accurately on the circle except those of the s. and s.w. To the n.e. is another standing-stone on the n.w. edge of a slight mound.

Nearly a mile to the e.s.e. is an earthwork called Berry Castle Camp. This must not be confused with Bury Castle and Oldberry, both near Dulverton, and another earthwork, Bury Castle, on the high ground above Selworthy Church.

The stones of the Porlock circle are green micaceous sandstone presumably of Devonian age and probably of local origin. Dr. H. H. Thomas, F.R.S., tells us that the stone in quality and texture bears a remarkable similarity to the altar-stone at Stonehenge.

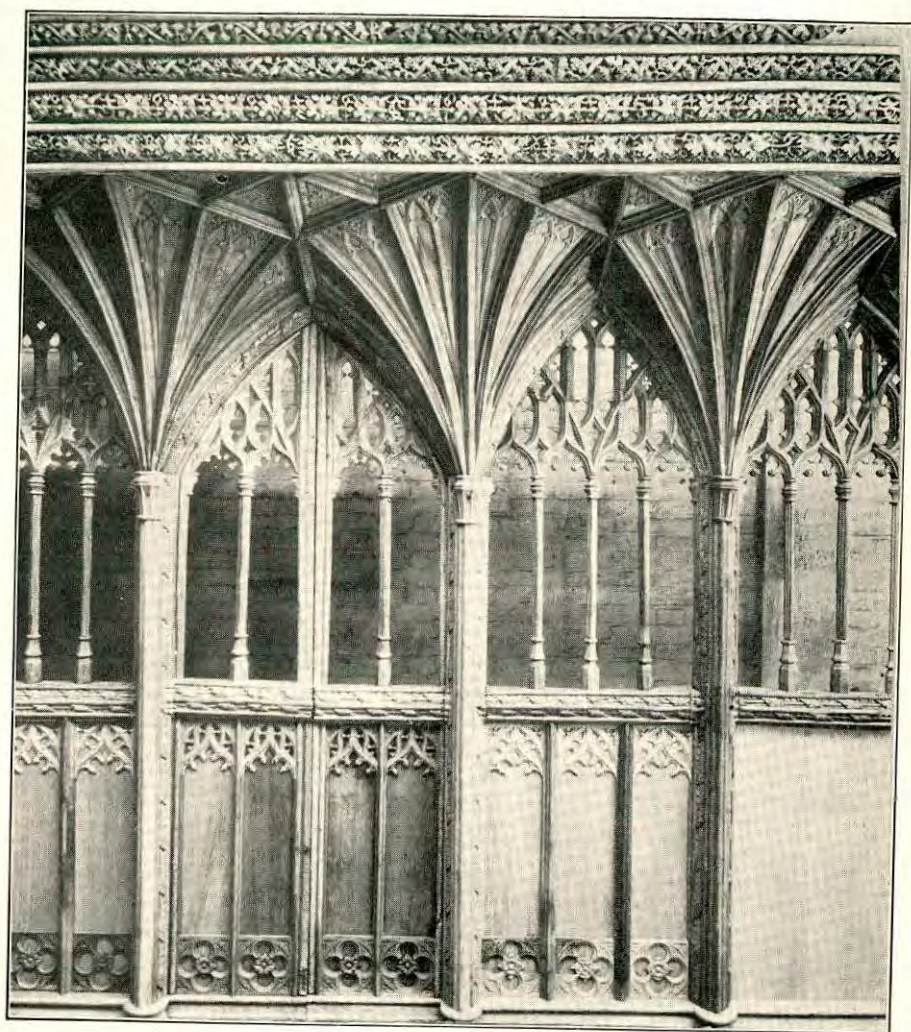
Two miles south of the Porlock circle is an oval-shaped arrangement of stones on Almsworthy Common. Since the meeting they have been surveyed, and are described, with plan, in Part II of this volume.

The next halt was made at Exford where Tea was partaken of at the Crown Hotel at 3.30 p.m.

Exford Church

This Church, of which the Rev. A. C. Carne is the rector, was visited by the Society as recently as 1923 (from the Dulverton Meeting, see *Proceedings*, lxix, pp. xliii–xliv), but it was included in the Exmoor programme in order that the members might have the opportunity of seeing the ancient screen, which formerly belonged to St. Audries Church, and which had recently been reconstructed from nearly 200 pieces and set up in Exford Church (Plate VI). The story of this ancient screen and its recovery is described in a pamphlet ‘From St. Audries to Exford’, issued in 1930 for the Central Council for the Care of Churches. The Church itself is fully described by Mr. Eeles in *Somerset Churches near Dulverton*, Taunton, 1928, p. 10.

The motors left Exford at 4.35 p.m., and proceeded *via* Wheddon Cross, Timberscombe and Ramscombe to



EXFORD CHURCH
CENTRAL PART OF SCREEN SHOWING DETAIL

Wootton Courtenay Church

of which the Rev. A. P. Lance is rector. The building was described by Mr. EELES.

The Church of All Saints is situated on the southern slope of Grabbist in a position a little like that of Minehead or Selworthy. It consists of chancel, nave, north aisle, west tower, south porch and vestry on the north of the chancel.

The earliest work is that of the thirteenth century, which includes part of the east wall and east window and the greater part of the tower. About the middle of the fifteenth century or a little earlier, the nave was re-roofed and the aisle added, although the design of the side and west windows in the aisle, which were renewed in the nineteenth century, looks rather earlier than the arcade. In the sixteenth century the south side of the nave seems to have been almost rebuilt when the two windows were added, and the east window of the north aisle renewed in the style of the time. In the nineteenth century the Church was very drastically handled. The chancel was almost rebuilt when Mr. Richards was rector, and the north aisle was extensively repaired, a new south porch built and the top of the tower rebuilt in a different form when Bishop Chapman was rector. There are certain points about the architectural history of the building which are not quite clear, in consequence of the nineteenth-century renewals which took place between 1860 and 1870.

The east window, almost entirely renewed by Mr. Richards, is a thirteenth-century triplet, like a small version of those of Luccombe and Porlock. The rest of the chancel is modern and a drawing in the Pigott Collection in Taunton Museum shows that the south chancel windows are not a reproduction of what were there before. The aisle windows (except the east window) are modern, probably reproductions: one over the plain, blocked door is square-headed; the others are in three lights trefoiled with two trefoiled panels in the tracery, of early Perpendicular type. The other three windows in the Church, *viz.* two on the south side of the nave and the east window of the aisle, are examples of the same beautiful late work of about 1525-1540 that we find at Selworthy, Luccombe and elsewhere

in the district. The east window of the aisle and the eastmost in the nave are of four-lights each, with quatrefoils in the angle-lights beneath the transom, and triple panelled treatment of the tracery : they are exactly like the east windows of the aisles of Selworthy and Luccombe and the west window of Dunster, save that they have large grotesque label stops : those on the south side are original ; those of the north aisle east window date from the restoration. The window west of the porch in the nave is of the same type but in three lights only and its label stops represent angels holding shields, one charged with the cross-keys. The rear arch of the eastmost window in the nave is supported by demi-angels bearing scrolls inscribed *Sancte Michael ora pro nobis* and *Sancte Gabriel ora pro nobis* in black letter—an unusual feature. A small square window high up at the east end of the south side was probably intended to light the rood-loft, and beneath it was another destroyed at the restoration. The south doorway is small, with a depressed two-centred head and very simple mouldings. The head is cut from one piece of stone, as at Timberscombe. Beside the doorway on the right stands a large rectangular block of stone with a hollow in the top for a holy-water stoup. On its face is a sunk quatrefoil containing a shield and the angle has a double ogee-moulded chamfer. It is illustrated in Parker's *Glossary of Architecture*.

The arcade of three bays has good clustered pillars and fine proportions. The shafts have moulded capitals. On each pillar is a niche with a double-gabled head and pinnacles.

The roof of nave and aisle are specially fine, particularly the aisle roof. Both have five purlins, but the aisle roof has exceptionally large bosses, very deeply carved. They are of the same type as those in the refectory at Cleeve Abbey and may have been produced at Watchet. They include the evangelistic symbols, the vernicle or head of our Lord, the pelican, St. George and the dragon, the sacred monogram, and a large variety of flower and leaf subjects. The repetition of the eagle as in the case of the chancel of Selworthy suggests connection with the family of St. John. The wall-plate is embattled and has a series of paterae on a hollow moulding. It is not as deep as that of the plainer nave roof where there are no paterae.

A number of tiles of the Cleeve type, but not of early date, are laid in the aisle floor.

The doorway of the rood-loft staircase was found in the east wall of the aisle, but the staircase is gone and the traceried opening above is modern. Here is a large squint looking from the aisle to the high altar.

The tower has angle buttresses, a plain flat soffited arch with a narrow chamfer, and a plainly chamfered west doorway. The west window is modern. The belfry windows are in two-lights each with plainly pointed heads. Over them on the north and south sides is a corbel-table with grotesque rain-water spout-heads, showing that there was originally a saddle-back roof running east and west, probably with a low parapet each side. The picture at Taunton already alluded to shows an upper storey above this with three plain lights on each side and an embattled top. Bishop Chapman replaced this with an almost grotesque saddle-back storey with roof running north and south and large and obtrusive windows.

The octagonal font has quatrefoils round the basin and a panelled stem. It may be compared with the rather earlier font at Porlock, the not dissimilar examples at Luccombe and Exford and the later example at Timberscombe. There is a dug-out chest very similar to that at Carhampton. In the churchyard is the base block of a churchyard cross of the sixteenth century, with small semi-detached shafts at the angles. At each side is a plain square panel which suggests a former inlay of some kind. There is the lower part of a shaft with miniature angle-buttresses, but the two steps below are modern.

At 5.50 p.m., the members arrived at

Tivington Chapel

the last item of the four day's programme.

The ancient chapel of St. Leonard in the manor of Blackford in the parish of Selworthy was long used as two cottages and is a picturesque thatched building. Its beauty has been much spoiled by the recent erection of a house close beside it which has aroused a great deal of criticism. Part of the

building is still used as a cottage, but it is only a more recent easterly extension. The chapel itself has been restored to the Church by the generosity of the Acland family ; it still retains a fireplace and other traces of domestic adaptation. It is chiefly of the early part of the fifteenth century and is fully described on p. 28 of *The Church of All Saints, Selworthy, and its chapels of Lynch and Tivington*, by Francis C. Eeles, Taunton, 1929.

The motors arrived at Minehead at 6.25 p.m., and most of the members departed for their own homes that evening.