

Thursday.

The weather on Thursday was no better than on the preceding day, nevertheless, the muster was large enough to fill four breaks. In a drenching downpour the carriages left the Grand Hotel under the direction of Lieut.-Colonel BRAMBLE, and proceeded up Lansdown Road to the Chapel Farm, a divergence being made at Camden Crescent *en route* to see the fine panoramic view of the city and country thence obtained.

Lansdown.

On reaching the hamlet of Lansdown, The Rev. C. W. SHICKLE, rector of Langridge, welcomed the party, and exhibited sundry plans arranged on a screen at the side of the porch of the ancient chapel of St. Lawrence. These were made by Mr. Gill, architect, and were explained in detail by Mr. SHICKLE (*see* Transactions of the "Bath Field Club," vol. viii, p. 158).

Thence, in sunshine the party drove to the site of the battle of Lansdown. Here, standing on the greensward at the roadside, they listened to a lucid description of the encounter, one of the most sanguinary of the Civil War, from the DEAN OF WELLS. The Dean explained that he had prepared himself for the task of military historian by gaining access to the top of the house known as Battlefields, whence he could survey not only the immediate scene of the conflict, but the various points held by the Royalists in the preliminary manœuvres.

The carriages stopped a furlong before reaching the monument of Sir Neville Grenville, with Cold Ashton and Marshfield well in sight on the N.E., and Roundaway Down on the

E.S.E., some fifteen miles distant. There the Dean spoke of the battle, and of some events that preceded or followed it (printed in Part II).

The Dean was heartily thanked for his address, which, had time permitted, would probably have given rise to some discussion, Mr. SHICKLE remarking that he did not believe the Royalists wished to capture Bath ; they were on their way to join the king's forces at Oxford, and finding Waller's troops near at hand they could not, gallant men as they were, resist the temptation of having a brush with the enemy.

The order to proceed, however, sounded, and while some resumed their seats, others crossed to the spot where stands the monument erected to Sir Neville Grenville, and made a closer survey of it.

Leaving the site of the battle, the road led down, past Battlefields, across the county border and up the hill to

Cold Ashton.

On reaching the village the beautiful manor house, built by, and long the residence of, the wealthy Gunning family, was visited. Here Mr. BUCKLE expatiated on the massive handsome gateway, with the Gunning arms doubly emblazoned, its snug porch and heavy original door of oak ; while some mounted to the balustraded leads above, whence a deep and wide expanse of broken, undulating meadow land could be seen.

Next the church was visited, where restoration, as Mr. BUCKLE remarked, had been carried out in a commendable conservative spirit. It was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and appears to have formerly been connected with the priory of Bath.

Mr. SAYRES gave a brief history of the church, which was erected on the site of an older one at the commencement of the sixteenth century by the then rector, Thomas Keys, whose rebus, a key and a T, appears on the labels of the window

mouldings, on the painted glass, and elsewhere (see *Proceedings* of Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society, vol. viii, 1883-4). The object that more particularly attracted the notice of Mr. Buckle and the visitors was the pulpit, which, made of wood, stands in a recess in the wall, with an ornamental stone canopy over. When it was placed there records fail to tell, though tradition says it was once occupied by Bishop Latimer. It was so arranged that a single doorway in the wall gave access both to pulpit and rood loft. While three stone steps on one side of the doorway led to the pulpit, a flight of steps on the other side led to the rood loft. The father of the present rector renovated the canopy, which apparently had been much damaged, as behind it a text of Scripture was painted, indicating that the space had been vacant. With these evidences of bygone neglect and mutilation it was the more pleasing to note the reverent care with which the edifice, both inside and out, is now preserved.

The next stoppage was at

Marshfield,

specially interesting in connection with the battle described by the Dean. Here luncheon was served in the Parish Room, previously a nonconformist meeting house.

The parish church of St. Mary once belonged to the Abbey of Keynsham, but Queen Mary gave both impropriation and advowson to New College, Oxford, in exchange for the manor of Steeplingee and other manors in Bedfordshire and Essex.

Here the Rev. — TROTMAN, of Northleach, son of the vicar, gave a succinct account of the manor and the church.

Mr. BUCKLE, in dealing with the architecture, ventured the opinion that the chancel had been at one time extended and a portion at the western end added to the nave. To this fact he attributed the double chancel arch, the position of the old one being marked by the outline of the door leading

to the rood loft, and by the archway (walled up) on the opposite side, which afforded another exit for the priest.

The church plate having been inspected, Colonel BRAMBLE stated that in the time of Elizabeth all the ancient vessels were ordered to be melted down and re-moulded to one pattern. The chalice had, as they would see, a rather large foot, and was shaped as a wine glass. It was made out of the ancient silver, and bore the date 1576. The cover, when taken off, could be used as a paten.

Canon TROTMAN explained that when he came to the parish he found that the foot, having been damaged, had been removed and the cover placed there in its stead. An entry in the register proved that it was done by a man in the town, who was paid five shillings for the work. He (the Canon) took it to a silversmith in Bristol, who had restored the foot in correct design, and the cover was liberated and devoted to its proper use.

Mr. F. T. ELWORTHY pointed out that after the Reformation, when the laity partook of the elements in both kinds, a larger chalice was required and hence the silver in the new ones was beaten out much thinner to provide vessels of greater capacity.

Canon TROTMAN wished to know why the two larger silver flagons were required.

Colonel BRAMBLE thought their introduction was due to the Puritans, who to show that they attached no significance to the Sacrament, were wont to get from the alehouse the cups used by the tapsters in drawing ale, which these silver vessels were modelled after.

Mr. ELWORTHY thought the size was due to the simple fact that a great deal of wine was consumed; people took heavy draughts, and therefore larger cups were required.

A clergyman remarked that this fact was confirmed by the large sums paid for wine, as disclosed in some parish accounts.

The mace, preserved with the church plate, which had formed

the subject of an interesting monograph by Mr. E. GREEN, appears to have had its origin in a lawsuit. Queen Elizabeth granted the manor to the Earl of Sussex, who sold it to George Gorslet, John Chambers, Nicholas Webb, and Thomas Cripps. The first-named had the largest share, and was lord of the manor. A dispute arose over the division of the property, which was carried to the Court of Chancery, where Gorslet gained the day, and as a peace offering he presented the mace to the town.

Leaving Marshfield the travellers turned towards Bath along the road skirting Cold Ashton and down the hill through Swainswick. It had been intended to go by Bannerdown, where stands the three-shire stone, but time prevented.

At

Claverton Manor

the members were courteously received by the President and his family, who had kindly prepared tea and other refreshments. In the picture gallery were seen relics found in exploring the ancient camp on the Down above, including pieces of rude pottery, tusks and bones of domestic animals, part of a quern, etc. From the charming grounds in front of the mansion and the romantic views there to be seen, the visitors strolled through the wood known as Bushy Norwood, on to Hampton Down, where Mr. SKRINE pointed out the ancient ridges of earth and stone hut circles, with remains, in one or two instances, of stone floors, and an excavation conjectured to have been a well. In the adjoining field was pointed out a continuation of the same earthworks, also the roadway that passed through the camp.

Here Prebendary BULLER, in the name of the Society, thanked Mr. Skrine for his services as President, and bore testimony to the advantages as well as honour of having one of the most distinguished laymen in the county—one respected and revered in that neighbourhood—at their head. Under his guidance they had been enabled to pursue their labours in

peace, while there was much that was exciting and acrimonious around them. They could not be too thankful for these favourable circumstances, as well as for the courtesy, geniality, and hospitality of their President. Their thanks were also due to the Mayor of Bath, to the Secretary, Colonel Bramble, who had so ably managed their excursions, to Mr. Buckle, and to those gentlemen who had admitted them to their houses, and allowed them to inspect the same, wet and foot-dirty as they were.

Mr. SKRINE briefly expressed his acknowledgments for the compliment paid him, and the pleasure it gave him to be of any service to the Society, whose presence in Bath would be welcome oftener than it had been in the past. He hoped that further explorations would be made in the camp around them, the magnitude of the area attesting the importance of the settlement and the valuable discoveries it was likely to yield.

Colonel BRAMBLE replied and intimated his indebtedness to the local Committee for their co-operation, specially mentioning Mr. E. T. D. Foxcroft and Mr. Daubeny, the hon. local secretary.

The visitors then walked to the top of Bathwick Hill, where the breaks were in waiting, and in these, after taking a cordial farewell of Mr. Skrine, they returned to Bath and dispersed. Thus ended the forty-seventh annual meeting of the Society, to the success of which, the Assistant Secretary and Curator, Mr. W. Bidgood, contributed not a little.