

Ninth Annual Meeting.

THE Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society, was held at Bruton, on Tuesday the 4th August, 1857, under the Presidency of the Right Honourable Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE.

The noble President in his opening address observed, that, it was gratifying to know that the County of Somerset was not only well adapted to the pursuit of Archæological enquiries, but was, to a great extent, virgin soil. The Agriculturist knew well the value of virgin soil, and the Archæologist was equally alive to it. The dialects of Somerset had not hitherto been attended to as they ought; and even to this day there was unfortunately no decent History of the County. From the public spirit displayed by the gentlemen of Somerset on some occasions, he hoped the time was come when we might look forward to having a decent History of the County; and if some dozen gentlemen would put their shoulders to the wheel, each taking perhaps a hundred—and the gentlemen of the County would assist by their contributions—it might be done. Nothing could be more interesting than a work of this description would be, and it was surprising that there was not more anxiety evinced to obtain one. His Lordship alluded to the local customs that were dying out and becoming obsolete, and strongly urged on the Members of the Society, the importance of recording them before they entirely disappeared. His Lordship expressed the deep interest he felt in the Society, and trusted it would receive from the County, the support it required and deserved.

The Rev. F. WARRE then read the following Report of the Committee :—

“ In presenting their Ninth Annual Report, your Committee have the pleasing duty to announce that though the Society has lost many of its Members from death and removal, and other causes, the loss has been made up by recent accessions. The number of new Members admitted during the year is 31. The Committee at the same time desire to express their earnest hope, that a large proportion of the Members may be induced in future to take an active part in promoting the objects of the Society. They are convinced that the Society has among its associates very many whose acquirements and opportunities would enable them to render material aid in the elucidation of the Archæology and Natural History of the County. There is a wide field open, and great need of prompt and energetic action. The ravages of time and the more cruel ravages of ignorance and indifference, together with the inroads of agricultural and economic improvements, render it imperative upon those who are interested in the History of the County, not to delay noting and recording the vestiges of the past, which are fast wearing away or being destroyed. The Committee venture to hope that this appeal will secure the active co-operation of Members if not by preparing and reading papers on definite subjects, at least by communicating to the Officers of the Society, such facts and observations as come before them in their several localities.

“ The Committee have the pleasure to acknowledge several valuable and interesting contributions to the Museum during the past year, and they would strongly urge upon the Members and Friends of the Society the great importance of a central Museum, such as that of the

Society at Taunton, for the reception and safe custody of those objects which illustrate the Archæological and Natural History of the County. Without such a Museum many of the most interesting relics of antiquity would soon be lost or forgotten, and others would be comparatively valueless except as associated with objects in the Museum of similar character. They would therefore earnestly solicit contributions of this nature for the Museum, and would at the same time suggest, that the value of such gifts or deposits would be greatly enhanced, if they are accompanied with a careful statement of the time, place, and circumstances of their discovery.

“ By a pecuniary grant, under the judicious direction of the Rev. H. M. Scarth, the Society has been instrumental during the past year in the timely preservation of the interesting chambered Sepulchral Tumulus at Wellow, in the neighbourhood of Bath, and the Committee greatly desire the Funds of the Society were such as to enable them to do more in this way.

“ The portfolio of the Society has been enriched during the past year by several interesting photographs of Architectural Remains in the County, contributed by J. B. Donne, Esq. The value of the faithful delineations supplied by this process cannot be over-estimated, and the Committee would greatly rejoice to find that the Members who practice the photographic art, are turning their attention to this means of aiding Archæological Science. They would likewise suggest that photographs of Geological Sections would be of great service towards completing the Natural History of the County.

“ The British Archæological Association having fixed upon Bridgwater for holding their Annual Congress, (at which place the Somersetshire Archæological Society had

intended to meet,) from a desire to manifest becoming courtesy to a kindred Society with which our own is on friendly relations, no Meeting was held last year for the reading of Papers. Several Members of the Society, however, and some of the Officers, attended the Meeting of the Association, and the Committee have subsequently had the pleasure of granting the use of some plates for the illustration of their Proceedings.

“ The Committee have to acknowledge the courtesy with which the Mayor and Corporation of Bridgwater have afforded every facility to your Secretaries for the examination of the Ancient Charters and Archives of that town, and the result of that examination gives them reason to expect that most valuable and interesting materials may be had from that source for the Proceedings of the Society, illustrating not only the History of the town of Bridgwater, but also the County at large.

“ The *Conversazione* Meetings have been held in the Museum during the winter months, and have been well attended. While the expense of these Meetings is defrayed exclusively by those who attend them, your Committee feel assured that they have greatly conduced to advance the interests and objects of the Society.

“ Various circumstances having occurred which rendered it undesirable to publish this year a Volume of Proceedings of the same size as in former years, your Committee considered that they would be best consulting the wishes and convenience of the Members by issuing a larger Volume than usual, to include the Proceedings of 1856-7. This Volume which is now being printed, will, they hope, be ready for delivery early next year. In conclusion the Committee, while congratulating the Society upon the large amount of success which has up to this time attended

its operations, would strongly urge upon the Members the necessity of still further increasing the number of subscribers, as the only means, without increasing the amount of the Annual Subscriptions, of placing the Funds in a healthy and efficient state."

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Financial Report was read by the Rev. W. A. JONES, of which the following is an abstract:—

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archaeological and
 Dr. Natural History Society. Cr.

1857.	£ s. d.	1857.	£ s. d.
To Balance of former Account	11 11 5	By Expenses of Vol. of "Proceedings"	54 18 0
„ Subscriptions	200 0 0	„ Coal, Candles, and Gas	12 11 11
		„ Postage and Carriage	1 13 1
		„ Insurance	1 2 6
		„ Stationery, Printing, &c.	8 12 5
		„ Commission on Collection of Arrears	4 3 0
		„ Sundries	2 7 1
		„ Repairing Tumulus at Wellow	0 16 0
		„ Davis fixing Wells Casts	5 0 0
		„ Wells Casts—second instalment	18 6 8
		„ Stuffing Birds	0 18 0
		„ Curator's Salary	25 0 0
		„ Expenses of Annual Meeting	3 13 0
		„ Rent	25 0 0
		„ Balance	47 9 9
	£ 211 11 5		£ 211 11 5
	£ 211 11 5		£ 211 11 5

The Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers, were severally re-appointed. J. H. Speke, Esq., was elected Honorary Corresponding Member; Messrs. Edwards Beadon, W. E. Surtees, Wm. Blake, Capt. Doveton, Rev. J. P. Scott, Rev. W. T. Redfern, Rev. Dr. Routledge, and the Rev. T. A. Voules, were elected as Members of Committee.

The Rev. THOS. HUGO, M.A., F.A.S., read a paper on "Architectural Restoration," in which he animadverted on the too frequent disregard and violation of the original design, so that attempts made to restore ancient buildings were, in many instances, not restorations, but deteriorations.

Mr. J. G. BORD read a paper on Bruton. He inferred that, as Brewton was supposed to be an ancient demesne of the crown, under the Saxon monarchs, it was not improbable that Ailmer, or Æthelman, Earl of Cornwall and Devon, should, with the consent of King Edgar, have founded here a religious house for Benedictine Monks.

At the Norman Conquest William conferred the manors of Brewton and Brewham, among others, upon Sir William de Mohun. He was succeeded by his son, William de Mohun, who gave Lydeard St. Lawrence to the Canons of Taunton. This son, William de Mohun the third, was one of the barons who adhered to the Empress Maude against Stephen, and was created Earl of Somerset and Dorset. In the reign of Stephen, A.D. 1142, (according to Dugdale) he founded a Priory for Canons Regular of St. Augustine, on the ruins of a more ancient house for Benedictine Monks, at Brewton. William de Mohun the fourth confirmed his father's grants to this priory, and at his death was interred in the church of this monastery. He was succeeded by his son Reginald. Among the muniments in Dunster Castle is a copy of two grants by William and Reginald Mohun to the Monks of Brewton, to elect their prior from their own house, and present the same to them and their heirs for their approbation. This patronage afterwards came into the family of the Luttrells.

The Manor of Brewton was granted by the crown, in the 37th of Henry VIII, to Sir Maurice Berkeley, Bart.

who made Bruton Abbey his residence by converting it into a mansion. In the chancel of Bruton church is a mural monument to this baronet and his two wives. From him the Manor of Brewton descended successively to Sir Henry Berkeley: Sir Maurice Berkeley: Sir Charles Berkeley, 2nd Viscount Fitzhardinge, A.D. 1617: Maurice, 3rd Viscount Fitzhardinge, A.D. 1668.

The Abbey of Brewton appears by the parish books to have been in the possession of Wm. Norris, Esq., and others, from 1698 to 1704, when Lady Anne Mason had it till 1709. She was succeeded by Sir John Brownlowe, till 1715, when the estate was purchased by William Lord Berkeley, Baron of Stratton, who afterwards resided at the abbey. The Manor of Brewton was devised by Lord Berkeley to Charles Berkeley, Esq., his 2nd son, who succeeded his father in 1741, about which time the present chancel of Bruton church was erected by him. He also built the abbey stables. He was found drowned in the fish pond, August 1, 1765, and was succeeded by his elder brother John Lord Berkeley, Baron of Stratton, who likewise resided at the abbey. On his death, being the last male of his family, the moiety of Bruton Manor was sold, in accordance with his will, to pay legacies.

The great hall of the abbey was destroyed by fire on Michaelmas-day, 1763; and the abbey was taken down A.D. 1786. The following occur among the entries in the Bruton registers:

23 July, 1624. Capt. Henry Berkeley and his soldiers went from Brewton to Breda, in the low countries, against Spain.

1641. This year was Brewton's fear.

1642. All praise and thanks to God still give
For our deliverance Matthias' eve.

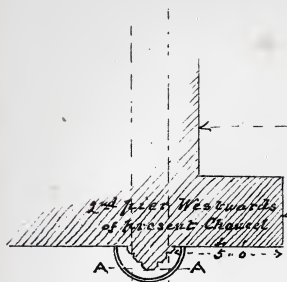
By His great power we put to flight
 Our raging foes the Batcombites,
 Who came to plunder, burn, and slay,
 And quite consume our town this day.

1688. Provisions for Capt. Kirke's troop while at Bruton, 19s.

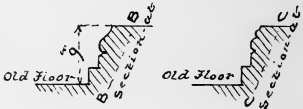
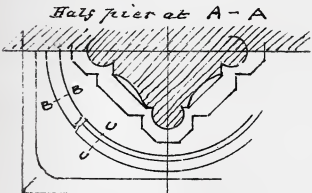
1688, Nov. 20. A skirmish in the town of Wincanton, on the arrival of King William.

The Rev. JOHN EARLE, M.A. said that the executor of the charter referred to by Mr. Bord was evidently the third William de Mohun. There were but four of that name; and in the charter, the executor of it spoke of his father and grandfather as benefactors of the Bruton Monastery, and one of the witnesses to it was "William, his son and heir." It was a question whether the first William de Mohun was the founder of the Abbey or only the restorer of the Priory.

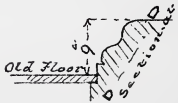
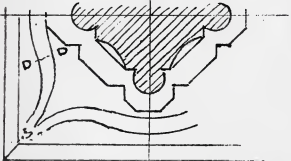
Mr. J. BATTEN, in connection with the paper read by Mr. Bord, observed that the estates of Sir Henry Berkeley, of Yarlington, and Sir Edward Berkeley, of Pylle, were sequestered by the Parliament in the civil war, the former compounding for £1275, and the latter for £770. The charge against Sir Henry, as given by Mr. Edmund Curl, the sequestrator of the Hundred of Catsash, is, "That he was in armes against the Parliament, and his sons who were captains in the King's army, and have been active and malicious enemies against the state." The sequestration was removed by order from Goldsmith's Hall, on the 9th of March, 1646; but in the meantime the sequestrator had taken part of Sir Henry's lands in Galhampton, North Cadbury, and Babcary, and complains in a note "The lands at Babcary I could not let; Sir Henry's people, by his or his lady's orders, had given such threatenings



FOUNDATIONS OF AN EARLIER CHURCH -
DISCOVERED DURING THE REPAIRS OF
THE CHURCH OF ST JOHN -
THE BAPTIST - CLASTONBURY.
A.D. 1857.



3rd pier on North Side



N.B. The present floor is about 12^{ft} above the ancient one.

2nd pier on South Side



3rd & 4th piers on South Side



against any that should hold it, that for half a year I made not enough to pay charges." It also appears that he cropped some of the land to wheat, sowing three pecks to the acre, and selling thirteen bushels and a half of the produce at 5s. per bushel. Sir Henry and Sir Edmund were under bond to Alderman Hooke, of Bristol, for £2000, advanced by him for the King's use. He was to have had the security of 22 knights and squires who were nominated, but only five knights and five squires sealed the bond.

The CHAIRMAN said, that in his researches he had met with frequent complaints as to the conduct of the Abbots of Bruton. In one instance the Abbot was suspended for bad conduct by the Bishop.

Lord TALBOT then read a paper on the "Charters of Bruton Priory," and the Rev. F. WARRE on the "Earthworks in the Neighbourhood of Bruton," both of which will be found in Part II.

At the close of Mr. WARRE'S paper, Dr. GUEST, Master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, remarked, in reference to the death of Geraint ab Erbin, as related by Llywarch Hên, that the expressions employed by the poet did not necessarily prove that Arthur was present as "imperator" at the battle of Llongborth. In the conversation which ensued, it was maintained by the Rev. F. WARRE and the Rev. W. A. JONES that, though not distinctly affirmed, it seemed clearly implied, and might fairly be inferred. Dr. GUEST maintained that great caution was necessary in the use made of the poetical and historical allusions of those early periods.

Mr. DICKINSON, then gave the following notice of indications of the original plan of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Glastonbury :

On looking at the church the other day Meyrick, who

had charge of the works, told me there were Norman bases to piers beneath the pavement. On my enquiring further, I understood that there were none under the first piers, west from the chancel arch; and that the bases of the second were only half columns facing each other, and set into walls which projected five feet on each side towards the centre of the church, and that these walls also turned eastward, and after going under the first piers were lost.

There can be no doubt that these walls were the north, south, and west sides of the ancient tower of the church. And in corroboration of this, it may be mentioned that the two arches on each side next the choir are less in width than the others, and that the corbels over the second pier slightly face westward, as they ought to do, if placed at the intersections of the work above the tower arch with the side walls of the church.*

Mr. C. E. Giles was good enough to send me his sketches of the mouldings of the bases, which he made in May last, while they were uncovered; and I agree in his suggestion of the central tower.

We have in many of our churches towers on the side of the nave or of the chancel, and these are, for the most part, older than the west towers, as are also many of the centre towers which still remain. I am desirous of calling the attention of our antiquaries to the subject of the changes of the position of the tower which have in many cases been made. St. Cuthbert's Wells, for example, presents on each side broad piers, which either supported a central tower, or the two towers placed transept-wise, as at Exeter Cathedral. Those who have studied Professor Willis's work on Canterbury Cathedral,

* Meyrick's sketch of the Foundation, and Mr. Giles's sketches of the Mouldings, are given in the accompanying plate.

will not be surprised at such an arrangement. At Somerton again, with a tower close to the south-west angle of the chancel, there are on the north side very curious inequalities in the breadths of the arches, making it very doubtful whether the north transept is original.

The following are extracts from communications on the subject, which I have received from Mr. C. E. Giles :

“I passed through Glastonbury in May, and saw the excavations for a very few minutes, and took the enclosed rough memoranda ; and having no time to spare, I reluctantly left them without further notice, and I now feel that it is a subject for regret that they were not carefully examined. I have for some time past been firmly convinced that many of our larger Somersetshire churches, which have been altered in the 15th century by the additions of clerestory and western tower, (often by entirely new naves) were previously cruciform with central tower. St. Cuthbert's was, and I told the churchwardens at Glastonbury that I believed St. John's to have been. The piers lately discovered have proved that such was the case. The general plan of procedure seems to have been to build the nave and western tower against the central tower, and then pull down the latter, and then to manage the space occupied by the central tower as well as they could. Sometimes this necessitated two arches smaller than the other new ones to finish the arcades eastwards ; sometimes one arch wider ; examples of both treatments exist. And it will often be found that the corbel head supporting the roof principal, formerly next and adjacent to the west wall of the original tower, faces westwards, shewing that, having been built partly against the tower wall, it was not altered after the removal of the tower. Such a corbel exists at Glastonbury, immediately over the

western side of the ancient tower piers, lately disclosed. The mouldings of the piers, I suppose, will be considered early 13th century work. I meant to have told you that the plan of the tower was almost fully developed; the central pier not having been disturbed. Mr. Serel, of Wells, told me that the churchwarden's accounts (now extant) show disbursements for repairs to St. Cuthbert's church "Where the steeple did once stand;" and the dates led me at the time to the conviction that this was for making good at the cross, after removing the central tower, being the last works executed after building the western tower, in the 15th century, or 16th, for I forget the dates now. The evidences at St. Cuthbert's of this repair are still to be seen. I believe that the difficulty of tracing the path of architectural development in Somersetshire, arises from the source of it all having been destroyed, viz., Glastonbury Abbey. There are, however, evidences even in its ruins of it too having undergone a reconstruction in the 15th century—the clerestory was perpendicular. And hence I believe was the source of the movement. Our perpendicular does not accord in mouldings or tracery with that of Devonshire or Gloucestershire; it does chiefly with Dorsetshire. Besides the class of early cruciform churches, now represented by North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory, Bawdrip, Charlton, and many others, there is another type—that of the tower attached to aisle or transept—as Somerton, Frome, Barton St. Davids, Bishops Hull; and the smaller churches, Staple-grove, &c., were chiefly built on the plan of simple Romanesque Chapels, now in many cases altered. Thurlbeer is but slightly altered."

The meeting then adjourned, and the members visited the church, the abbot's house, and the hospital. There

was an ordinary at the National School Room, after which the members were hospitably entertained by the Local Secretary H. Dyne, Esq., and other inhabitants of Bruton.

In the evening the following papers were read: Mr. C. MOORE, F.G.S., on "Saurians and their food;" the Rev. W. A. JONES, M.A., F.G.S., on the "Mendip Bone Caverns," which will be found in Part II.
