

Mr. T. E. ROGERS, of Yarlington, referred to the absence of any direct evidence of the identity of James Dyer, who was speaker of the short Parliament, and Judge Dyer. The probabilities amounted almost to certainty, that James Dyer, who was Speaker for that month, was the same who was afterwards Sir James Dyer, a Puisne in Queen Mary's time, and immediately afterwards Chief Justice. Yet one would have supposed that in the records of Parliament he would be called Sergeant Dyer, he having been Sergeant-at-law at that time. He threw out this point for consideration. There was one feature in the character of Judge Dyer which no one would have suspected on viewing his portrait. He was devotedly fond of music, and it is recorded of him that :—"When he was wearied with his legal labours, the only joy to repose his spirit was music sweet." Mr. Rogers then referred, among the worthies of Wincanton, to Richard Fitzjames, Bishop of London, whose nephew was Lord Chief Justice in Henry VIII's time; and Cottington, who was born at Godminster, close to Pitcome, and who had played a most important part in history during the early part of the reign of Charles I. With Laud and Strafford he conducted the whole administration, and was wise enough to get out of the scrape when his two colleagues were called to the block. The government having fallen into the hands of these three men, their counsels were called "Cabinet" Counsels, and that was the origin of the term now in use.

The Rev. Canon MEADE read a notice of "Castle Cary Church," which is given in part ii, and also of Stavordale Priory.

The Rev. J. HALE read an account of the Parish of Poyntington; and the Rev. W. BARNES a paper on "Somerset and its Language," which are given in part ii.

Votes of thanks to gentlemen who had read papers having been passed, the company visited the Church, and an old house, the residence of Mr. Biggin, in which the Prince of Orange slept on his progress through Somerset. The Local Museum, which had been arranged with great care, and enriched with a large collection of very interesting objects, attracted many visitors.

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