

Excursion : Wednesday.

The party left the Guildhall at 10 a.m., and the first halt was made at

Bathampton.

At the Church Mr. SCARTH said that the Manor of Bathampton was, at least after 1087, the property of the Abbey of Bath. At the dissolution the rectory and the advowson were granted to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. In the porch were two figures of the time of Edward II and Edward III. These two figures, and the one now in the east wall of the church, once stood in the south aisle. They were moved when the building was restored by Ralph Allen of Prior Park. The church had also been again in the hands of the restorers within the last twenty-five years.

The church is dedicated to S. Nicholas. It is chiefly in the perpendicular style, though in the chancel a bit of Early English work is left. The building itself, after two restorations, is not of much architectural interest. The chief object of interest is a figure let into the outside of the east wall.

Mr. SCARTH said that Mr. Planché, the Somerset Herald, and the most eminent authority in England on matters of costume, had decided that the figure represented a bishop, and was of the 11th century. He pointed out in accordance with this decision the head of the pastoral staff, and the outline of the chasuble, the ends of the stole and the *vitta* of the mitre. The alb was ornamented with a zigzag pattern, which gave it somewhat the appearance of a ruff. The design and execution of the sculpture were certainly rude, but it was a monument of great antiquity and interest. He had made a drawing of it, but a more exact one should be made and engraved in the Society's volume.

Mr. HUNT said that, with all respect to Mr. Planché, he felt convinced that it was a representation of a female figure, for no bishop would wear a veil, and he saw a veil hanging down from the head behind.



W. B. G. S. D.

FIGURE AT BATHAMPTON CHURCH.

JEFFERIES 1871. 11.
Scale 1/4"

Mr. SCARTH replied that, the *vox populi* always said that it was the figure of a female, but those who were well informed on the subject of costume, and especially of ecclesiastical costume, agreed with Mr. Planché.

Bishop CLIFFORD said that he agreed with the *vox populi*.

Mr. HUNT called attention to the shape of the waist, which marked the figure as that of a female.

Archbishop ERRINGTON had never seen a chasuble so short as that which Mr. Scarth pointed out.

Mr. SCARTH said that he should not like to disagree with Mr. Planché, and he considered that the various parts of the episcopal habit were to be pretty clearly made out.

Rev. Prebendary WOOD thought that the figure had been recently defaced; he asked whether the pastoral staff did not necessarily mark the figure as that of a bishop or abbot.

Mr. HUNT said that he thought that was not the case by any means.

Bishop CLIFFORD thought that what went round the neck was a female's collar or ruff, and that there was not anything like the habit of an ecclesiastic to be observed. There was the appearance of a veil, and there was no mitre or anything of the kind. He had never known an alb crimped like that, which was pointed out as an alb by Mr. Scarth. The dress was cut narrow at the wrists and drawn in at the waist, which might be the case with the dress of a woman, but not with the dress of an ecclesiastic; it was also too short, not reaching below the ankles. He had never seen a chasuble so short as this dress, yet there was no sign of either chasuble or stole beneath it. The staff was in the right hand, whereas that of a bishop is always in the left.

Mr. EARLE pointed out the wimple; he did not remember any drawing which would settle the Order to which the sculptured lady belonged.

Mr. SCARTH said that he only advanced the particulars given by Mr. Planché to the Archæological Association of Great Britain. The figure gave rise to some discussion when the

Association visited Bathampton. He still thought that the dress was that of a Bishop.

Mr. EARLE suggested that the figure might be far earlier than, it appeared, anyone present supposed from the late discussion.²⁹ He hoped that some effectual means would be taken to preserve it from injury.

(29). This figure should be compared with the fragment of a bas-relief found in a Roman villa at Wellow near Bath, and presented to the British Museum by the Archaeological Institute in 1861. It is published in Mr. Scarth's *Notices of Roman Bath*, p. 114. The fragment contains portions of three figures, one male and two females. The heads of all three have perished, but the collar or ruff is plainly visible round the neck of one of the females. The dresses of both are short, crimped, and tightened round the waist. A kind of scarf hangs loosely across the front of one of the females at about the height at which the supposed chasuble terminates in the Bathampton figure. The other female holds in her right hand a short staff, with a kind of elongated hoop at the top. Great similarity of style exists apparently between this fragment and the figure at Bathampton. This latter is not a detached block, as most medieval images are, but is carved in relief out of the same block of stone which forms the niche in which it stands. This treatment prevails in Roman tombs and altars. The arch of the niche is circular, not pointed, as we should expect to find it, if the image were a medieval work of art. Two figures of Hercules and Apollo, placed in like manner in niches with circular arches, may be observed in a Roman altar built into the north buttress at the eastern end of Compton Dando Church, about 7 miles from Bath (also published in Mr. Scarth's *Notices of Roman Bath*, p. 41). The most probable conclusion to be drawn from these remarks seems to be that, as Mr. Earle suggested might be the case, the figure at Bathampton is of much earlier date than was supposed by those who took part in the discussion. It appears to be the figure of a female, and to have formed originally part of a Roman tomb or altar erected in the neighbourhood. When discovered it was, probably with a view of preserving it, built into the wall of the church at Bathampton, like its companion at Compton Dando, and as many other fragments of Roman remains were built into the old walls of Bath. It is difficult to offer any conjecture as to whom the figure (now greatly mutilated) was originally meant to represent. The following suggestion may be worth consideration. In the fragment from Wellow above referred to, the staff held by the female is short, not reaching down as far as her knee. The upper portion is shaped like a loop. As the man holds in his hand what seems to be a lustral vase for sacrificial purposes, the instrument held by the female is probably a sistrum, the instrument used by the priestesses of Isis (and probably of other divinities also), and the group represents a priest and two priestesses of that or some other divinity. The figure at Bathampton is so mutilated that it is not possible to make out with certainty what was the shape of the termination of the staff held in the right hand. But taking into consideration the general similarity of this figure to the figure in the Wellow fragment, it seems not unlikely that the supposed staff was in this case also a sistrum, and that the figure is that of a heathen priestess.—BISHOP CLIFFORD.

The party then left the church and walked to a field on the other side of the canal, and there inspected some excavations made by Mr. C. Moore on what he considered to be the site of a

Roman Smithy.

Mr. CHARLES MOORE called attention to a quantity of irony slag or cinder, Roman pottery, and other remains which he had obtained, immediately overlying a deposit of the mammal drift gravel, of which he had spoken the previous day. He remarked that at this spot Roman and pre-historic deposits came together, and that anyone who could tell them the history of the intervening period, or trace the passage from one into the other, would do a great service to science. In anticipation of a visit from the Society he had had a trench cut down to the gravel. In addition to the slag previously mentioned he found mixed up in the soil, and readily extracted by a magnet, a quantity of flakes of iron, such as are struck off by the smith of to-day, which led him to believe, although he had found no trace of a building, that a Roman smithy once stood near the spot. There were also occasional patches of soil coloured with different tints of red, yellow, &c., looking as if the materials had found their way into the earth through some drain, possibly from a pottery. Great quantities of Roman pottery were exhibited on tables close to the excavation, including specimens from the elegant Samian to the coarsest black pottery, but all more or less broken, together with a few fragments of glass, and there were many stone tiles, formed of coal measure sandstone, which had belonged to some building. In addition there were great quantities of bones chiefly belonging to the *Bos longifrons*, and it was noteworthy that the bones were always split for the extraction of the marrow.

Mr. SCARTH pointed out where, on the other side of the river, at Warley, a Roman villa had been found : another had been opened up in the other direction at Bathford, and others beyond that. There had been sarcophagi dug up in the Sydney Gardens. Altogether the neighbourhood was full of relics,

which proved the importance of Bath in the period of the Roman occupation. He hoped that Mr. Moore would be able to continue his investigations here.

From Bathampton the route lay through Freshford, and the next halt was made at

Westwood.

Rev. W. H. JONES said that the church was a chapel of ease for Bradford. The earliest part of the building was the chancel, at the east end of which was a double piscina. On the north side was a lancet window, and traces of another on the south side. The charm of the chancel consisted in its stained glass, which was of the fifteenth century, and some of the oldest in the county. The central figure was the Saviour on the cross, the cross springing from a vessel out of which grew a lily, the emblem of the Blessed Virgin. There were figures of S. John the Baptist, S. Peter, S. Paul, and Michael the Archangel. One of the Hortons, whose initials were over the spandrel of the west door, added the aisle. On the moulding of the ceiling was a pulley, by which a lamp was hung to burn before the altar. Part of the ceiling was very fine. When the aisle was built, an early lancet window was destroyed and a double squint was made. The tower arch was like the one in Bradford church, the figure at the base of the tower stairs was meant to represent a bat: it was at one time painted black and white. A portion of the pulpit formerly belonged to Norton S. Philip, some of the oak carving had been added by himself.

Mr. FREEMAN, outside the church, said that though they had passed the borders of their own county they could see by the tower that they had not got beyond the influence of Somersetshire. They might remember the tower of Norton S. Philip, it was a wildish sort of tower, and so was this too, though in a different kind of way. The parts did not seem to hang together, or to belong to the same building. He had often said a good deal about the growth and increase of ornament, which ought to be observed in these towers from the bottom stage upwards.

Two of the best examples of this were the towers of S. James, Taunton, and Bishops Lydeard. At Norton S. Philip there was no such growth: here the idea was carried out, though with too great suddenness, for there were two quite plain stages below, and then above them one richly ornamented. The corner pinnacle was finished in an odd way with a cupola, which marked its late date. The same love of squareness, which he had yesterday remarked in Bath Abbey, might be observed here. It was this which caused the buttresses not to be carried up to the top, and made them set the windows and panelled stages under a square head.

The Manor House was next visited.

Mr. JONES pointed out an oriel window which he thought might have belonged to the priest's room. He thought that the house might have contained a little chapel, and some bits of coloured glass had been found in one of the windows. He pointed out some good plaster ceilings of the seventeenth century. The house was built by the Hortons, the ceilings were added by the Farewells, and had on them the shells which that family wore on their coat of arms. There were a good many branches of the Horton family. In the Manor House was a device which was evidently intended for a rebus on their name, a tun or barrel with the letters H.O.R.

Bradford-on-Avon

was next visited, and the wonderful little church of S. Laurence was filled with a goodly congregation.

Mr. Jones said that there could be little doubt but that they were in the church built by S. Ealdhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, at the beginning of the eighth century, and dedicated to S. Laurence. He compared its size to that of the original cathedral church of Llandaff, which was 28 feet long, while this church was 26 feet; both had transeptal buildings. The church, till lately, was in the hands of two people, and had been made into two tenements; when the restoration was on foot, on removing a stack of chimnies, the chancel arch and step were discovered.

Mr. FREEMAN said he could not see any reason for doubting the age and identity of the building. When he visited Bradford, some twenty years ago, with Professor Babington, his eye was caught by the arcading, and he said, "There is a cinque cento house." So they went up to it, and when they saw the round arches they saw that they were standing before a building which was, probably, at least a thousand years old. So they went and told the Members of the Archæological Institute, who were then holding their annual meeting at Bath, what they had seen; but no one paid much attention to the matter. His friend, Mr. Jones, had carried through a valuable work in recovering and restoring the building to its original form and use. Only the prejudice of ignorance could question the date of the building. It was a standing answer to the foolish and often repeated assertion, that the English, before the Conquest, could not put stones and mortar together. In defence of this nonsense people quoted Bæda, as if he was any sort of authority for the centuries which passed between his time and the Conquest. The church they were in was not Norman, it was not a building raised after 1066, it was primitive and genuine Romanesque work. William of Malmesbury, who was a singularly acute observer in architectural matters, says in the *Gesta Pontificum*, "est ad hunc diem eo loco (apud Bradeford) ecclesiola, quam ad nomen beatissimi Laurentii (Aldhelmus) fecisse predicatur." Now, William of Malmesbury, who died before 1150, saw the introduction of a new style of building, and remarked upon it; and he noted that Ealdhelm did not build as men were building in his day, that is, as Bishop Roger built, who brought in a richer form of the Norman variety of Romanesque, but that Ealdhelm built *more Romano*, and of the truth of this they had a proof before them; they could see what Romanesque work was in England before the Norman style of building was introduced by Eadward. If they used their eyes they would see that this building was far older than 1066, that it was a simple imitation of what men had seen at Rome, or elsewhere in Roman buildings. When he first set eyes on the

Gate of Honorius, or rather of Stilicho, he thought at once of Bradford. They were undoubtedly standing in the church reared by the good Bishop Ealdhelm, on the scene of the victory of his uncle Cenwealh, the same church which William of Malmesbury saw and wrote about, and nothing short of documentary proof—a proof which was never likely to be brought forward—could ever shake him in his belief. The only argument against this belief, that which was drawn from the assertion that the English could not raise stone buildings, took its root in the blackness of darkness of ignorance of the facts of English history.

MR. J. BATTEN said that he was far from disputing anything that Mr. Freeman had said; nevertheless, in order that the other side might be fairly represented, he would venture to draw attention to the use of the word 'predicatur' by William of Malmesbury in the sentence on which Mr. Freeman relied so much. Now, to write that a thing is said to have been so-and-so, does not show a very strong belief; in fact, in the case of a man who was known to be critical and scrupulous, such an expression almost throws a doubt on the theory advanced. For, really, if in one of Mr. Freeman's books he found that the writer could only say about some story that it was said to have happened, he should at once believe that it had not happened.

MR. FREEMAN replied that Mr. Batten used the word "predicatur" somewhat unfairly.

On leaving the "ecclesiola," Prebendary WILKINSON drew attention to a sword, a spear head, and to a stone which was held to be part of a Roman column or altar, found on the south side of the railway, near Melksham station, near the place where other Roman remains had been found in 1862.

MR. WIRTS said that a large number of swords like the one now exhibited had been found near Cirencester, and with them some carboniferous remains, indicating, possibly, that they had been sent to the camp in some wooden case or chest.

The party next visited the parish church, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

Mr. JONES here explained that the building was originally Norman, but had received a long course of enlargements and additions. In the restoration of the church, which he had had the pleasure of carrying out some few years ago, he had been able to discover and preserve several interesting points, which had before been hidden by galleries and such like. There used to be a gallery even across the chancel arch, shutting out the view of the chancel from the nave; and the east window was partly boarded up, to make room for an altar-piece. The remains of the 12th century Norman church are the buttresses on the chancel and on the south side of the nave, windows in the chancel now built up, though still to be seen, traces of courses on the west of the nave and the lower portion of the turret. In the 14th century the church was lengthened, and the east and north-east windows put into the chancel. On the south side of the chancel is a Perpendicular window, which replaced the 14th century Decorated work. The two recessed tombs in the chancel were put up by the Hall family; that on the north is the more ancient, and is said to be to the memory of Agnes Hall, who died 1270. In the 16th century the square tower and its low spire were built. The builders found the staircase of the Norman turret, and so they built their tower a little to the north and used it again. The curious strut, which they could see inside, was thrown out to make a landing on the top of the newel staircase to lead into the tower. The north aisle was once in two portions, and contained the chantries of the B. Virgin and S. Nicholas. A block of wall, now removed, marked the division of the two. In the north aisle may still be seen a recess, which formed the reredos of the altar of S. Nicholas. At the east end, in the chantry of the B. Virgin, is the tomb of Thomas Horton, founder, and his wife Mary; they could see from the lack of dates in the inscription that the tomb had been set up during their lives, and the blanks had not been filled in afterwards. In this chantry traces of a rood-screen were to be seen. There was a squint from this chantry, now blocked up.

Mr. EARLE said that, in reference to the word "newel," which Mr. Jones had used, he had always thought the derivation was from a word meaning steep. He had seen it stated that it was a corruption of *nucalis*, from Latin *nux*, a staircase round a core or nut. Newel from *nucalis* would be like jewel from *jocale*.

In consequence of the lateness of the hour the chapel of S. Mary on Tory, the chapel on the bridge, and the Barton Farm were left unvisited. Mr. Saunders kindly provided some welcome refreshments to the party.

South Wraxall Manor House

was next visited, where Mr. Long, the Lord of the Manor, and the representative of the ancient family of Rood Ashton, though unable himself to be present, kindly provided refreshments for the crowd of visitors to his house ; and in his stead his cousin, Mr. R. Long, received the party.

Mr. JONES said that the house was built in the earlier part of the fifteenth century, and had always been part of the property of the Long family. There was some difficulty in trying to find out the origin of the family, and how its connexion with South Wraxall began. He thought that the Wiltshire Longs came from Dorsetshire. Robert Long was the builder of the house. The gateway and the entrance hall were the oldest parts. The great dining hall took up all the centre of the house, and at one end was a solar, or private retiring room. The house had been much pulled about, and, he thought, considerably spoiled in 1630. He directed attention to a fine ceiling, and to several good chimney-pieces, one of which bore the date 1598.

The Evening Meeting,

which was to have begun at 8 p.m., was not opened until nearly an hour later, in consequence of the length of the excursion.

The PRESIDENT made an urgent appeal for compression, both in the papers, and as regards any discussion which might arise.

The MAYOR read a paper on the "Ancient Charters of the City of Bath," which is printed in Part II. He illustrated his remarks by exhibiting some of the most remarkable documents, and the paper was received with considerable applause.

Mr. HUNT said that it was not often that archæologists found a Mayor, who was able to appreciate and understand the value of the charters, by which the liberties of his city or town had been granted or secured. It was the lot of few to excel at once in the affairs of war and peace : to bear the scars of wounds gained in his country's cause, and to be able to comprehend how the liberty of his country arose. It was seldom the case that a city which had so long been under a spiritual lord possessed charters of such value as Bath had. There were a few points on which he would briefly touch. He had made enquiries about the Corpus M.S. at Cambridge, to which the Mayor attached so much weight, and was sorry to say that there was every reason to believe it a forgery, and of a much later date than 676. The charter of William Rufus to John de Villula, the Bishop, granted to him not only the monastery of S. Peter, but the city of Bath itself. The city remained in the hands of the Bishop until the time of Savaric, who engaged to return it to the King, in exchange for the Abbey of Glastonbury. The Gild Merchant, spoken of in the charter of Richard I, was an association of those who possessed full citizenship, they were at first probably the possessors of some part of the land of the township ; then, generally, they were the merchants or traders of the town. In England its members quickly formed a burgher aristocracy, which oppressed the other inhabitants ; but at first there is no reason to suppose that the craftsmen, the *minatus populus* of later days, were shut out from them. It was by the recognition of the Gild Merchant, as by this charter, that cities often gained their freedom. The word *seld*, about the meaning of which the Mayor had made enquiry, was a traders bench, answering to the modern "standing" in the market. The church of S. Mary de Stalls stood, as Mr. Dickinson informed

him, at the junction of Stall Street, Cheap Street, and the Abbey Churchyard, and was upon the Roman Forum. The word *leatage* signified a custom on each last of leather or other material, paid on landing the goods. He considered that the Mayor and Corporation of Bath had acted in a most praiseworthy manner in thus exhibiting their charters. He hoped that he might some day be allowed a minute and leisurely inspection, not only of these charters, but also of any other documents of a like character in the keeping of the Corporation. When, some years ago, he applied at Bristol for this permission, it was refused him; he was glad to find that no such refusal was likely to be his fate at Bath.

Mr. SCARTH recounted the failure of an attempt which he had once made, some twenty-four years since, to obtain a sight of these documents. He thought that one use of such meetings as the present was to draw out a collection such as was then before them.

Bishop CLIFFORD said that only those who were aware of the difficulty of getting sight of historical manuscripts in most cases could appreciate the generous spirit with which the Corporation had acted.

Captain MACKAY HERIOT, R.M., read a paper on "The Chemical Composition and Origin of the Bath Mineral Waters," which is printed in Part II.

Mr. BIGGS said that the value of the statistics afforded in the paper just read could hardly be appreciated at first sight. The almost absolute constancy of the waters was of the utmost importance in connexion with their medical use. He must bear testimony to the honesty and care with which Capt. Heriot had made his analysis.

Mr. C. MOORE was commissioned by Mr. E. C. Batten to read a paper on "The Cause of the Heat of the Bath Waters." As the hour was late, he gave a verbal abstract of it. The paper will be found printed *in extenso* in Part II.

Mr. THOS. KERSLAKE had prepared a paper on "A British

Metropolis in Somersetshire;" with the consent of the author, it was taken as read, and is printed in Part II.

A paper by Mr. E. GREEN, on "Nunney Castle," visited by the Society at its last meeting, was also crowded out, and is printed in Part II.

The meeting then broke up.
