

Wednesday : Excursion.

A large party assembled at the bridge, and set off in good time. The first halt was made at Creech hill, from the top of which a beautiful and wide view was obtained of the surrounding country.

Dr. H. F. PARSONS, F.G.S., of Goole, gave the following description of the geology of the district around Bruton, in relation to its physical configuration.

The general dip of the British strata, especially of those of secondary age, is to the south-east, hence, in proceeding from the coast of East Anglia northwards or westwards, we come upon

successively older and older strata. Hence also the outcrops of the secondary strata form belts stretching across England in a south-west and north-east direction, from Dorset and Devon to Yorkshire. The outcrops of the harder strata stand out as ranges of hills, while those of the softer clays and shales have been eroded into valleys. In this neighbourhood the secondary strata exemplify the before-mentioned general arrangement, though modified in the neighbourhood of the palæozoic ridge of the Mendips. The Mendip hills form an anticlinal ridge running in a double curve from west to east, where it is lost among the escarpments of the lower oolites; the centre of the ridge is composed of old red sandstone and basalt, flanked by parallel belts of mountain limestone, the millstone grit and coal-measures appearing on the north of the ridge. The dip of the strata on the north of the anticlinal is very steep, 60° and upwards; but less so on the south. The palæozoic rocks of the Mendips have suffered an enormous amount of denudation; strata many thousand feet in thickness having been removed in the interval between the carboniferous and triassic periods; and the surface of the old rocks has been planed down almost level. Upon this flat surface rest the secondary formations; their horizontal beds lying unconformably across the obliquely cut edges of the upheaved beds of the palæozoic strata. The secondary strata, when thus resting on the palæozoic rocks, often take the form of a conglomerate containing pebbles of the older rock. The Mendip area has suffered repeated elevations and depressions during the secondary period, as shown by the breaks in the series of the secondary strata opposite the axis of the ridge, indicating either that dry land existed here at the time when the missing formations were being deposited in the neighbouring seas, or else that the formations in question having been deposited have subsequently been completely removed by denudation. One such break occurs in the lower part of the secondary series, thus near Whatley the trias, lias, and inferior oolite are wanting, and the fuller's earth rests on the old red

sandstone. Another hiatus occurs near Frome, between the Oxford clay and the upper green sand, the upper formations of the oolitic and the lower ones of the cretaceous series being absent. As we proceed northward or southward from these points we find the intermediate strata one by one making their appearance in their respective places.

From any of the commanding points in the neighbourhood of Bruton it is easy to trace the lie of the secondary rocks; the features of the scenery being due to their arrangement and physical characters.

The lias occupies the fertile vales in the flat country below Bruton, as at Evercreech and Ditcheat. The most prominent member of the series is the hard blue flaggy limestone, of which *Ammonites Bucklandi* is the characteristic fossil, and which is much used for paving, tombstones, and building.

The bed of yellow sand, called by geologists the "Midford sand," and classed sometimes with the inferior oolite, sometimes with the upper lias, gives its character to the picturesque country between Batcombe, Bruton, and Castle Cary, marked by rounded knolls and narrow valleys, luxuriant with vegetation. Above this is the inferior oolite or bastard freestone, exposed in the quarries on Creech hill. Here fossils are scarce, *Rhynchonella spinosa* and *Trichites nodosus* being the chief; but near Bruton fossils occur in great abundance and variety. At Doulting the inferior oolite yields a fine white freestone, much used in church work; and at Castle Cary an orange yellow sandy stone, like that at Ham hill. The inferior oolite and Midford sand form a line of hills reaching from Doulting (where it abuts on the Mendips by Small Down, Creech hill, Castle Cary, and Cadbury Camp) nearly to Sherborne.

The next bed above the inferior oolite is a soft marl, the Fuller's Earth, which may be traced in the landscape as a terrace or depression between the escarpments of the forest marble and inferior oolite; it contains, however, a bed of rubbly limestone, resembling the corabrash, and abounding in fossils; this is well

seen in the railway cutting at Bruton station, and in a cutting on the Somerset and Dorset Railway at Shepton Montague.

The great oolite, which forms the steep brow of the hills about Bath, is absent in this neighbourhood, not extending south of Farleigh Hungerford, near Bradford-on-Avon, but its place in the scenery is taken, on a smaller scale, by the harder shelly limestone beds of the forest marble, which form an escarpment parallel with, and to the east of, that of the inferior oolite, reaching from Wanstraw, by Sleight Down and Redlynch, towards Wincanton. In a quarry at Witham Friary, where it is worked for lime burning, the forest marble is almost wholly composed of loose fragments of shells. But, like other shore formations, it varies greatly in character, in other places being marly or sandy. The uppermost member of the lower oolites is the cornbrash, a thin bed of rubbly limestone, abounding in fossils. It is well suited for the growth of cereals, and may from many points be traced by a yellow belt of corn fields, in pleasing contrast to the deep green of an August landscape.

The middle oolites are represented by the Oxford clay, a thick bed of blue or yellow clay, containing abundance of *Gryphæa dilatata*. This soft bed of clay has been eroded by denudation into the broad valley in which Marston, Witham Friary, and Brewham are situated. Northwards, as aforesaid, the upper green sand rests directly upon the Oxford clay; but at Longleat the coral rag and Kimmeridge clay appear in a notch cut back into the green sand hills; and the Kimmeridge clay appears again at Maiden Bradley, and forms a narrow belt, skirting the hills to Stourton.

The upper green sand forms a third range of richly wooded hills, reaching from Westbury, by Longleat and Gare Hill, to Penselwood, where it is cut off by the fault which brings up the upper oolites of the Vale of Wardour. It contains in this neighbourhood a bed of hard cherty sandstone, the outcrop of which forms the abrupt brow or edge to the line of hills on the culminating point of which Alfred's Tower is built.

The chalk, the newest foundation found in this neighbourhood, forms a fourth range of hills—bare rounded downs, the western fringe of Salisbury Plain,—of which Westbury Down, Warminster Down, Cleÿ Hill, Bidcombe Hill, White Sheet and Bradley Knoll are the most conspicuous; the latter is the highest point of the chalk in the West of England—948 feet.

An immense amount of denudation must have gone on in this district since the close of the secondary period. There is a small outlier of upper green sand on Postlebury Hill, near Wanstrow, separated from the main body of that formation by a valley some three miles wide and three hundred feet deep, which must necessarily have been eroded since the cretaceous period.

Dr. Parsons was able to illustrate his address by pointing out the various features of the landscape, and was heard with great interest.

A considerable time elapsed before the stragglers could be collected and a start made. The next halting-place was

Milton Clevedon.

Mr. EDMUND B. FERREY addressed the company in the churchyard, founding his observations on a paper prepared by the Rev. Preb. Selwyn. Mr. Ferrey said that, although the Church (dedicated to St. James) was now cruciform, the north transept had only been built during the last few years, the window disturbed by the addition being re-fixed in the north gable of the transept. The original Church was supposed to have been built in A.D. 1380, and to have belonged to the Abbey at Bruton; but the beautiful window in the east wall of the south transept was of rather earlier date. The existing tower was erected in 1790, there being a tablet in the wall to that effect. A curious old bell, which was cracked, was re-cast in 1871 with all the old marks and lettering. In the opinion of the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe its date was about 1400, the initials, cross, and lettering of the maker being well known. In the year 1865 the chancel was rebuilt on the old foundations, but raised to a greater height than the

former chancel. In the tracery of the north window of the north transept is some painted glass, coeval with the tracery, representing the five wounds of our Lord.

On the north side of the chancel is a recess containing the recumbent effigy of an ecclesiastic holding a chalice. This had been removed from the north wall of the Church. Considerable discussion ensued as to its date, as the drapery was certainly not later than the early part of the fourteenth century, while the features were sharply cut and looked fresh. At a later hour in the day Prebendary Selwyn, the Rector, explained in a clever set of verses that he himself had cut the face and fixed it on to the defaced effigy, and that he had also recut the figures of the Virgin and Child, and of the patron Saint over the porch. So much of the Church has been subjected to the "restoring" hand of the present energetic and clever incumbent that it has lost the traces by which its history can be read, and is valueless for architectural purposes. It is almost needless to say that, in spite of the ability which Mr. Selwyn has displayed, he has committed a breach of taste, and has inflicted an injury on the cause of architectural study and criticism.

The route was then continued to

Batcombe Church.

Mr. EDMUND B. FERREY said that this was one of the best type of the earlier and more severe Perpendicular towers, so characteristic of Somersetshire; its scale was large. Referring to the composition of the tower, he remarked that the termination of the parapet was rather peculiar and abrupt, and gave the impression of being unfinished. He had examined the top of the parapet coping, and found that there was no sign of any work having existed above it. His impression was that pinnacles had been intended (as in the case of most of the towers in the neighbourhood), but that they were never carried out.

As an illustration, Mr. Ferrey said the west towers of Wells Cathedral had the same truncated appearance at the top, and it

was clear that they too were incomplete in execution. The belfry stage differed rather from the more usual type of the village Somersetshire tower, as there were three windows instead of two. It was instructive to observe the very different way in which the angle buttresses were treated here as compared with the similar features of the neighbouring Church of Evercreech. The most interesting part of the west front of the tower was in the lower portion. In a canopied niche was a figure very commonly supposed to be a representation of Henry VII, who was reputed to have built the Church. This notion probably arose from the reign of Henry VII being a great Church building era in Somersetshire. The Patron Saint of the Church is very usually represented in such a position, but in this instance it could not be so, as the structure was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. On each side of the niche are representations of angels, six in all. Those at the top are censuring with their thuribles. Underneath are two carrying the emblems of the Crucifixion, while the two angels at the base hold inscribed scrolls.

Mr. Sedding had informed Mr. Ferrey that he considered the figure really represented our Blessed Lord wearing a crown of thorns and the purple robe, with one foot resting on an orb. Mr. Ferrey proceeded to say that the spandrils of the door underneath are boldly carved with animals, and the large label terminations are of that elaborate and particular type characteristic of the Perpendicular period. The south porch, bearing on it the date 1629, was interesting as shewing how long Gothic detail lingered at a period when the classic revival was in full force; so there was here a curious mixture of the two styles.

Mr. Ferrey said that in plan the Church consisted of west tower, nave, and aisles of four bays, and chancel, with south porch. The vestry was modern.

It would be found that in the body of the Church there were the same characteristics as at Evercreech, the nave, arcade, and

clerestory being very similar (not at all of an uncommon type). No doubt too the roofs at Batcombe Church, tampered with in modern times, had been originally of the same rich description as those at Evercreech. The tower arch was panelled with tracery, as is so usual in the county. The windows in the south aisle were probably later insertions as they are not of the same type as the rest of the Church. There was a curious monument of Jacobean character to a member of the Bisse family in the south aisle, which it was to be hoped would never in any future restoration be removed owing to its being thought out of harmony with the style of the Church. The same remark would also apply to the Jacobean altar railing. The font Mr. Ferrey ascertained to have been cleaned or restored in 1844. It was of very good design, and his impression was that, although not the original font, it was a good copy of it. There was a stair turret which, no doubt, originally led up to the rood loft, in a rather unusual position, not being attached to the north or south sides of the aisle but to the *east* end of the north aisle. At the apex of the east gable of the nave was an ancient crucifix. The east gable of the chancel contained a most elegant example of a delicate floriated medieval cross of the early Decorated period. Altogether Batcombe Church was an extremely interesting structure.

Rev. F. BROWN gave the following details respecting the Biss family, which formerly lived in this parish, and of which a monument is preserved in the Church.

The Biss family is of an ancient origin, wills of its members extend back to 1518. They were originally of Stoke St. Michael, Somerset. Some of the family settled at Pensford, some at Croscombe, near Wells; but the more prominent of the family were of Batcombe. Philip Biss, D.D., was of Spargrove, in the parish of Batcombe, of which he was rector. He was also a Sub-Dean of Wells and Archdeacon of Taunton. He died Oct. 28, 1613. When Wadham College, Oxford, was founded by Lady Dorothy Wadham, he made the liberal benefaction of

2,000 volumes of books to the library, over the door of which she caused his portrait to be hung, with a Latin inscription. A Colonel Biss of this family was an ardent Royalist in the Civil Wars. Some of the family were living at Batcombe as late as 1744. The name is still extant in some parts of the county.

Mr. DAVIS expressed a hope that the altar rail would not be removed. He considered that it marked the time when communion tables were moved eastwards, as he thought that the present railing was as early as 1626.

Rev. W. G. BAKER, the rector, said that he thought that there was evidence to prove that the present unsightly rail was of no earlier date than the latter part of the last century.

Mr. BROWN said that Mr. Dugdale, Sir Ralph Hopton's chaplain, who suffered much for his fidelity to the king, was rector of the neighbouring parish of Evercreech.

Mr. GREEN remarked that he had mentioned him in his paper, read the evening before, as being present at the attack on Witham House, but had avoided all matter not closely connected with his subject. There was here another rector, who took the opposite side, viz., Richard Bernard, "Minister and Preacher of God's Word, at Batcombe, in Somersetshire." He published, besides other things, a work on witchcraft, and *The Isle of Man, or Legal Proceedings in Manshire against Sin*, a work much read at the time, yet there is no copy of the first edition in existence. It is supposed that Bunyan took from it his plan for the *Pilgrims Progress*. Mr. Bernard died in 1641, and was succeeded by Richard Alleine, who was ejected for nonconformity. Perhaps here may be detected the influence for the Parliament which at the beginning of the Civil War prompted the attack on Bruton, as recorded in the registers there, under date 1642 :—

All praise and thanks to God still give,
For our deliverance, Matthias' Eve;
By His great power we put to flight
Our foes, the raging Batcombites.

The whole party was then entertained by Rev. W. G. Baker at luncheon in a tent on the rectory lawn. After luncheon Mr. SELWYN recited his verses containing a confession of the various alterations and restorations which he had made in his Church.

The next halt was made at

Small Down Camp.

Mr. HUNT said that the earthworks situated on this hill were the remains of a Romano-British camp, formed for the protection of the *Iter ad Axium*, a road which was familiar to many of the party, and especially to those who attended the Axbridge meeting and visited the remarkable remains at Charterhouse on Mendip. It was chiefly used for the carriage of minerals. He thought it most probable that it was the site of an early encampment, afterwards used during the Roman occupation.

Rev. Preb. SCARTH said that he believed the camp was not formed by the Romans, but, as had been remarked, was afterwards occupied by them. He believed that great quantities of Roman remains might be found all along the line of the *Iter ad Axium* from Brean Down to Old Sarum.

Rev. E. L. BARNWELL said that he should like to hear an opinion as to the original makers of these earthworks: were they not an earlier people than the British.

Rev. H. M. SCARTH was unwilling to hazard an opinion on the question.

Rev. E. L. BARNWELL remarked that the question was exciting considerable interest in France, and he hoped that in England also earnest attention would be given to everything which might throw light on the earliest inhabitants of our island.

A very hilly drive brought the party to

Evercreech Church.

Mr. EDMUND FERREY first commented upon the noble tower, and drew attention to the very ingenious and elegant manner in

which the angle buttresses were gradually subdivided and terminated at length in pinnacles. Those present would now notice the different way in which the buttresses were designed as compared with Batcombe. The octagonal-shaped pinnacles crowning the tower were beautiful compositions. Proceeding to the interior, Mr. Ferrey said that, although the panel-traceried tower arch was just what we were accustomed to in Somersetshire, yet here there was a singularity in the treatment, as the three panels were arrayed in a splayed recess and more boldly and vigorously treated than usual. The nave, it would be seen, was of four bays and like Batcombe, except that the roof was a tie-beam traceried one, with ancient colouring, which had been restored. This was quite of the Somersetshire and Dorsetshire type. The font, reredos, and sedilia were modern. The flowing decorated east window was however of the latter part of the 14th century. The square-headed, but traceried side windows to the chancel, appeared rather later insertions. Mr. Ferrey said that this latter kind of window was not very common in the county. Before leaving Evercreech he said that, according to Mr. Pooley, the octagonal shaft of an ancient cross, which now stands in the open space of the road west of the Church, was formerly in the churchyard. The finial was modern, but the steps were original: the date was 15th century.

Some discussion arose as to the possibility of carrying out the programme, but the Secretary decided that

Ditchheat Church

should not be left out, as he believed that in many respects it was the most important item in the day's proceedings.

Mr. E. B. FERREY said that this Church differed somewhat from the more usual Somersetshire type of Perpendicular Churches—viz., nave and aisles, with western tower and chancel—as it was cruciform, and of earlier date. The nave possessed a beautiful tie-beam roof, with some of the original colouring on it. There were also some remains of ancient

painted glass in the windows. The transepts had roofs of very similar design to the nave. The base of the central tower, with its four arches, appeared to be of Early Decorated or Early English date. It would be noticed that the piers were out of the perpendicular. The upper part of the tower was of later date. There was a kind of fan-tracery vaulting to the tower.

He drew attention to the ingenious manner in which access was obtained to the central tower, a way being contrived in the roof of the transept. The pulpit and reading desk were good specimens of Jacobean work. The chancel was remarkable, owing to the double range of windows to its sides. The lower were beautiful examples of about the date 1350, the elegant cusped rear arches being of rich design.

The beautiful east window was remarkably well preserved—so much so, that a doubt had been thrown on its ancient character. Mr. Ferrey said, however, that an examination of it on the exterior would prove it to be undoubtedly mediæval, and of the same date as the lower range of the rich chancel windows. The initials and monogram of Abbot John Selwood appeared on the parapet of the chancel.

Bishop CLIFFORD considered that the Church displayed traces of three distinct periods. The little Norman window was part of the old Church—a building with a small chancel and a small nave. Then, in the 13th century, a larger chancel was built, and in the 14th century the chancel and the nave were raised, extra windows were added to the chancel, and the nave was lengthened.

The Manor House standing near the Church is a handsome building of different dates in the 17th century, and contains a fine piece of tapestry, representing the Miraculous Draught of fishes.

Castle Cary.

which is about two miles distant, was next reached.

The Church is a graceful Perpendicular building, which has been enlarged, and, indeed, to some extent rebuilt, during the

incumbency of the Rev. Canon Meade, the President, by Mr. Ferrey. Inside are a fine font of the early part of the 15th century, and a richly carved pulpit.

The party were entertained by the PRESIDENT on the lawn of the Rectory, and when his kind and much-needed hospitality had been received, he read the following short notes on the history of his parish :

History of Castle Cary.

This town was anciently called Carith or Kari. The Great Western Railway Company obstinately insist on spelling the word Carey. If they go to the lawyers, the post-office, or the bank, they will find the word Cary. I have drawn their attention to the mistake, and the directors have promised to make the alteration, but have never done so. The eminence above the town is called "Lodge Hill," probably from having been the site of some ranger's dwelling or hunting-box belonging to the Lords of Castle Cary. The name of the town indicates that there was within its precincts a Castle. At present only two large mounds in the paddock above the pond on the east side (defended on the south by a deep ditch, and on the north-west by a wall built against the hill side,) are all that remain of the fortress where for nearly 300 years the lion banner of the Perceval Lovells waved, and which resisted the assault of even royal armies, when the Lords of Cary upheld the cause of legitimate monarchy against the usurpation of Stephen. There are remains of what is probably a more ancient fort on the hill above the site of the Castle. These earthworks consist of a rampart 24 feet high, conforming to the line of the hill. On the top of this is a platform about 40 feet in extent, diminishing to 12 feet, where the ramparts terminate. A second smaller agger is also to be seen within the outer ramparts. The trace of an old road leading into the upper fortress is clearly visible between the ramparts. The Castle belonged previous to the Conquest to the Abbot of Glastonbury. It was taken from the monastery by the Conqueror, and given to Walter de Douai. Soon after-

wards we find it in possession of Robert Perceval (a Norman follower of the Conqueror) and his family till 1351, when it passed by a female into the family of St. Maur, and again by a female to Lord Zouche of Haringworth. Lord Zouche having taken part with Richard III, his estates and manors were confiscated, and Castle Cary was given to Lord Willoughby de Broke. These lands were afterwards purchased by the first Duke of Somerset, and they passed by a female heir to Lord Bruce, eldest son of the Earl of Aylesbury. In 1684, the estate of Castle Cary was sold to two purchasers, and remained so divided till Mr. H. Hoare, in 1782, purchased one portion, and the trustees of his grandson (Sir Richard Colt Hoare) another. The estate having been entailed on the heir male, it has now descended to Sir H. A. Hoare, the present Lord of the Manor. There is a circumstance connected with this estate which shows the capricious origin of surnames in those distant times. Ascelin, surnamed De Perceval, being a warrior, obtained the name of Lupus. His second son, William de Perceval, inherited by the death of his elder brother the estates both in Normandy and England. He was called Lupellus, or young Wolf. Some of the children and descendants in this country dropping the name of Perceval assumed that of Lupellus, anglicised Lovell, and transmitted this as the name of two great families of Great Britain—the Lovells of Castle Cary, and the Lovells of Titchmarsh, and Minster Lovell, Oxon. In the reign of King Stephen the barons were allowed to construct castles. William de Perceval (who lived in this reign) is supposed to have built the Castle of Cary. We are informed by Henry of Huntingdon that "William, Baron Lovell, of Castle Cary, fortified the Castle against Stephen, who, however, stormed it, and reduced it to submission." It was afterwards recovered to the Perceval Lovells, in 1153, by the Earl of Gloucester forcing Henry de Tracey to retire, who occupied Castle Cary for Stephen. There is no mention of the Castle after the 12th century. It had probably fallen into decay before passing into

the hands of Lord St. Maur in 1321. Richard de Perceval, fifth son of William de Perceval, the young Wolf, retained the name of Perceval, taking a different coat-of-arms from that of the Baron Lovells of Cary, and became the ancestor of the present Earl of Egmont, in the British peerage. Another Richard Lovell, Lord of Kari, founded in 1263 the Priory of Stavordale. Another Richard Lovell Perceval is known for having decyphered a secret letter taken from a Spanish ship, giving intelligence of the approach of the Armada, and so enabling the Government of this country to prepare means of defence. King Charles II slept at Castle Cary in his flight after the battle of Worcester, on the 16th of September, 1651. It is said that the King when at Colonel Norton's was very nearly being arrested in his flight, and recognised by Colonel Butler, notwithstanding his acting so well the part in speech and manners of Mr. Lane's postillion—for the poet says

"Horses and Kings in exile for'd to roam,
Leave swelling praise and courtly ways at home."

So His Majesty arrived safely at Castle Cary, and was received for the night at the house of Mr. Edward Kinton, the lessee of the manor under the Marquis of Hertford, then the proprietor.

From Castle Cary the party returned to Bruton.

The Evening Meeting

was well attended, but was not opened until rather a late hour, as the excursion had taken somewhat longer than was calculated.

Mr. HUNT said that he had received a paper from Mr. Shelmerdine, on "The Exploration of Muchelney Abbey." It was valuable and interesting; but, as the time was short, and the writer was not able to be present, he proposed that it should be taken as read, so that it might appear in the volume of *Proceedings*. This proposition was carried, and the paper will be found in Part II.

Rev. Prebendary SCARTH said that he had prepared a paper on "Roman Somerset." As the hour was late he gave a brief verbal sketch of its contents. The paper itself will be found in Part II. He was anxious that a clear and concise account of all the Roman remains in the county should be compiled ; and, above all, that a map of Roman Somerset should be prepared, which should have the sites of all such discoveries marked down. If such a map were once made, fresh discoveries could be marked as they were brought to light. He believed that such a map as he wanted would not cost much : it would illustrate the paper which he had prepared, and of which he had now given a sketch. It need not add much to the cost of the volume. He had offered to compile such a map some two years ago, but had not met with encouragement.

Mr. HUNT said that he certainly had not received Mr. Scarth's plan, as it was brought before him some two or three years ago, with any great encouragement, as it then appeared to him to be a far more expensive undertaking than what was now proposed, and he had to consider the funds of the Society, and the various ways in which it had to spend the very small amount of money of which it had the disposal. He liked Mr. Scarth's plan of a map in its present shape very much, and begged to propose that he should be requested to publish such a map as Mr. Scarth described, as an illustration of the paper of which they had just heard such an interesting summary.

Bishop CLIFFORD seconded the proposal. He thought that it would be an excellent thing if every one who discovered any Roman remains would send word to the Curator of the Museum, that so he might gradually compile a complete list.

The proposition was carried.

Mr. SPARKS thought that a duplicate map should be kept at Taunton Castle, on which all new discoveries should be marked.

Mr. HUNT said that a large map was kept there for that purpose, and that Mr. Bidgood marked upon it all the more important discoveries of Roman remains.

Rev. F. BROWN next read a paper, which excited considerable interest and some amusement, on the wills of some of the principal families of Bruton and its neighbourhood. It will be found in Part II.

Mr. KERSLAKE read some extracts from a pamphlet which he had lately printed on Penpits, one of the objects of the next day's excursion. He believed that this remarkable spot, called by the late Rev. F. Warre "the crux of antiquaries," was the Cair Pensauelcoit, mentioned in some of the copies of the work which passes under the name of *Nennius*. The termination *coit* was *wood*, so that here was Penselwood. Any one who visited the spot would be inclined to admit that the remains were those of a great and populous city. The pits were unlike those found in hill fortresses; they were larger, and were not uniform.

The PRESIDENT said that he had always believed that the pits were quarries for whetstones.

Mr. KERSLAKE, on the other hand, repeated his arguments, to show that they were the site of a large city, containing many hundred separate habitations; many now existed, and many more had no doubt perished.

Rev. Prebendary SCARTH did not believe that they were quarry holes for the most part. The holes should be dug into and examined systematically.

Mr. HUNT remarked that theories which were founded on the mere coincidences of names stood on a poor foundation, especially when these names came from no better source than one of the lists which had been at some time copied into *Nennius*.