

Friday.

On Friday a large number left the Market Place in well appointed breaks, at 9.30. The glorious weather, and the drive through a charming country, with magnificent views at every turn were delightful. The destination was

Camelot, or Cadbury Castle,

at the foot of which the Members were joined by the Dorset Field Club, amongst whom were Mr. Mansel-Pleydell, the President, and the Rev. O. P. Cambridge, F.R.S., Hon. Treasurer. Their party numbered about forty. After climbing up the steep embankments to the summit, from which there are splendid and extensive views of the surrounding country,

The Rev. J. A. BENNETT conducted the party over the Camp, and delivered, *in situ*, an address, to which his enthusiasm for the subject, and his genial manner, lent a charm to the hearers which can in no way be reproduced even by the full text printed in Part II.

In the discussion which followed,

Mr. NORRIS, in expressing the great pleasure he had experienced whilst listening to their Secretary's eloquent exposition of the grand old Camp on which they were assembled, felt that he was also giving vent to at least equal gratification on the part of those whose presence around him proved that this height was not now impregnable, whatever it might have been in days gone by.

He was aware that the study of "Camelot" had been to his friend, Mr. Bennett, a lifelong labour of love; nevertheless, although he could afford to make him a present of King Arthur and his round table, he must demur to the appropriation of Kenwealh and his brave followers. He considered it highly probable that the great scene of conflict between

Saxon and Briton in the year 658, was some miles to the west of the spot on which they stood. He had elsewhere¹¹ given his reasons for believing that the British tribes east of the Parret had made their final stand at the Pens ("Pen Mill," and "Pen Hill"), by Yeovil, where also there were several other hills which, from their configuration, might well have been called "Pens," 1,200 years ago.

The opposing forces had, according to the Ang.-Sax. Chron., met in bloody combat at Bradford-on-Avon, in A.D. 652; a combat in which he believed each side claimed the victory. The next reference in the chronicle to the struggle between the Saxons and the British was that referring (A.D. 658) to the victory of Kenwealh over the Britons, in a fight beginning at *Peonna*, of late generally translated as "The Pens" (in the plural number), and ending at *Pedrida*, usually given as the river Parret; the great stream which, with its marshes and swamps, was at that time a formidable barrier between the tribes who occupied its eastern and western banks respectively, but which was capable of being crossed at a favourable spot (now called Petherton Bridge), by the Foss-way ford, signs of which were still visible at low water.

Looming above this, to the east, was the great residential fortress of Ham Hill, which crowns a steep natural promontory, commanding the adjacent country, and approached on the east only by a road over the hills from Aldon and Hendford (close to the Yeovil "Pens"), five miles distant.

He held that the chronicles recorded, for the most part, great historic events, without giving in detail, causes that led up to them. Doubtless, between 652 and 658, there had been constant frontier fights between the opposing forces—the Saxons advancing, and the Britons retiring—along the neighbourhood of the Foss-way, until meeting for a decisive conflict at Yeovil, the invaded party took to the heights of

¹¹ *Proc. Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, vol. xxx, pt. ii, p. 146.

Aldon and Hendford, following the road over Odcombe and Odcombe Down, towards their strong river fortress on Hamden.

The battle must have been bloody, severe, and long contested, with alternate advantage to either side, until at its end the Britons were finally and for ever driven across the river "to a place called Pederydan," as Æthelweard told us in his chronicle. This could only mean South Petherton, the Saxon edition of a British town which once stood on the western bank of the Parret, and which spot had been identified by the discovery of various relics, in the speaker's possession.

Doubtless they attempted to cross the river by the ford alluded to, a 'short mile' west of which, on slightly rising ground, stood the old Domesday estate of *Wig-borough*, which name was quite as indicative of some big fight as *Sig-well* would be of a victory.

For these reasons, and perhaps for others not equally strong, Mr. Norris felt that he was entitled to regard his theory as to the site of Kenwealh's last victory over the British as being at least as tenable as that of his friend Mr. Bennett, to whom he offered, on his own part, his best thanks for his able and highly interesting address. (See Part II.)

Leaving Camelot, the Members next visited

South Cadbury Church,

its architectural features being explained by the HON. SEC., the Vicar of the parish.

From the Church the party proceeded to luncheon, which was served in a tent close by. Afterwards

Mr. BENNETT, addressing the assembled company, said he wanted to explain to them what their Record Society was doing to put into print documents valuable towards the history of the county, which probably would not be printed at all were it not for the Record Society. They had now got four volumes. The Members' subscription to the Society was a

guinea per annum, and they undertook to give what they could for the money, and that generally amounted to one volume a year. The income of the Society amounted to about £130 a year, and that was really spent in printing and such like matter; therefore, for bringing out the text they had to be dependent upon the generosity of their workers. Their first volume, the earliest of their *Episcopal Registers* (Bishop Drokenford's), was prepared by Bishop Hobhouse, who spent a portion of every day in an office at Wells, upon the ancient manuscripts. Anyone who had had to do with episcopal registers would know what a great task Bishop Hobhouse undertook. He was not in good health, and his sight was weak, therefore it was an extraordinary work. Volume two consisted of the *Records of the Survey of the Chantries*, done for them by Mr. Emanuel Green, who had been collecting the material for a great number of years. The third volume was *Kirby's Quest*, done for them by Mr. Dickinson. Here again the greater part of it was written by Mr. Dickinson's own hand. The fourth volume, which would be ready in the course of that week, and for which also they had to thank Bishop Hobhouse, was exceedingly interesting and valuable. It was a collection or calendar of about six *Churchwardens' Parish Accounts*, between the years 1450 and 1550, which embraced the troublesome times of the Reformation. But for voluntary effort, the text of that would have cost them £60 or £70. The forthcoming volume was a *Custumarium of Glastonbury Abbey*; being a list of all the manors belonging to the Abbey, with the tenure upon which the land was held, the rent paid being almost entirely in labour. Of course in process of time this labour service was commuted for money rent, and thus they would arrive at the period when rent by money was introduced. After referring to the documents in the possession of the Marquis of Bath, Mr. Bennett said that by this fifth volume they would get such an account of the tenure of land as could not be obtained elsewhere in England. It would be

necessary to search through the manuscripts in the British Museum, and he pointed out that the property which Glastonbury Abbey held in Wiltshire was quite as large as in Somersetshire. The Abbey had property also in Dorset, so he thought it would be a good opportunity to put before them this point—that it would be a most valuable book to their neighbours if they could find means to include Wilts and Dorset. It would involve a very large expenditure indeed to include those counties; something like £50 more than their (Somerset) proportion would cost them. He wished now that so many were present, to put the matter before the Members of the Dorset Society, and to propose that they should get forty subscribers at a guinea apiece for one year, in order to bring in their portion. If also Wilts was willing to join, and to subscribe just for this one particular volume, they too would thus secure their own proportion. The volume would be a valuable one as a contribution to the history of the whole of Great Britain, and especially interesting for each of their own three counties. In speaking about voluntary labour, Mr. Bennett said the present volume of *Churchwardens' Accounts* had, save the printing, been provided by voluntary labour. There had been a great deal of extra expense, and he thought it ought to be known that Bishop Hobhouse had, out of his own pocket, spent a large sum of money. The book cost them £120, but it would have cost them nearly £200, had they not been spared the expense by Bishop Hobhouse's kindness. With regard to the next volume, they could not get this voluntary assistance. Many of the manuscripts were in the British Museum, and it would necessitate perhaps a six months stay in London, searching and translating them.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER suggested that they should strike whilst the iron was hot, and gave his name in for two guineas.

The PRESIDENT thought the subject Mr. Bennett had brought forward was well worthy of notice, and he sincerely hoped the Dorset and Wiltshire Societies would co-operate.

Mr. MANSEL-PLEYDELL, as President of the Dorset Field Club, thanked Mr. Hobhouse for the kind way in which they had been received that day, and promised his best assistance towards the promotion of Mr. Bennett's scheme. As an individual Member, he should be glad to put his name down for two copies.

The Rev. O. P. CAMBRIDGE hoped that their Members would co-operate, and follow the example of their President, not necessarily for two copies each, but that they would all join.

Mr. STORY MASKELYNE, as the President of the Wiltshire Society, gave in his name for one copy, though he hoped it would not be called vol. v, because everyone would then say, "Where are the other four?" and it would then cost him £5, instead of £1.

Before separating, the Rev. J. A. BENNETT said he had a paper sent him by Mr. J. L. W. Page, which he had intended to read at the meeting the previous evening, but was prevented through want of time. It related to the discovery of a stone on Exmoor, with an inscription upon it, which Professor Rhys had pronounced to be one of the most valuable finds in recent times in this part of the country.

[The paper is printed in Part II.]

The party then adjourned to the Vicarage to inspect an interesting collection of objects found on Camelot.

They next visited

North Cadbury Church.

Its ecclesiastical history was briefly told by the HON. SEC.

Some evidence as to the building of the Church and founding of a college are furnished as follows by Rev. F. W. WEAVER, from Tanner's *Notitia Monastica* (1787); edition not paged:—

"North Cadbury College. K. Henry V [1417] anno 4, gave licence to dame Elizabeth Botreaux, relict of Sir W^m

Botreaux the elder, to found and endow in the par. church here (w^h that lady had then new built)¹³ a college for seven secular chaplains, one of whom to be rector, and for four clerks. It was to have been dedicated to St. Michael; but *quære*, Whether it ever was settled. It seems not to have been done in 37 *Hen. 6* (1459), and that the same design was then resumed by her grandson W^m, Lord Botreaux, but never perfected, for Leland, who passed through this town, mentions nothing of it, nor is anything of it found in the valuations, or in the grants of colleges and college lands upon the Patent Rolls after the Dissolution.”

“Licentia regia Eliz. quæ fuit ux. Will. Botreaux senioris Chivaler concessa, pro fundatione et dotatione ecclesiæ Collegiatæ de N. Cadbury [Pat. 4 Hen. V, part. unica m. 1] is printed in Dugdale’s *Mon.*, vi, 1423.”

Mr. BUCKLE then pointed out the architectural features as follows:—North Cadbury Church differs from the others visited by the Society on this occasion, in that the whole building is practically of one date. The only fragment of an earlier church consists of portions of the piers and capitals of the nave arcades. These are all alike, and all have the same Decorated mouldings, but it is not probable that the earlier Church can have supplied them all; the presumption is that the old stones were re-used as far as they would go, and the rest made to match. All the piers have Perpendicular bases.

The tradition that the tower was built before the rest of the Church is corroborated by the appearance of the north-east buttress within the Church. Probably the Decorated Church had a south aisle but no north aisle, and this buttress, when first erected, was consequently outside the Church. The label terminations over the west door are formed by two heads, that of a lady in a square head-dress being placed on the dexter side,

¹³ “Eadem Elizabetha in ecclesia parochiali de North Cadebury in com Somerset, *per ipsam de nova ædificatâ et constructâ, quoddam Collegium perpetuum,*” etc., etc.

while the sinister head is that of a knight, with (apparently) a plume of feathers for his crest. These may represent Dame Elizabeth and her deceased husband Sir William Botreaux; but the Botreaux crest was a griffin, as it is represented on the tomb within the tower. The belfry had originally one window on each side of the tower, but a small additional square window has been introduced asymmetrically on the east and west sides.

One of the most striking features about the Church is its excessive symmetry; there is even a two-storey porch on the north side to match that on the south, and the only differences in the two elevations are due to the presence of the tower stair turret on the south side, and the vestry (which is a subsequent addition though nearly contemporaneous) on the north. Within there is however a difference between the two porch rooms. That on the north is entered by a staircase starting from the porch outside the Church door, and has a small spy-hole into the Church; this was clearly the watching chamber. The room on the south side has no spy-hole, the windows are heavily barred, and the entrance is from within the Church itself; this seems to have been the treasury. Both chambers are provided with fireplaces, each placed between two windows in the outer wall over the entrance archway, but the chimneys are not carried above the parapet.

On the outside of the Church mason's marks abound. The angle formed by the north porch, and the adjoining bay on the west side of it, has been used as a fives court. The vestry seems to have been used for a school, as two black-letter alphabets may be seen painted upon its northern wall.

The great size of the chancel is due to the fact of the Church having been collegiate; and the high blank walls on either side were originally hidden by the canopy work of the stalls, part of which survived until recently, but all has now unfortunately been destroyed. Two niches of the ancient reredos remain, but all the central part of the existing reredos is

modern. Stowed away in the tower is a beautiful monument, which undoubtedly belongs in the chancel. This is an altar tomb, with the two recumbent figures of Sir William Botreaux and his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John St. Lo. He died in 1392, but she was still alive in 1420. She founded the college, and was probably also the builder of the Church. The knight is represented in plate armour, with the collar of S.S. round his neck, and his head resting upon his crest—*A griffin segreant*. The lady wears the mitred head-dress. At one end of the altar tomb are images, on a very small scale, of the Virgin and Child in the centre, and (one on each side) the knight and his lady kneeling and worshipping. The tomb was probably not erected until after the death of the lady. A piece of canopy work, now resting behind the heads of these figures, has no connection with the tomb, and more probably belongs to a reredos. Besides this tomb, there are two others of the seventeenth century (likewise placed in the tower), one of them dated 1611, but both without inscription or other clue. The tower also contains an altar slab, which appears to have been re-consecrated, having two crosses close together in one of the back corners.

In the chancel arch are three iron staples, one in the apex, which probably supported (or helped to support) the Rood; and one on each side, from which was perhaps suspended the cloth which, during Lent, hid the Rood from sight; or they may have carried the images of Mary and John. The roof is, as usual, ceiled with oak over the Rood loft, and over the altar spaces in the two aisles.

Under a yew tree, in the rectory garden, may be seen some fragments of an elaborate stone pulpit, of the fifteenth century; and in Cadbury House are some panels of stained glass of late date which, we may fairly assume, once ornamented the windows of this Church. This assumption is strengthened by the coincidence that the same initials, "R & S," are found in this glass and on one of the nave seats,

in each case entwined in a love-knot. The glass appears to come from the tracery lights of the Perpendicular windows. Each panel contains a single figure of an evangelist or saint. One point in connection with this glass is interesting. A tiny figure of a woman, with palm branch and book, is almost identical with a figure on some glass belonging to Mr. Woodforde, and said to have been taken from Alford Church. The two figures were both certainly taken from the same drawing.

The oak seats fortunately remain in the Church. One bench-end near the bottom of the south aisle appears to be of English workmanship, and the remainder Dutch. They are dated 1538, and present a curious medley, both of subjects and of style. The architectural style is a mixture of bad Gothic and good Renaissance detail, and the carving is generally rather poor, though the figure subjects are treated in a very bold and effective, if not a very artistic, manner. The seats in Alford Church should be compared with these. The bench-ends there have the same unusual outline, and their treatment is very similar; but they are more deeply cut, and the Gothic forms have a truer aspect; still the one English bench-end in Cadbury Church resembles very closely indeed the Alford seats. Perhaps the Alford seats are an English imitation of the foreign work at Cadbury. The resemblances which have been noticed between the seats and the painted glass in these two Churches may perhaps be accounted for by the fact that while James Fitz-James was Rector of North Cadbury, 1521-41, John Fitz-James was Lord of the Manor of Alford. But a closer parallel to these seats is to be found in Lapford Church in Devonshire. Here the ornamental details are precisely similar, and here again the seats are attributed to Dutch workmen.¹⁴

Some of the bench-ends are covered with merely decorative detail, others bear simple emblematic devices, such as IHS,

¹⁴ Drawings of some of the Lapford bench-ends were exhibited by Mr. J. O. Cash.

a flagon, etc. ; but the majority contain some feature of greater interest, either a piece of pictorial sculpture or a personal memorial in the form of initials or heraldic bearings. Of the pictorial class two stand pre-eminent, representations respectively of the Virgin and Child, and of S. Margaret emerging triumphant from the dragon's back, after having been swallowed by him, and before the end of her robe has entirely disappeared within the monster's jaws. Large grotesque heads are found on several of the seats, and on one a full-length figure of a flute-player. On others are carved pictures of a church, a mill, a pack-horse on a stony road, a heron, and a cat carefully extracting a mouse from a gin. The initials found are "S B," and the following pairs in love knots, "R & W," "R & S," "A & S." The following devices may have some heraldic significance :—A knot (not, however, one of the well-known forms of knot), a pelican, a ragged staff with a scroll or strap twisted round, a unicorn bearing a blank shield, and a rose. Besides these, there are some coats of arms, particulars of which are given in Mr. Jewers's paper, in Part II. It is noteworthy that among the arms we find neither Hastings nor Hungerford. It has been suggested that many of the seats were given by separate donors, and in some cases the carving seems to bear out this theory. In particular it may be noticed that the two love knots, "R & S" and "R & W," occur at the two ends of the same seat, and may commemorate "R's" two successive wives.

*North Cadbury House,*¹⁵

which is close to the Church, was next inspected, and its history briefly related by the Rev. J. A. BENNETT.

The plan of Cadbury House is distinctly mediæval, and it is probable that a good part of the walling is also mediæval, although all the ornamental features belong to later dates.

¹⁵ On the Heraldry of Cadbury House, see Mr. Jewers's paper in Part II.

Mr. Bennett exhibited two ancient oil paintings of the Elizabethan house, which shew that the essential part of the plan consists of a hall, with porch and bay window roughly balancing each other on the north front, and a wing at each end of the hall, the whole forming three sides of a small courtyard facing south, in one corner of which was a large turret staircase. If the chapel at Lyte's Cary were removed, the plan of this latter house would be precisely similar in its main features. One of the pictures referred to shows also a couple of Perpendicular buttresses on the south front, and there still remains on the north side a small buttress of an earlier date. The other picture shews a square fore-court on the north (or entrance) front, with an imposing gate-house. Unfortunately this court and gate-house have disappeared, and the south front has been rebuilt in a plain Italian style.

Tea was provided by the kindness of Lord HOBHOUSE, and on leaving Cadbury House the proceedings of the Society terminated, after a most charming three days' excursion, the success of which was greatly due to the Hon. Secretary, Rev. J. A. Bennett. He was, however, ably assisted by Mr. Bidgood, the Society's Curator at Taunton Castle.
