

Third Day: Excursion.

The members and their friends assembled at the Fine Arts Academy, at 10 o'clock, and notwithstanding a steady downpour of rain, started on the Excursion which had been arranged for the day. The first halt was at the

Church of Whitchurch

which Mr. FREEMAN described as an excellent example of the earliest type of the Somersetshire churches of which there were any remains, and was the best worthy of study of any he knew, retaining, as it did, many of its original features, which in many cases had been very much altered. It was of the early local type, when the cross form seemed to have been very common ; and this form was preserved in this case, whereas in many of the earlier churches it had given way to the predominant west-end tower, as at St. Cuthbert's, at Wells. This church at Whitchurch was an excellent example of the transitional style towards the end of the 12th or the beginning of the 13th century, the corner shafts being among the best specimens of transitional work anywhere. Mr. Freeman pointed out some peculiarities in

the shafts and mouldings, and then said the church was originally a cross of a simple form, consisting of nave, chancel, and transepts only. In the 14th century a good deal was done to the church, and the east and transept windows were put in at that time. In the 15th century changes were made which completely altered the original arrangement of the building. An aisle was built on the south side, swallowing up the south transept. The lantern arch on that side was quite perfect, and the tower remained untouched, a good example of the tower of the period. The roofs of the nave and aisles seemed to be untouched, genuine examples of the local type of roof, and the chancel roof, which was a fair imitation of them. He was sorry to see that the walls were left rough and unplastered. This was thought a fine thing by some modern architects, but our ancestors did not do it, but used to plaster their walls. A new window had been placed in the aisle, to the confusion of the chronology of the building. If a new window were really wanted the architect might easily have put in one in character with the rest of the church.

The company then partook of refreshments which had been kindly provided for them in the schoolroom.

Maes Knoll was the next place to be visited according to the programme, but in consequence of the unpropitious state of the weather it had to be abandoned, and the party proceeded to Norton Malreward Church and from thence to

Stanton Drew Church.

Mr. Freeman discovering a ground plan of the structure hanging against the west wall, said that it needed a ground plan for any one to see where they were. The church

seemed to be one of those which, instead of a nave and aisles, consisted of two almost equal bodies, and they could hardly tell which was the nave and which the aisle. There was a side tower, and it might have formed a porch in itself; but the porch now was built right up against the original buttress of the tower. In detail there were only the queer capitals which were worthy of notice, and they were quite different from anything they had yet seen, being more like the capitals they found in Devonshire and at the other end of the county, of lozenge shape, and neither rich nor beautiful.

On leaving the church the party took shelter in a spacious barn near, where the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH gave an account of the Druidical Remains at Stanton Drew, previous to an inspection of the stones, which was afterwards made under the guidance of that gentleman. A paper on this subject is printed in Part II.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Rev. Prebendary Scarth; and also to Mr. Fowler, churchwarden, for the trouble he had taken in pointing out the position of some of the stones.

Sutton Court

was the next place. Here the party met with a hearty reception from Sir Edward and Lady Strachey, and were entertained in a most cordial manner.

Mr. Freeman proposed the health of Sir Edward and Lady Strachey, alluding to the hospitality they had shown towards the members of the society, and speaking of the admirable manner in which Sir Edward had discharged his duties as president. Mr. Freeman also referred to the kindness which had been shown to the members of the society by the citizens of Bristol.

The Rev. F. Brown, of Nailsea, proposed the health of the gentlemen who had organised the present meeting, which was acknowledged by Mr. R. G. Badcock and the Rev. J. W. Caldicott.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY then gave an interesting historical narrative, relating to Sutton Court, compiled chiefly from the unpublished history written by his ancestor, Mr. John Strachey. This is printed in Part II.

On quitting Sutton Court the party drove to Chew Magna, and in the church of that place Sir Edward Strachey gave some further important details from the MS. of his ancestor, relative to portions of the edifice, and explained the quaint monuments which are in the interior. Chew Court, the ancient palace of the bishops of the diocese, was also inspected.

The company then proceeded to the Manor House, where they were most hospitably entertained by Wm. Adlam, Esq.; and Mrs. Adlam. Some time was spent in examining the interior of the house, as well as a collection of pictures illustrating local subjects.

Thanks were cordially presented to Mr. and Mrs. Adlam for their hospitality.

It had been intended to make an inspection of Dundry Church, but darkness was fast setting in, and the party therefore drove direct to Bristol.
