

As time would not admit of visiting Henstridge Church, the President exhibited a fine drawing of the monument, and read the following paper contributed by THOMAS BOND, Esq., of Tyneham, on

The Monument in Henstridge Church.

The short notice by Collinson, in his History of Somerset, of the fine monument of the Carent family in Henstridge church is inaccurate. He says the tomb was erected to

* Mr. Barrett and Mr. Sharpe were the candidates, but were never returned for the borough

† The Hon. Stewart Wortley, and Mr. Lockhart canvassed without success.

the memory of Sir William Carent, and Alice his wife, the last of the Toomers, but this is clearly a mistake. The heraldry alone points out that the individuals commemorated are William Carent, Esq., and Margaret his wife, the daughter of William Stourton, Esq., and sister of John first Baron Stourton, and the archives of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, prove that the tomb was erected by this William Carent, in his lifetime, to the memory of his deceased wife and of himself. He was son and heir of William Carent, by Alice his wife, sister, and ultimately heir of Richard Toomer, of Toomer, in this parish.

From the register of Bishop Beckynton, it appears that on 20th November 1463 (3 Edward IV) the Bishop granted forty days' indulgence to all true penitents, who should go to the tomb of that worthy man, William Carent, Esq., erected in the prebendal church of Henstridge, (*qui ad tumbam probi viri Willielmi Carent, armigeri, in ecclesia prebendali de Hengstrigge, erectam et fabricatam accesserint,*) and should devoutly repeat "Pater noster" and "Ave" for the welfare of the said William Carent, and of the venerable Mr. Nicholas Carent, and John Carent, senior, his brothers, and also of John Carent, junior, his son, during their lives, and for the soul of Margaret, late wife of the said William Carent, and the souls of the other persons aforesaid, after their deaths.

The monument consists of an altar tomb, of Ham-hill stone, surmounted by an arched canopy of the same material. Underneath the canopy rest the effigies of the Esquire and his lady, which, with the slab on which they lie, are of grey sandstone. The tomb and canopy are still in good preservation; but the heads of the effigies are much mutilated. The male figure is habited in a complete suit of the armour commonly in use at that period, with

the exception of the hands, which are joined and elevated in the attitude of prayer, and the head, which is also uncovered, rests on a cushion. The hair is cut short round the face. On the left side is a sword suspended from a belt which passes round the body; and on the right side are a misericorde, or dagger, and gauntlets. The feet have broad toes, and rest on what appears to be a lioness couchant regardant. There is a little shield on each shoulder, on which are depicted the arms of Toomer, viz. *gules, three bars wavy argent*. The female figure is a good specimen of art and execution. The features, however, are much mutilated, the hands are raised in the attitude of prayer, and the head rests on a cushion. The mantle is fastened across the breast with a cord, and the dress descends in straight folds, entirely covering the feet, which rest on an animal, apparently muzzled, but it is much mutilated. On each breast are painted the arms of Stourton—not in the form of a shield but on the mantle—viz. : *sable, a bend or, between six fountains*. An inscription, which was probably commemorative, ran round the verge of the slab, but is now utterly illegible. Another inscription occupied the moulding which runs up the side and across the head of the canopy—only a few words are now legible, but from these it appears to have consisted of the lines so frequently met with on monuments of this period :—

Sis testis Xste, quod non tumulus jacet iste
Corpus ut ornetur sed spiritus ut memoretur.

Collinson thought the Toomers of Toomer, and the Domers of Pen Domer, near Yeovil, in this county, were one and the same family, but in this also he was certainly mistaken. The Domers or Dummers were quite a distinct family, and bore a different coat of arms. They

sprang from the village of Dummer, near Basingstoke, in Hampshire, where they were seated shortly after the conquest, and a branch of them continued there till the latter end of the 16th century. The elder branch removed into Somersetshire, having become possessed of Penne by marrying an heiress of that manor. She was living a widow in the reign of King John. The Domers continued in possession of Pendomer till the reign of Henry IV. The Toomers took their name from the manor of Toomer, in the parish of Henstridge, and Richard De Toomer purchased lands in Henxtrigge, in 31 Edward I.

The Carents first appear in this county and in Dorsetshire in the early part of Edward III's reign, when they held lands in Hinton S. George and Kingston, in Somerset, and in Marnhull and Todbere, in Dorset. At one period, during the reign of Henry IV, they resided at Carent's Court, in the parish of Swanage, in the Isle of Purbeck, but after becoming possessed of Toomer by their marriage with an heiress of that place they made it their principal residence. William Carent, who erected the monument above described, was some time high sheriff of Somerset and Dorset, and member of Parliament for the former county. He died on the 8th of April, 1476 (16 Edward IV). His brother, Mr. Nicholas Carent, was elected Dean of Wells 22nd August, 1446 (24 Henry VI), being then a Canon of that Cathedral, and he died 3rd May, 1467 (7 Edward IV). John Carent, senior, their brother, was seated at Silton, in Dorsetshire, in right of Alice his first wife, who held it in jointure from a former husband. His second wife was Isabel, daughter and heir of Robert Rempston, of Godlingston, in the Isle of Purbeck, Dorset, and he died 4th April, 1478 (18 Edward IV). The manor of Toomer continued in the Carent family till James Carent,

Esq., of Toomer, conveyed it, together with the manor of Venn, in 1675, to trustees, to the use of himself for his life, and after his decease in trust to raise money for payment of his debts. He died before 25th March, 1676, and the estate passed to Edward de Carterett, Knt, gentleman usher of the Black Rod, whose son, Sir Charles de Carterett, and Elizabeth his wife, afterwards wife of Alexander Waugh, Esq., sold it in 1696 to James Medlycott, Esq., of the Middle Temple, ancestor of Sir William Coles Medlycott, Bart., the present owner.

Mr. BATTEN observed that it was satisfactory to find that what he had come prepared to suggest to the meeting was confirmed by so high an authority as Mr. Bond. He produced a copy of the Indulgence referred to, taken from Hutton's Extracts, which document, by stating the Christian name of the wife of the entombed Wm. Carent to be Margaret, clearly identified him as the son, and not the husband, of Alice Toomer. He was satisfied that Collinson had, as Mr. Bond said, confounded the two families of Dommere or Dummer, and Toomer. The Dummers of Chilthorne Domer and Pendomer were no doubt one family; he had charters in his possession showing this. But he could not trace any connection between them and Toomer, or that they were ever known by that name. In every variety of spelling the initial D is preserved. The arms of Toomer are said by Collinson to be *three bars wavy*, whereas those of Dummer were—*Az billeyty, and in fesse a crescent or*, ascribed to "Joan Domare" in Charles' Roll. This coat is borne also on the shield of the recumbent effigy of one of the family—perhaps Sir John Dummer, temp Edward III—in Pendomer Church; and Mr. Batten exhibited a letter of attorney, dated 19th November, 9th Hen. IV, from Edmund Dummer, Esq., to William Staunton and

others, to deliver seizin of his manor of Pendomer to John Stourton and others, to hold to them and the heirs and assigns of John Stourton, to which is attached a seal, with a fine impression of the same arms, and an inscription—*Sigillum Edmundi Dummere*. Mr. Batten mentioned also, that the Carents were owners of a manor and estate in Yeovil Marsh and Kingston juxta Yeovil, which in the reign of Elizabeth, passed to the Comptons, and the greater part was conveyed by them, 2nd Jac. I, to John Harbyn, Esq., lineal ancestor of the present Mr. Harbin, of Newton.

Having visited the church, and examined the varied and valuable Museum of objects of interest collected in different parts of the world by Mr. Medlycott, the members and their friends, by the courteous invitation of the President, assembled in the beautiful grounds of Ven House, where they were sumptuously entertained by Sir William and Lady Medlycott.

The courtesy and hospitality of the President and his lady having been duly acknowledged, votes of thanks unanimously carried, were presented to the Rev. Hill D. Wickham, and Mr. Herbert Messiter, for their valuable services as Local Secretaries; to the Rev. Prebendary Scarth, Mr. T. E. Stevens, and other gentlemen who had read papers; to the General Secretaries, and to Sir William C. Medlycott, as President. The Annual Meeting was then declared to be closed, and all the members present could not fail to have considered the proceedings as in every respect among the most successful and agreeable in the annals of the Society.

NOTE—In reference to a statement made during the ex-

cursion as recorded (p. 19), the editor begs to add that while these sheets were passing through the press, he was favoured with a note by Mr. W. A. Franks, from which it appears that there is authority for the use of metal shoes for mules and asses in Roman times, and that iron "slippers" which seem to have been used for the hoofs of animals have been frequently found with Roman remains. The specimen in the British Museum however, would seem to have been designed to protect the sides of the hoof as well as the base. In the article SOLEA, by Mr. James Yates, in Smith's Dict. of Greek and Roman Antiquities, it is stated, "iron shoes (*soleae ferreae*) were put on the feet of mules, (Catullus xvii. 26); but instead of this, Nero had his mule shod with silver, (Sueton, Nero, 30), and his Empress Poppœa her's with gold, (Phi. Hist. xxxiii. 11. 3. 49)."
