

The Local Museum

was arranged in the gallery of the Town Hall. The objects of interest were collected for the most part by the energy of the Rev. J. E. Odgers, and Messrs. A. G. Barham and W. L. Winterbotham, and were arranged by Mr. W. Bidgood, the Assistant Secretary and Curator of the Society. The valuable collection of borough documents was exhibited in a series of glass cases. These documents have been made the subject of a special Report by Mr. H. J. Riley. In this he states that, he found about a thousand of them, of which the larger number referred to the transfer of land and houses at different dates, ranging between the reigns of Henry III and Henry VII. Among the most interesting and valuable of the documents exhibited may be enumerated the following:—Charters of Edward II and Edward III, Henry VII and Henry VIII, and of Queens Mary and Elizabeth—the two last mentioned not being

named in the Commissioners' report: Accounts of the bailiffs and stewards of the Commonalty of Bridgwater, in the reigns of Richard II and Henry VI: some interesting documents, beautifully written, by which the "Friars Minors" in Bridgwater, admitted persons to participate in the benefits of the brotherhood, the Conventual seal being affixed, and in good preservation: a deed of Cicely, Duchess of York, Widow of Richard, Duke of York, and mother of King Edward IV, who had granted to her "the lordship of the burgh of Bridgwater": a communication made to the Mayor and burgesses of Bridgwater, by the Mayor of Youghal, deserving especial notice as a piece of "Irish English" at so distant a date as A.D. 1475, the letter complains of outrages alleged to have been committed by Bridgwater seamen upon Youghal sailors at sea, and requests that the Mayor and Corporation of Bridgwater would endeavour to induce these men to keep the peace, the seal of the Corporation is affixed, and is in very fair condition, representing a galley: a conveyance to John Mogge, of a tenement in Bridgwater, in the street called "Ordloue Stret," and extending to the street called "Pynlestret," near the street leading to the North Gate; 26th Richard III—the two seals are perfect. The two streets now form the one street known as the "Penel Olive Street." Mr. Riley found that among the volumes of accounts of the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries were those of the water-bailiffs of the town in 1567, wrapped in a large folio parchment sheet of manuscript of Pliny's *Natural History*, of the 14th century; also a large folio sheet of manuscript, apparently a calendar or summary of its contents, and these manuscripts were so beautifully written that Mr. Riley recommended that they should be taken off and bound together in one volume. This book has been placed among the muniments, and was exhibited with other specimens of ancient writings, &c., most of them being parts of mass books or church calendars. A charter of Inspecimus and Confirmation of Henry VII under the Great Seal, recites a charter of the 8th of Edward IV.,

wherein it is stated that owing to its then state of decay, certain liberties are granted to the town of Bridgwater, with leave to elect a steward or recorder. Among the most remarkable of the miscellaneous objects exhibited were—a fine collection of Greek, Roman, and early English coins; a variety of seals, belonging to civil and ecclesiastical bodies; an ancient altar-cloth, belonging to Wembdon Church, and a medal of Urban VI, found there. These were shown by Mr. H. C. WHITE, of Wembdon. A steel crossbow and sword, picked up on Sedgemoor—Dr. FARMER. Bronzes found in ground belonging to the Union Workhouse at Taunton. These are the property of the Society, and were exhibited by the Curator. Collections of coins, eggs, and butterflies—Mr. W. STOATE.

On the entrance side of the Hall, Mr. H. C. White exhibited a magnificent series of engravings, comprising many examples of Albert Durer, Marc Antonio Raimondi, Hogarth, Ostade, Boydell, Strange, Bartolozzi, Sharp, and Morghen.

The splendid collection of Engravings now being exhibited in the Castle Hall at Taunton, has, by the exertions of some of our Committee, and especially of the Rev. I. S. Gale and Messrs. W. E. Surtees and A. Malet, and by the kindness of the owners, given the public an opportunity of examining an unrivalled series of specimens, illustrating the growth and progress of the art of engraving in its various branches. The Catalogue of this Exhibition, prepared by the Rev. I. S. Gale, with the assistance of Mr. Bidgood, and beginning with an interesting Introduction by Mr. Surtees, is in itself a valuable work of reference.