

The Local Museum

was held in a room of the Town Hall. It contained many objects of great interest. It was chiefly formed by the efforts of Mr. F. H. Dickinson and Mr. T. Serel, who selected and arranged a series of manuscripts, which were kindly lent by the Dean and Chapter, and which were the most important part of the exhibition. There is a large number of manuscripts in the Chapter Records, of which the value has not been ascertained, but if those which were shown are a fair sample of the rest, their importance must be considerable. The following is a list of the most interesting objects exhibited :—

BY THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF WELLS.

1. A grant by Edgar, King of the Mercians, Northumbrians, and Britons (afterwards king of the whole kingdom), of forty mancuses to Eahlstane. The fourth signature to this grant is that of Bishop Dunstan. The document is in wonderfully good preservation.

2. A duplicate Charter of William II, granting the Abbey of St. Peter at Bath to Bishop John de Villula, 1190.

3. A Charter of Bishop Robert (1136-1166) taking off tolls from the fairs held in Wells, if held in the streets of the city. It declares that the custom had been to hold fairs in the churchyard (the Cathedral Green), and that the services of the House of God had been thus disturbed. The traders are therefore ordered at the fairs held on the Feasts of Holy Cross, St. Kalixtus, and St. Andrew to trade in the streets, and so they should be free of toll.

4. A grant by John, Earl of Moreton (afterwards king), of certain lands to the Canons of Wells.

5. A cotemporaneous copy of the certificate, sent to Pope Innocent III, of the election of Joscelin Trotman as Bishop, 1206. Against the name of each witness is S, with a cross, to mark the seal of the original.

6. A grant of land by Hugh of Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, to "our venerable brother, the Lord Joscelin, Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury," 1214.

7. A Charter of Bishop Roger, relating to the dispute between the Prior and Convent of St. Peter's, at Bath, and the Dean and Chapter of Wells, concerning the election of Bishops, 1246.

8. A license in Mortmain by Edward I. The great seal attached to this document is in good preservation.

BY COMMAND OF THE BISHOP.

The Register of Bishop Drokensford, 1319-29.

The Register of Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury, 1329-58.

The Register of Bishop Beckington, 1443-6.

The Laws of the Mines of Mendip, on parchment.

BY THE PROVOST OF ETON.

Visitation of William Button, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1270.

Institution of Ralph, Canon and Chaplain, by proxy, to Wootton Courtenay, by Bishop John Harewell, 1386.

A writ from the Crown (Richard II) to the Bishop, concerning the right of presentation and induction to Wootton Courtenay.

BY MR. T. SEREL.

An accord between Adam of Sodbury, Abbot of Glastonbury, and John Godelee, Dean of Wells, as to certain rights in Weare, Wedmore, and other places in 1327.

An address of the principal inhabitants of Wells to James II, 1683.

Specimens of Newspapers, 1678-1716.

Declaration by Lord Hertford to the chief gentlemen of Somerset, with a letter from the Governor of Sherborne Castle, 1642.

Petition of the Hundred of Chewton against the levying of ship money.

A silver tankard, inscribed : Ex dono Georgii Dodington de civitate Wellen : in Com : Somerset in usum Sociorum Scissorum ejusdem civit : A.D. 1690.

BY THE VICARS CHORAL.

Their curious collection of silver plate, chalice, spoons, &c.

BY REV. W. CAPARN, OF DRAYCOT.

A statuette and base found in the roof of a house at Nyland, bronze celts, spear-head, fibulæ, &c.

Messrs. GOLLEDGE, of Bath, showed a beautiful example of mediæval illumination on vellum, which came from Batcombe, and seems to be part of a missal.

Mr. SAMPSON, of Yeovil, and Mr. S. FLETCHER showed some interesting coins.

The LIBRARIAN of the Dean and Chapter lent the copy of Aristotle which belonged to Erasmus, and contains notes in his handwriting. It was printed at the Aldine Press. Also the autograph of Bishop Ken in a small book.

The Rev. G. W. WILLIAMS brought from the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, a MS. book, written by Chandler, Chancellor of Wells, which contains a portrait of Bishop Beckington.

Mr. J. T. IRVINE exhibited sundry curious articles which he had found during the progress of the restoration of Bath Abbey.

