

Thursday.

A large party again started, and drove first to

Runnington Church.

Colonel BRAMBLE remarked on this little Church, dedicated to St. Peter, with its nave, chancel, western door and south porch. He showed that the rood screen went across the chancel entrance, near the pulpit; pointed out a pretty little window, which appeared to be original; and the spiral staircase. There was a nice east window, but he thought all would agree that a common mistake had been made in filling it with dark stained glass, which rendered it almost useless. There was, he said, an interesting Elizabethan chalice to be seen here. It was one of those issued under the orders of Queen Elizabeth, when the pre-Reformation chalices were called in, and melted down. It had a paten with foot, to be used as a cover for the chalice, and was dated 1574. A peculiarity of this chalice was that there was a double band of floreated ornament round it. At Crewkerne was a similar one, but so far as his experience went, such chalices were found only in a few parts of Somerset, and as a rule they had only a single band.

REV. PREB. BULLER read a copy of the inscriptions on the two Bells.

1 David Slocombe. 1670 Wadden Exon. [102]
(Diam. 20 in.)

2 Rev^d Edw^d Webber, Rector. James Bindon, Churchwarden. T. Bilbie, Cullompton. *Fecit.* 1810. (Diam. 21½ in.)

The next halt was at

Langford Buddville Church.

Mr. BUCKLE said this Church was all of the fifteenth century, or a little later. Two niches over the outer arch of the porch, and the inner door of the porch were of curious design; the carving was of rough style, but very fanciful. The carving altogether was worth attention, that of the capitals of



RUNNINTON CHURCH, E.

the arcade on the south side being of a very unusual pattern, which appeared to be a development of the Somerset and Devon styles, they had been noticing during the last two days. Most of the carving in the church was very stiff. One capital had at the bottom a needle and thread, the needle being about a foot long. It was possible, but he doubted it, that the carving was intended to represent lace work, and that the needle and thread were a representation that the work was unfinished. It might be that the needle and thread were an after-thought—that some of the carving was broken away, and that the needle and thread were then introduced.*

The carving of the font was also worth attention. The basin stands on a base, four square, with pinnacles to it, and square compartments with little bits of carving in them. Some of them were roses and common ornaments, but to some it was difficult to attach meaning.

In calling attention to the roof over the pulpit, he said, it was the first time during this visit that they had seen the decoration of this piece of roof over the rood screen, although it was common in some places.

The arcade on the south side was modern.

Professor BOYD DAWKINS, after stating that he did not think the needle and thread were carved at a different time from the other part of the work, said he had been told by the President, of a singular custom observed by people of the parish from the remotest possible time until the days of a former rector (Mr. Dickenson). It appeared that once every year the people met in the churchyard, and formed a ring round the church. They advanced towards the church, and on the side opposite the door, the ring broke, and the two leaders—something after the style in the dance Sir Roger de

* Local tradition holds that this needle and thread are intended to record the fact that the Church was built by a woman. This, however, may be as fanciful and shadowy as the reputed dedication of the Church to St. Peter—for which there is no evidence at all. [ED.]

Coverley—went straight to the wall, and were followed by the others. Then they made their way back to the entrance to the churchyard, and when they got there, they gave three shouts. These three shouts were to frighten the devil from Langford Budville; and were not only to do that, but to frighten him to the neighbouring village of Thorne St. Margaret. It seemed, however, that if they frightened him to Thorne, he did not stay there, inasmuch as the custom was observed every year. It was, he understood, discontinued, on account of the drinking, etc., which came to be associated with it.

Mr. ELWORTHY said this was well known as “clipping the tower;” that it used to be done at Wellington, on St. John’s day, and at Langford, on St. Peter’s. It was an old midsummer custom, and had nothing to do with the Saints, whose days happened to be near the solstice.

Dr. MURRAY, the editor of *The New English Dictionary*, spoke of the confusion between Beltane, the 1st of May, and Baal, the sun god of the Phœnicians.

The Rev. Preb. BULLER gave diameters and inscriptions of the bells of St. James’s Church, Langford:—

- | | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Nicholas RITHRDON. | IU GENE ROB IEWELL. | |
| | CH. WARDENS. | Wroth. | 1738 D.B. 30½ |
| 2. | SOLI DEO DETUR GLORIA. I P 1663 31. | | |
| 3. | Iames Clatworthy and John Rugg, Churchwardens. | | |
| | Thos. Bilbie, Cullompton, | <i>Fecit</i> , | 1810. 36. |
| 4. | Walter Clatworthy, Abraham Thomas, Churchwardens. | | |
| | 1687. | | 37. |
| 5. | G.P. Anno Domini, 1600. | I A | 41. |

A halt was made at

Chipley,

after driving through the fine avenue of limes (referred to in connection with Locke, the philosopher, in *Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.’s Proc.*, vol. xxxvi., 1890, p. 47). The mansion house has been pulled down; but what was once a bowling

green, some yews having made vigorous growth, is now called the "Monks' Walk," and hence, probably at some future day the whole place will become "Chipley Abbey," with just as much reason as Cothay has already become so. There is a dove cot remaining, only remarkable for being square internally instead of the usual and more convenient circular form. Some of the trees, especially cedars, are fine.

Thence the party drove to

Milverton Church.

dedicated to St. Michael.

Mr. BUCKLE said this very fine church had always been intimately connected with the Archdeacon of Taunton, who was now the patron of the living, and he supposed the vicarage house was originally the Archdeacon's house. The Church contained a good deal of very early work at the west end. The plan of the Church was curious and deserved careful attention. It would be noticed that the tower arch was a very small one, and from the centre of the Church it was apparent that the tower was turned at very oblique angles to the nave, so much so that the north wall of the Church was considerably longer than the south wall. It was doubtful why there should be such a strong twist. Towers were seldom quite in line with the nave, but in this case the divergence was extreme. There was little apparent difference in date, between the lower part of the tower, and that of the walls adjoining it. At the west end of the nave there was a blank side wall, for a considerable distance before the arcades began. That wall was of early date, probably thirteenth century. From that time a church had existed there with a large nave, always apparently put at a marked angle against the older tower. This unusual divergence of plan might have some connection with the dedication, but that was a mere speculation, and very doubtful. The arcades were not much later than the western part of the Church, where the old blank walls were allowed to remain.

The space beyond the arcade was utilised on the south side by a porch under the gallery, forming an entrance precisely like the south porch at Burlescombe; here however, at Milverton, they found another porch in the ordinary position, half way up the side of the Church. Whether the gallery was the original arrangement or not, was a question not easily to be decided, but it was quite evident that the gallery on the north side was a modern imitation of that on the south. The difficulties introduced by the unequal sides of the Church had been most ingeniously got over. No two piers were opposite each other; a start was made at the chancel arch, and the two side walls were set out independently. The first two piers were nearly opposite; in the next two there was a decided difference; while at the west end there was a difference of two or three feet. The feet of the rafters on the two sides of the roof, also, were spaced out equally from end to end of the Church, but differently on comparing the two sides with one another; so that the angle made between the nave and tower was no mere mistake, but was very carefully thought out at the time the Church was built.

The upper part of the font, placed under the tower arch, was apparently modern, but the lower part was Norman work. The base—if ever there were one—was now missing, but he thought it doubtful whether it ever had one.

The tower was a fine one: absolutely plain from top to bottom, but imposing on account of its grand proportions.

An interesting feature of the Church was the large number of Flemish carvings of late date. Almost all the bench ends and the stalls in the choir were elaborately carved. One, under the screen, bore the date 1538.

At North Cadbury the bench ends were carved by Flemings, and the date there was 1540. Similar Flemish carving was found in several churches near, as at Oake and at Hillfarrance, and also in some North Devon churches; and it seemed clear that a band of Flemish carvers went through Somerset at

about 1540, stopping for a time and working at different places. Most of the bench ends contained on the lower part a little bit of Gothic tracery work, and above that a bit of Renaissance carving; they belonged to the period when the Renaissance was ousting Gothic work, but there was almost always some trace of Gothic. Of the various styles, one was a kind of Renaissance pattern, with foliage branching away from a stem in different forms. Several, more interesting, had figure subjects, and these, of course, had been regarded as portraits of various persons. He did not pretend to recognise the portraits, but there was no doubt that in the north aisle there was one head uncommonly like Henry VIII; and the figure facing it was said to be one of his wives. There were some kneeling figures in the cross passage. One was supposed to be Queen Mary; another was said to be Cardinal Pole; and another, Bishop Gardiner; but he thought that was pure fancy. In the south aisle was a quaint piece of sculpture—the two spies bearing a bunch of grapes: the bunch of grapes being as big as the spies. Under the tower was a bench end bearing the Tudor arms, and in the chancel, on the front of the stalls, were the twelve apostles, most of whom could be easily recognised by their emblems.

All through the period from 1449 down to 1548, there was a chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the churchyard, where a chantry had been founded. When the chantries were destroyed that chapel was sold to the town for £10, in order that they might take it down and convert the lead into water pipes.

Mr. ELWORTHY said there were one or two facts which showed the connection between this parish and others in the neighbourhood. The advowson of Milverton was given by a charter of William Briwer to Bishop Jocelin in 1226. This William Briwer was rather a great man. He was Lord of the Manor of Axminster. He received free charters from King John, and also received the market of Axminster, which was

held at that time on Sunday, afterwards changed to Saturday. This Briwer also received a charter for Bridgwater, and was the builder of the castle of Bridgwater. It was a curious fact that the advowson of the two livings of Milverton and Thorne St. Margaret had gone together ever since 1250. A certain Baldwin, of Thorne, presented to the canons of Leigh the advowson of the living of Thorne, together with two acres of land, called *la Wodehulle*. This gift was held by the canons of Leigh for about one year only, and was then conveyed, in 1251, to Walter St. Quintin, Archdeacon of Taunton. At the same time Bishop Button confirmed the advowson of Thorne with these two acres of land, together with the church and appurtenances of the parish church of Milverton, which was then a prebend of Wells, to the Archdeaconry. Thorne and Milverton had remained Archdeacon's livings ever since; and those two acres of land at Thorne had very recently come back to the living of Thorne through the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and a new vicarage had been built upon them. He would suggest that there were very few other spots of land which could show an uninterrupted title of 642 years.

Rev. F. W. WEAVER asked if it was possible that the Flemish carvers might have come from the Flemish colony in South Wales and not direct from Flanders? He found that very large sums were paid by the churchwardens of Stoke Courcey to a carver named Glosse. They had him at Stoke Courcey: paid for his board and lodging, and paid for his charges to Wells and Bristol. . . . One thing mentioned in the accounts was called a reel; it was a wooden corona bearing lights. He thought this reel was a slender thing, which did not last long. There must have been a large amount of carving going on, for in one year they paid something like £14 to Glosse, and this, multiplied by twelve, would give about the amount it would represent to-day.

Dr. MURRAY said it was extremely improbable that they should have come from South Wales; for those Flemings had

lost their nationality before 1400, and there was no reason to suppose that they shared in the artistic skill specially belonging to Flanders at a later date, for when brought over, long before the carving period, they were principally workers in cloth. He thought there was no doubt the carvers came direct from the continent, bringing their special style and tools with them.

Preb. BULLER read inscriptions on the six bells:—

1. Mr. R. Gough and Mr. William Edwards, Churchwardens. 1763. T. Bilbie, Cullompton. 33
2. Joseph Pearse and John Dyer, Churchwardens. 1737. Casted by Thomas Wroth. 33
3. Mr. Samuel Hunt and Mr. Francis Edwards, Churchwardens. 1776. Thomas Bilbie. 36½
4. John Dyer and Joseph Pearse, Churchwardens. 1737. Casted by Thomas Wroth, Wellington. 37
5. Mr. John Cridland and Mr. Thomas Handford, Churchwardens. 1783. Thomas Bilbie, Cullompton. 41½
6. Mr. William Hiles and Mr. George Leeky, Churchwardens. 1802. Casted by T. Bilbie, Cullompton. 48

Colonel BRAMBLE said there was an account of the chapel of St. Mary in the Somerset Record Society,* and he believed it said, "Plate and jewels there are none." Some two years ago a friend called his attention to the fact that in the Record Office in London a number of inventories from Somerset had been included with Shropshire. He found there was a long inventory of plate, etc., belonging to this chantry; so between the date of the inventories of Edward V. and the time of

* See "Somerset Chantries" (Green), pp. 31-213. The annual value is given at £7 4s. 6d., but there is no mention of jewels. 'Plate none,' 'Bell metall xxx lb.,' 'leade ij foder do (½).' The following is interesting:—"The Chapell of the chauntrie standing w^{tin} the church yerde cou^{ed} w^t leade is esteemed worthe to be sold xli w^{ch} thenhabitant^e of the towne of Milu^uton, being the King^e maties tennt^e do desire to bye, for helpe of conveyance of water to the towne w^t the saide leade, for lacke whereof, they have nowe great annoyaunce"

On p. 213 are the names of all the tenants of the Chantry land, etc.—[Ed.]

Henry VIII., a considerable amount of property must have disappeared.

Mr. CHISHOLM-BATTEN, referring to Mr. Elworthy's statement as to the advowson of Thorne, said that in many parts of this county the advowsons were always conveyed with a certain portion of land, because at that period—1250—the value of written documents was not so great as now; and they could not convey an advowson in those days, except by document, but they could and did convey land by actual delivery of possession to the man who was to represent the owner after actual delivery. It was done in a solemn way with witnesses, and amongst those who were anxious to preserve the best possible title they could have, the practice was to have land with the advowson. The land was said to lie in livery, and the advowson in grant.

Mr. BUCKLE, again referring to the carving, said there was evidence in the work itself of at least three different hands having been engaged upon it.

After luncheon at the Victoria Rooms, the heavy rain having abated, the party walked to the

Silverton Vicarage.

Mr. BUCKLE explained that it contained within it an absolutely perfect small house of about the year 1500. Having detailed its plan and construction, that of a typical Tudor house, he said it was stated on the programme that the vicarage house was built by Cardinal Wolsey. He should like to know who could tell them it was so built, and how he came to know it. It was on the face of it an exceedingly improbable statement; as far as he knew, the Cardinal never was a vicar here, and if he were, it was exceedingly improbable he would ever come near the place, as he had bishoprics and canonries all over the kingdom.

Mr. ELWORTHY said there was a popular belief, yet such evidence as there was, did but show that Cardinal Wolsey did



MILVERTON VICARAGE

not build the house. Wolsey, he pointed out, was never Archdeacon of Taunton, though he was Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Blagroves House

was the next stopping place, where Mr. MONDAY related what little was known respecting the house. It was built, he said, according to tradition, in the reign of Charles II, by a sergeant-at-law named Raymond.

Hillfarrance Church,

dedicated to the Holy Cross, was the next halt.

In this church, Mr. BUCKLE first spoke of the chapel built out as a transept on the south side, and said to be founded by William de Vernay, who died 1333. None of the architecture there was of that date, but was about 1500 or later. On a corbel were three shields; two were blank, and one had scratched on it a series of chevrons, perhaps for Every. On the bench ends the carving resembled that at Milverton. The staircase turret of the tower was in the centre of the side of the tower, as at Wellington. It was here on the north side, but the north side was that from which the church was approached, and the turret was probably placed on that side, as a decorative feature, and it was desired to make it as effective as possible.

In the parapet of the tower were a series of quatrefoils. Several of them contained a monogram with the letters I.P., which might stand for Palmer, who used to have property there, or might stand for Palfrey. The same monogram would be found at Oake, where the Palfreys held property. On the spandrils of the west door of the Church were two coats of arms. One was Francis, of Coombe Florey. On the other, the dexter side seemed to be intended for *paley*; the sinister half might possibly be the beginning of Greenham, but it was apparently not completed.

Mr. MONDAY read an extract from a will of John Lane, priest, Taunton, 1540, in which occurred the item with regard to Hillfarrance, "to building of tower, 3s. 4d."

Rev. Preb. BULLER read the inscriptions on the five bells:—

1. Mr. John Chapman, Vicar. T. W. 1713. $31\frac{3}{8}$
 2. The Parishioners gave me. 1695. T. W. $31\frac{7}{8}$
 3. Mr. John Langton, Mr. John Bindon, Wardens. T. W. 1713. $33\frac{3}{4}$
 4. *Misteriis sacris repleat nos Dea Johannis.* $36\frac{7}{8}$
- (This is one of the legends of Robert Norton, of Exeter.)
5. Henry Wescomb, Humphrey Brige. T. W. 1707. $40\frac{1}{2}$

Dake Church,

Dedicated to Saint Bartholomew, was next visited.

In November, 1890, the late Mr. J. D. SEDDING was called in to inspect the Church with a view to its repair. A portion of his report, which is of much interest, is as follows:—

“Although of small dimensions, the Church is most interesting and picturesque, and its plan is of a very unusual character. The building has nave, chancel, and south aisle, with an arcade of two bays, one of which opens into the chancel, the other into the nave. There is also a tower at the west end of the aisle, and a porch again west of this. The singularity of the plan is probably due to the modifications the Church has undergone at various times. The chancel and north walls of the nave are probably of thirteenth century date, inasmuch as a chancel arch was evidently removed when the aisle or chapel was added; and the arcade itself represents fourteenth century work.

“To judge by its wrought masonry the lower half of the tower is of thirteenth century date, but the absence of buttresses and the extent of the battering of walls would suggest an earlier inspiration. The peculiar position of the tower is explained by the fact that it has served as the principal entrance to the Church.

“The south aisle was built in the fifteenth century, as its pretty open parapet declares. A gabled roof was substituted for the original flat one in 1601. The windows represent mostly



Oake Aug. 18-1892.

OAKE CHURCH, S.W.

fourteenth and fifteenth century work. The nave and south aisle roofs appear to be both of late fourteenth-century date; they correspond in type, and are common rafter roofs without principals.

“The chancel roof is a bad and flimsy one, about fifty years old. The nave roof dates, I believe, from about 1390, and a great part of the old roof remains.”

Mr. BUCKLE said this Church was built on the Early English plan, but there was not much of the Early English building left. The lower part of the tower originally formed the south porch. The porch now to the west of it was of later date. On the right hand side of the old porch was a large archway, which would now lead into the aisle if not blocked up, and probably originally led into a small side chapel. For what reason the older porch was given up it was difficult to say; but in the fifteenth century, for some reason or other, the older porch was blocked up and a new one built just to the west of it. The new porch had the same kind of parapet as the tower of Hillfarrance Church, and this parapet being lower down, the monogram I.P. could be seen quite clearly. As this place for a long time belonged to them, and had now passed to the Palfrey-Broadmeads, he thought the monogram probably represented a Palfrey. In a quatrefoil was a coat of arms much worn away, but he did not remember what the Palfrey arms were.

Mr. MONDAY thought they were like the Malets.

Mr. BUCKLE said one thing about the tower was of great interest. The belfry story, put on in the fifteenth century, was wider than the base of the tower. That to his mind was a most remarkable thing. They found Italian towers getting broader as they rose; but in England such a design was very uncommon. Perhaps when the belfry storey was added there was not adequate space for the bells proposed to be put in it, and instead of recessing the upper storey and making it smaller than the room below, they corbelled it out to make extra room for the bells.

The old font, close to the tower, was perfectly plain and might be of almost any age; and the arcade in the aisle was of the very roughest possible construction, probably fifteenth century, but might have been put there at almost any time.

Nearly every window in the Church was different. There was a remarkable six-light window on the north side. The head reached quite up to the roof-plate, and the whole window seemed too large for the Church. It did not look in place there, and tradition held that the window was brought from some monastic church at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries.* It seemed to be a cloister window, and was certainly now fixed the wrong way about, with the outer face of the stone inside. Inside the Church were a few more specimens of Flemish carving.

The remarkable stone in the churchyard, nearly opposite the porch, was certainly not a tombstone. They met with these in a number of cases: one at Nynehead, and other fine examples at Porlock and Selworthy. The received explanation was that they were dole stones. That they were used for that purpose there was no doubt at all, but it was not clear that they were not originally altar stones. This stone was no doubt *in situ*.

COLONEL BRAMBLE said he was a great believer in the dole stones, which were not uncommon in Wiltshire. He did not know any service where an external altar in the position of the dole stone could be used.

The Rev. Preb. BULLER gave the inscriptions on the bells of Oake Church:—

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Mr. John Bond, Mr. Stevens, C-Wardens. | Cat by |
| George Davis, Bridgwater, 1790. | 30½ |
| 2. Anno Domini, 1639. | |
| I. L. [97] | 33 |
| 3. P.P.M.H.I.P.E.L.I.C. 1608. | |
| H.B. H.B. M.W. | 38¾ |

* Local tradition says it came from Taunton Priory.—[Ed.]

Nynehead.

From Oake the party drove to Nynehead Court, where they met with a hearty reception at the hands of the President and his family. Following this cordial welcome, the party visited the parish Church, in which there is much of interest, and where a short organ recital was given by Mr. Toms. The description of the Church was given by the PRESIDENT, who said he felt somewhat timid in attempting the task in the presence of Mr. Buckle, perhaps the best ecclesiastical critic in England. Certain fragments told them a church existed there in the thirteenth century. Some portions of the tower arch, the base of another arch, and the pretty little piscina in the chancel were of the same date. A good deal of the north wall was of early date, and a portion of the foundations of the old chancel were also of the same date. The tower was not built at the same time as the tower arch, which was earlier; but the tower itself was built early in the Perpendicular period, he thought in the time of Richard II. The little windows towards the top of the tower had a decided inclination inwards, showing that the builders were then beginning to apply the Perpendicular principle, which gave a singular architectural grace. A feature of great importance in the tower was that the walls inclined inwards from the bottom—not regularly but with a slight bulge or entasis, giving the appearance of great strength and solidity. He considered the chancel window of the time of Henry IV. The whole of the south aisle was, he believed, a little later, though the door was older; but he thought it belonged to the old church, and that when the aisle was built they moved the door, and put it in that wall. The porch was later than the rest of the arcade. Nothing further was altered till the Elizabethan windows were put in the chancel. The roof of the old church had been lowered in pitch, as shown by a mark of plaster.

On the question of natural flowers in stone and wood, he was in favour of taking nature as a guide. Some of the most

beautiful work seen in England and abroad, was directly copied from natural flowers. The screen was a fair imitation of good Perpendicular work. The caps gave one the idea of a Stuart screen; and one or two things made it appear of late date, but he should not put it later than the close of Henry V's reign.

The cornice was restored by Halliday of Wells, closely imitating the best of the old work.

The six figures in the east window were old, or a very good copy of old, glass.

There were interesting monuments in the Church to the Warre and Clarke families.

Mr. SANFORD also called attention to the "Squint," the staircase to the rood loft, the beautiful Italian sculpture, some pottery figures, believed to be original work by Luca della Robbia, and to the sculpture in the Church, done by Mr. W. J. Giles, of Wellington.

The Rev. Preb. BULLER gave the inscriptions on the bells of All Saints' Church, Nynehead :—

1. Anno Domini, 1630. W.S.	31
2. Thomes Shippeard, Church war. 1660. T. P. EXON.	33
3. Anno Domini, 1630.	36
4. Anno Domini, 1629. R. P.	39
5. Sancta [so] Maria Ora pro nobis. T.C.C.	44

(One of Roger Semson's bells).

The party next walked to the park, to see a most interesting exhibition of falconry, by Mr. E. C. A. Sanford; after which they assembled in a large marquee on the lawn, where a bountiful collation was served. The chair was taken by the President, the company numbering about 100.

At the close of the repast, the President briefly proposed "The Queen."

The Rev. Preb. BULLER said the duty had been entrusted

to him of proposing a vote of thanks to the President for having presided over the Archæological Society this year with such distinguished ability, and for his kind welcome of them in his own ancestral home, and for the splendid entertainment he had provided for them at that table. He was sorry not to have heard the Presidential address, but he was thankful to have had the privilege of sitting at his feet that afternoon. Anything more touching than his loving appreciation of the very stones of the building, he had seldom seen, and it really did one's heart good to hear the 'Squire of the parish stand up in his church and describe the dear old building in which he was probably baptised, and in which he had worshipped from that day to this. He was sure they all deeply appreciated Mr. Sanford's kindness, and in the name of the Somerset Archæological Society he begged to tender to their President their most hearty thanks for all he had done for them.

The PRESIDENT, in acknowledging the toast, said some of the papers that had been read were of extreme interest, and some of them would be of great value to any person who attempted to write a county history. If the gathering had only been pleasurable he for one would be satisfied, but if they had found anything of real intellectual value he should be still more gratified.

The Rev. GILBERT SMITH proposed "The health of the Local Committee." He said the members of the Society had now come to the close of one of the most pleasant and interesting meetings which had been held by the Somerset Archæological Society for many years, and much of that success was due to the work of the Local Committee, and their Hon. Secretary, Mr. Tite.

The Rev. T. S. HOLMES proposed a vote of thanks to those who had opened churches, houses, and business works, for inspection by the Society; to the readers of papers; and to Mr. Buckle for his clever description of the different features in the churches and other buildings.

Mr. BUCKLE said he was indeed very glad if anything he

had done had helped towards the success of the meeting. When one had fine buildings to deal with like the churches at Wellington, Milverton, and Holcombe, there was no difficulty in saying something that might be interesting, but as regards the smaller churches there was much that might be interesting to him, but it was not always easy to make it equally so to others.

Mr. ELWORTHY proposed "The health of Mr. Ussher," and spoke of the important and valuable service rendered by that gentleman in giving them information on the geology of the district.

Mr. USSHER, in his reply, said Wellington was the sphere of his earliest labours, and it was at Wellington that he learned to encounter difficulties in the field of geology, and to acquire patience and close application to overcome them, and therefore he regarded Wellington as the birthplace of what little knowledge he had endeavoured to put before them of the geology of this country.

Lecture on Falconry.

The meetings closed with a Lecture on Falconry, given to a good audience by Mr. E. C. A. Sanford in one of the rooms in Nynehead Court. Mr. SANFORD commenced his lecture by speaking of the ancient character of the sport; and he then proceeded to explain that both the eastern and western schools adopted the same system of training hawks, and used similar "furniture"—the hood, bell, jess, swivel and leash. Having exhibited Indian and European hoods, and having mentioned that King John was accustomed to hawk in Somerset, Mr. Sanford passed on to give an interesting descriptive account of the way in which hawks are caught in Holland during their flight to the south for the winter. Then followed an explanation of the way in which these hawks are trained when received in this country. The lecture, an exceptionally interesting one, was listened to with evident appreciation, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer, on the motion of Mr. Somers.