

The Excursion.

Some of the Members, having visited Sampford Arundel, joined the other Members at

Burlescombe,

where the Parish Church was examined. Mr. Freeman directed attention to the characteristic features of the capitals on the pillars on the north and south sides. This church is in the county of Devon. The capitals of the pillars of the arches on the north side of the building were collected into one large flat lozenge, which was the Devonshire type, and, in his opinion, not by any means an elegant one, whilst on the south side the capitals exhibited the usual round mouldings of Somersetshire;* the specimens before them were not very good ones of either. The screen was very good, as was also the sacramental plate, the chalice being a very good Fifteenth Century piece. The tower was of rough country work, apparently a good deal altered in the 17th century, as it bore the date 1677, when the old material composing the former one was again used.

At CANON'S LEIGH the Rev. C. TANNER gave an historical sketch of the Monastery.

Mr. PARKER observed that the remains of the building, considering they belong to the less prominent parts of the Monastery, are a striking indication of its former extent and grandeur.

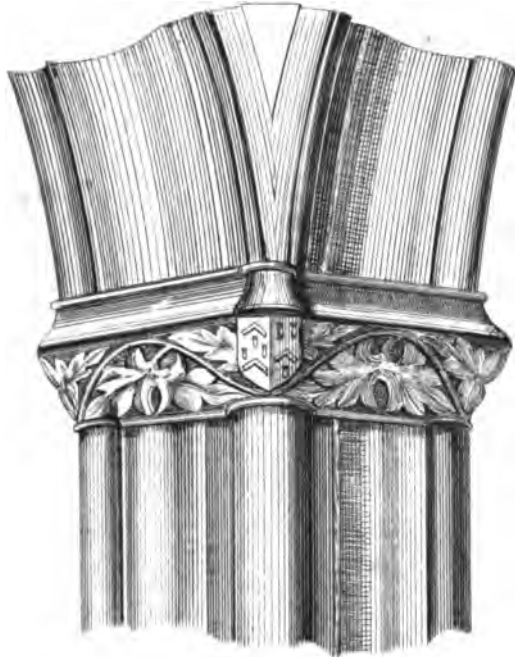
The Quarries of West Leigh

were then explored under the guidance of Mr. Wm. A. Sanford and Mr. C. Moore.

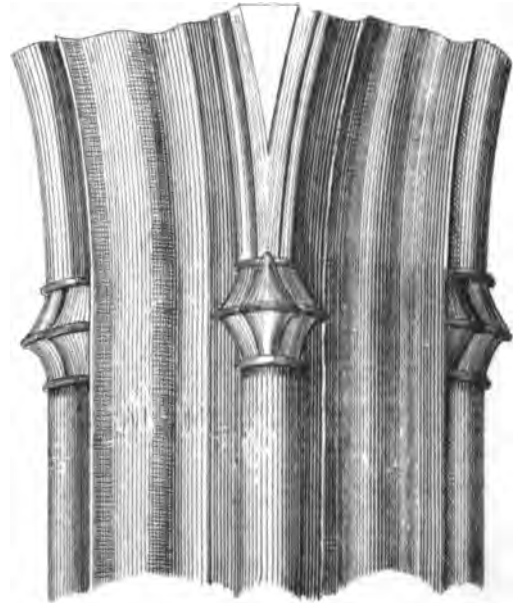
Many carboniferous fossils were found by the naturalists in the quarries at West Leigh, from the southern termina-

* An illustration of this characteristic feature is given in this volume.

Capitals in Burlescombe Church



Devonshire Type:



Somersetshire Type:

tion of the great north Somerset range of Devonian and Carboniferous rock, which extended in conformable strata from Lynton Foreland to the limestone at Burlescombe. These limestones belong to the lower portion of the Carboniferous strata and were probably cotemporaneous with some of the Carboniferous limestone of the Mendip. They are much contorted and evince great lateral pressure which was effected, probably, during the later Carboniferous, or, perhaps, in the Permian period, as the later New red sandstone rocks lie almost horizontally and unconformably on the upturned edges and against the upturned strata of the limestone and conformable slate and sandstone. This was cotemporaneous, in a geological sense, with the upheaval of Dartmoor, and was probably in some way connected with that vast movement in the rocks of the south-west of England.

As the further discussion of these important geological movements will form part of a larger design, which, it is hoped, may be carried out through the agency of this Society, no lengthened notice is at present given of the geology of this district.

Afterwards a portion of the party visited the Conglomerate Quarries at Langford, which appear to be of late Triassic date, and found in enclosed pebbles many fossils of the carboniferous period, some beautifully weathered specimens of corals, spirifers, and encrinites.

After leaving the Lime Works the company proceeded to HOLCOMBE ROGUS for the purpose of examining the Court, for centuries the seat of the Bluett family, but which is now in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Rayer, of Tiverton.

The Church of Holcombe Rogus,

Mr. FREEMAN said, was Perpendicular, and presented the

same peculiarity as that of Burlescombe in the arrangement of the capitals of the north and south aisle arches. They were very good local coved roofs—the one over the north aisle was particularly fine. There were no signs of any chancel arch, but there had evidently been a screen and rood-loft, as the place of the staircase was visible, and there appeared to have been a window to light it, similar to some Monmouthshire churches he had seen. The pew belonging to the mansion is surrounded by a kind of carved screen illustrating scripture scenes. The tower is a good bold one, quite plain, Early Perpendicular, and the under part at least is older than the church itself.

On leaving the church a large number of the party adjourned, at the invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. W. Wills, to the school-room, where ample provision had kindly been made for their entertainment.

The next place visited was

Greenham House,

formerly the seat of a family called Greenham. Mr. PARKER explained that the arches of entrance were of the Fourteenth Century, the window over was also of the same date. It appeared to him that parts of the house had been rebuilt about the time of Henry VIII. In the servants' apartments was a window of Richard II.'s time, and it was probably then that the house was founded. It was doubtless much larger than now. The President said it might interest the company to know that the owner of this house was always Lord of the Hundred of Milverton, and this fact showed that the former owners were important men.

The Manor House of Cotehaye,

commonly known as Cotehaye Abbey, was next viewed. It is a perfect residence of the 8th Henry's reign,

without alteration. It was no doubt at one time much larger, the left hand wing of the gate-house and one of the arches of the gate having been removed. In what is now the parlour, is a fine mantel-piece of the time of James II., and the room although built at the same time as the rest of the building was probably altered in that reign.

After thoroughly examining Cothaye, the Archæologists drove to

Langford Budville,

where the parish Church was inspected. Mr. FREEMAN said they had got back into Somerset again, he could see but few traces of our Devonshire neighbours. The capital of the chancel arch was collected into a lozenge, the remainder of the arches were the usual Perpendicular style. The roof is a cradle one, enriched with bosses; and there is still the door left which led to the rood-loft. A curious feature in the church is the chancel arch, which fits exactly into the roof of the chancel. The tower is bold, very plain, having only square headed belfry windows. There is an excellent parapet over the south aisle, which, although common in the north of the county, is not often found in the south.

A curious example of the last century manner of treating rogues and vagabonds was exhibited in one of the parish registers :—It is there stated, that in Nov. 1682, a blind man aged 40, and an able-bodied one, aged 30, who stated that they came from Sutton, in Hampshire, were publicly whipped in this parish; and that on the 25th October 1754, two other strange men, one of whom was blind, were whipped in public in this parish by order of the Court of Quarter Sessions.

The Rev. F. WARRE said that it was intended at first

to visit some Primeval remains in Bathealton, but it had been discovered that the earthworks were so very much mutilated as to be scarcely recognisable, and although there had at one time doubtless been very considerable remains there, they were now hardly worth visiting.

The PRESIDENT announced that this was the last place to be inspected that day, and that the parish church, West Buckland, was the appointed place of meeting for the morrow.
