

The Museum.

The temporary museum, formed at the Town-hall of Wells, was a small one, but it contained many objects of interest and value.

There were ancient charters of the Corporation of the city of Wells, dating from 1174 ; among them one granted by Bishop Reginald Fitz Jocelyn, conceding certain privileges to the burgesses of Wells ; also, charters granted by Queen Philippa, a curious charter of Bishop Savaric of the twelfth century ; charter of King John, constituting Wells a free borough ; a charter of Edward I. confirming King John's charter ; the ancient minute-books of the Corporation, commencing 1378, together with old charters of land in Wells, of which the Corporation possesses eight hundred ; a roll of mayors from 1378 to the present date ; and the Town Clerk sent a bundle of records dating from the 14th of King Edward IV. to the present period. The Bishop of the diocese contributed a beautiful collection of Indian and Chinese carvings ; and the Dean and Chapter exhibited an ancient pastoral staff of Limoges enamel, representing St. Michael vanquishing the dragon ; this staff is presumed to have belonged to Savaric, and if so, would be as early as the twelfth century. The Canon in residence, the Rev. Mr. Beadon, lent, in behalf of the Dean and Chapter, a choice collection of fragmentary sculptured work of the thirteenth century, selected from the crypt of the cathedral ; also a crucifix and two ancient chalices, a metal depository that encased a human heart, a beautifully executed alto-relievo of the Ascension, executed in alabaster from one of the altars of the side chapels ;

a portion of the original holy-rood cross ; two wonderfully fine carved oak misereres from the choir—one shewing a pelican in her piety, of exquisite workmanship, marvelously undercut ; a decorated bench-end ; and a good collection of encaustic tiles.

There were fragments of the west front and several encaustic tiles, sent by Mrs. Tudway, that were found during the demolition of an old prebendal hall in the Liberty. Fragments from the same west front were exhibited by Mr. Clarke, who also sent some rare pieces of encaustic tile of thirteenth-century date from Athelney Island, and some border tiles nearly as rare from Glastonbury.

The Rev. Arthur Du Cane contributed a very curious illuminated calendar ; also a few pieces of pavement from the demolished priory of St. John, Wells. Several illuminated missals were sent by Mr. Dickinson, who likewise exhibited a valuable seal from Glastonbury, Mr. E. H. Clerk sent several pieces of Roman pottery, and the insignia of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. Mr. Mayhew exhibited a funeral pall of mediæval workmanship, from St. John's at Glastonbury.

Mr. Munckton brought a collection of court rolls of Langport, Curry Rivel, Broadway, and the Forest of Neroche, Somerset, dating from the reign of Richard I. to that of Queen Elizabeth ; a manuscript account of a timber sale of the time of Richard I. ; a rent-book and accounts of Lord Strange in the reign of Elizabeth ; the rent-book of Henry Duke of Suffolk, father of Lady Jane Grey. Mr. Livett and Mr. Sheppard sent several ancient books. Mr. Halliday exhibited four good Flemish panels of fifteenth-century date. Mr. Serel sent a curious collection of old newspapers, from A.D. 1686 to

1716, including the "London Gazette," issued during the Monmouth rebellion; also some pieces of Samian ware found amidst the Priddy lead mines in the Mendips, which are now being worked from the *débris* of the old Roman workings. Professor Daubeny brought several flint implements from Abbeville and Amiens. Mr. Fletcher sent a small but good collection of Roman coins of Domitian, Hadrian, Vespasian, Faustina, and Trajan, that were found deposited in an earthen vessel in the fossway near Masberry Camp; also a prick spur found in excavating the present high road through the cathedral close, at a depth of seven or eight feet, east of the chain gate. Mr. Hippisley contributed some delicate tabernacle-work, shewing traces of colour from the priory of St. John in Wells. Mr. Bernard sent a few pieces of valuable old china and some fossils; and Mr. Sanford and Mr. Dawkins exhibited a good collection of bones discovered during their recent explorations in Wookey and Burrington.
