

Second Day: Excursion.

The Members assembled at

West Buckland.

Mr. FREEMAN observed that the church differed very manifestly from those the Society had visited the day before. The nave was seemingly Decorated or Early Perpendicular, with massive octagonal piers quite unlike the local style. There was a chapel south of the chancel, but not north. In the chancel arch a Devonshire capital was inserted, and much curious patching of the old south-east pier was noticed. The western tower was of the Wellington type, with two single-light windows on one side of the belfry turret, the other side being blank. A corbelled pinnacle over the window was pointed out as peculiar, and as producing a bad effect. The roof is a genuine Perpendicular one with an Italian cornice. The clerestory windows appear to have been cut off to save expence at some time when the roof of the church was lowered. The seats were pronounced by Mr. PARKER to be genuine and interesting examples of Fourteenth Century work.

After a brief inspection of Jerbstone Farm House, which

contains some interesting remains of the Elizabethan period, the Members proceeded to

Bradford Church.

The tower of this church is of the Wellington type,—quite Early Perpendicular, very well managed, with single-light windows on each side of the turret. The nave and chancel are Early English with large Perpendicular alterations. The monument of a knight was supposed to be that of the founder of the aisle in which it is situated.

The bridge over the Tone at Bradford, which was considered to have been built in the 13th century, was then examined and greatly admired for its ancient and picturesque appearance.

The Church of Hillfarrence

came next. The tower, which is very massive and with a turret on the north side, was pronounced to be of the Wellington type, early, but later than that of Bradford. There are no aisles, and a Perpendicular chapel is added on the south. By a later inscription this is said to have been erected by William de Verriais, A.D., 1333, but the character of the mouldings would give a much later date.

Dak Church

was described as being on the plan of St. Mellons, and of Weston in Gordano. The tower is here on the south, and a chapel on the east. Large Perpendicular windows in the north wall were said to have been "brought here." They look like insertions, having all the appearance of being inside out, and of being built of materials brought from some other church. The whole church is difficult to understand, having the appearance of frequent alterations and additions.

Milverton Church

was then visited. Mr. FREEMAN remarked that it reminded him of what people sometimes called Quarter-Cathedrals. The northern arcade was original, in the Perpendicular style, and the southern was a copy of it. The tower is very plain, not unlike some in South Wales, only not so rude, with a square turret in the south-east angle. The nave was chiefly Decorated. In the west of the south aisle there is a lobby in which the Archdeacon's court is held.

The old rectory house adjoining the Church is said to have been erected by Cardinal Wolsey, but Mr. PARKER observed it must have been before he became Cardinal, as the arms bear no mitre. There is no cellar nor solar as they observed in the Manor Houses visited on the previous day, but there is a hall with a dais, and a bay-window at the back to contain the side-board. Behind the hall there is a passage leading from the servants' to the other apartments, the adoption of which would make the arrangements of the old houses suitable to our modern requirements. There is a stone staircase at the back leading to a long room extending through the whole of the first floor, which originally was probably the sleeping apartments for the family. The house is not the vicarage house of the parish, but the Archidiaconal residence, the great tithes being the property of the Archdeacon of Taunton, who is also the patron of the living.

From Milverton the Members of the Society proceeded to Nynhead Court, where the hall and the reception rooms were kindly thrown open to all the visitors. Among the interesting family portraits were noticed those of the

famous John Locke, the intimate friend of Mr. Clarke, of Chipley, to whom the "Treatise on Education" is dedicated, and of Sir Harry Vane, an ancestor of the family.

The remains of the old hall which are left, especially in the porches, point to the close of the Fourteenth Century as the date. A portion of the roof of the old hall is still visible in a closet on the first floor.

The Church of Synchred

has a nave, chancel, south aisle, and chapel at the east end; a north transept abutting on the nave, and a south porch. The tower is the earliest portion of the church, of the Milverton plan, but the stair-turret is stopped at the ringers' floor with a sloping roof—a picturesque arrangement for a small church and preferable to the Milverton arrangement. The tower is of very early Perpendicular work and the tower arch has never been finished. The north transept and chancel are a little later than the tower. The headdresses on the dripstones are of the time of Henry IV. There is an Early English piscina in the chancel, of good character. The north aisle and chapel are of a little later date. There is a considerable portion of the old rood screen, of very fine Devonshire character, remaining. A very curious stone, with three crosses, of very ancient character, incised, is at the entrance into the chancel, and some sculpture of Early English character was found in taking down and rebuilding the west wall of the south aisle, and where this abutted on the old wall of the nave, rough cast was found, thus showing that the south aisle was an addition and that rough cast was used by the old architects in finishing these buildings.

There is a good Jacobean monument, in good preservation, of the last Warre, of Chipley, with her husband, Mr.

Clarke, and two very fine examples of Luca della Robbia ware, representing the Virgin and Child; one life size is of great beauty and certainly by the master himself; the other is a beautiful composition illustrating the text, "quem genuit adoravit," with lilies on a blue ground. Also a very fine work, in marble, by the rare master Mino da Fiesole, representing the Holy Trinity, with angels; with a picture of our Saviour, by Granacci. These were placed in the church by the late vicar, the Rev. John Sanford.

The remains of ancient earthworks near the church which had been examined by Mr. Warre were not considered of sufficient interest to make them worthy of a public visit, but it was suggested that they were probably of the same date with bronze celts, now at Nynhead, which had been dug up in the park. In the loam of the valley Roman coins, flint instruments, and the molars of *Elephas primigenius* had been found.

A paper on "Roman Remains Found on the Site of the Additions to the Mineral Water Hospital, Bath," was read under the far-spreading branches of the chestnut trees in the lawn, by the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH, which is published in the present volume.

All the Members present and their friends having shared the ample and sumptuous hospitality of the President,

R. N. GRENVILLE, Esq., the High Sheriff, on behalf of the Society, presented their best thanks to Mr. Sanford for the courtesy and kindness with which he had presided over their proceedings, and for the liberal hospitality with which he had entertained the large party then assembled.

The PRESIDENT acknowledged the compliment and expressed the great pleasure which he had in receiving the Society and promoting its well-being. He then proposed



the health of the Secretaries of the Society, to whom they were so much indebted for the success of the meeting.

This being duly acknowledged by the Rev. F. WARRE and the Rev. W. A. JONES,

Mr. Sylvanus Fox and the Local Committee were thanked for the zeal and energy with which they had aided the General Committee in their arrangements.

The PRESIDENT then declared the Annual Meeting closed.

