

The Excursion.

On the following day the members proceeded to
South Brent Church,
a building which presented a great admixture of styles.
There were remains of Norman work : the moulding of the
south window proved it to have been of the fourteenth
century : the tower was of the Taunton type, only with all
the ornaments cut away.

Hence they climbed to

Brent Knoll,

where the Rev. F. WARRE described the Earthworks as not
purely military, but rather as the head-quarters of the
Cangi, who were herdsmen.

On descending from the hill, the party was met by the Venerable Archdeacon Denison, who conducted them over East Brent Church.

Lympsam Church

was next visited, and the company was hospitably entertained at the vicarage by the Rev. J. H. Stephenson and Mrs. Stephenson, whose courtesy and kindness were duly acknowledged by the President on behalf of the members.

The company then proceeded to

Brean Down,

under the guidance of the Rev. F. WARRE, who gave the following account of the Earthworks, &c., on this interesting promontory :—

The promontory of Brean Down, on the south side of Weston Bay, as well as that of Land Point, on the north side of Sand Bay, appears to have been occupied at a very early period in connexion with the British stronghold on Worle Hill. On its summit there are still to be seen the traces of an ancient beacon, the approaches to which from east and west, have been strengthened by several ramparts, thrown up across the ridge of the hill at some distance from each other, as is frequently the case in British works. The whole of the north side of the hill appears to have been fortified with artificial scarps and terraces, and there are several well defined remains of hut circles still to be seen ; in some cases part of the side walls formed of dry masonry being still above ground. The beacon was probably intended to give signals to that on Land Point, from which notice might be given to the great landing-place of the stronghold on Worle Hill, which was situated at St. Kew's steps, on the north side of the hill, from which there is no view down the channel. At no great distance from the

eastern extremity of the hill, which has been much quarried, there is what appears to be the remains of a large entrenched camp or enclosure occupying the whole breadth of the hill from one cliff to the other. Only one side and one angle of this work now remains, but it seems to have been very strongly fortified towards the west. I do not think this is a British work, nor is it altogether like a Roman rampart; from its situation and great strength towards the west, it seems rather to have been intended to block up the passage from Brean Down to the land than to protect the promontory from attack from the east. Tradition says, that about the middle of the 9th century the Danes were defeated at Brent, and fled to Brean Down, where they were blockaded by the victors till they were taken off by the sea in their ships. It seems not impossible that this work was constructed at that time. It is supposed that the Roman town Axium was situated at Uphill, where many Roman relics have been found, and the marks of foundations are plainly to be seen. Many Roman coins, one of which is in my possession, have been found on Brean Down. The south side of the hill is very precipitous, and the space between it and the northern cliffs has been much mutilated by husbandry.
