

## Notes.

The following notes have been received from the Rev. J. A. Bennett, *Hon. Secretary*; from J. G. L. Bullied, Esq.; and from the Rev. H. M. Scarth, *Local Secretaries*. The Committee will be glad to receive similar short notices and reports from Members of the Society, to be printed in the annual volume.

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### Note to Sketch of Parochial History of Wrrington.

BY REV. PREBENDARY SCARTH, M.A.

Since the above sketch was written further knowledge has been obtained respecting the dedication of the two chapels on each side of the chancel of Wrrington church.

In an extract from the will of Edmund Leversege (proved 28th July, 1547), who was buried in Wrrington church and whose will is now in the Registry at Wells, he bequeaths as follows:—"I give my soul to Almighty God, and my body to be buried before Saint *Erasing's Altar* in the Parish Church of Wrrington aforesaid, and to the said Church of Wrrington x<sup>s</sup> for the resting of my body therein. Also I give to the High Altar of the same Church vi<sup>d</sup>; and to the High Light in the same Church xx<sup>d</sup>; and I give to the maintenance of the Bells in the same Church xx<sup>d</sup>. To poor people 100<sup>s</sup>, to be given them at their own doors, and c<sup>s</sup> to be disposed and given to them at my *Monest Mynd*, in like manner also at my *Twelve Months Mynd*;<sup>1</sup> also a Cow and six Ewes to the maintenance of our Lady's Service in the said Church of Wrrington aforesaid, or money to buy them." The old spelling is altered in this extract, with the exception of the words printed in italics. By the mention of *St. Erasing*, we must understand *St. Erasmus*, by an error of the scribe.

We learn, therefore, that one of the side chapels was dedicated to St. Erasmus, and the other to our Lady, or the

(1). *Monest Mynd* and *Twelve Months Mynd* are days of remembrance in pre-Reformation times, when persons directed in their wills that within a year or a month after their death a requiem for their souls should be performed.

Blessed Virgin. A small piece of stained glass, with the Virgin's head upon it, seems to indicate that the *northern chapel* was dedicated to her, and the *southern* must therefore be the chapel of St. Erasmus.

A chapel in Westminster Abbey was dedicated to this saint, and seems to have been fitted up in the time of Richard II. Above the doorway is inscribed, SANTVS ERASMVS, in golden letters.

Saint Erasmus was Bishop of Campagna, and his day was kept 2nd June. He was martyred in A.D. 303, under the Emperor Diocletian, and is represented in Christian art with a windlass in his hand, and a bowel round it, on an old marble sculpture in Norwich Museum; also on a painting in Louvain Cathedral and at Bonn, and on the rood screen at Hempstead.<sup>1</sup>

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## Notes for Glastonbury and its Neighbourhood.

BY J. G. L. BULLEID.

GLASTONBURY ABBEY.—In the early spring of 1887 a large piece of the westward end of the wall of the galilee connecting the great church at Glastonbury with Saint Joseph's (Mary's) chapel fell, leaving the remainder of that wall in a very dangerous condition. This led to a correspondence between your Secretary (Rev. J. A. Bennett) and Mr. J. G. L. Bulleid, to a report by Mr. H. Shepherd Dale to the Archaeological Institute, and afterwards to a conference between Mr. Austin the owner of the Abbey ruins, and a small Committee, comprising Bishop Hobhouse, the Dean of Wells, Canon Church, the Rev. J. A. Bennett, and Messrs. F. H. Dickinson and J. G. L. Bulleid. Mr. Austin then consented to carry out a suggestion of the Committee, to place some oak cross beams as a support to the wall, to prevent its further collapse, and to have the shrubs and other vegetable growth on the walls of the chapel removed, and these matters have been skilfully carried out by Messrs. Merrick and Son, of Glastonbury. It is hoped that the oak beams, which are of a very substantial character, will delay for many years the further dismemberment of the galilee wall.

During the winter months some considerable excavations, with the consent of Mr. Wm. Brown, the owner, and Mr.

(1). See *Emblems of Saints, as distinguished in Works of Art*, by F. C. Husenbeth, D.D., 3rd edition, edited by Augustus Jessop, D.D., 1882.

Mapstone, the tenant, and under the superintendence of Messrs. Morland and Bulleid, have been made at Beckery, upon the assumed site of the ancient chapel of St. Bridget, resulting in the laying bare of the foundations on the north and part of the east and west sides of a chapel there. The foundations on the south side have been wholly removed. A large number of encaustic tiles, of apparently 14th century date; roofing tiles, lead, and other remains, have been found. These excavations will be continued early in the spring, and will extend to the building on the north side of the chapel.

MEARE.—The village cross here, described at p. 137 of *Pooley's Old Crosses of Somerset*, which, about the year 1842, was removed from its site, on the south side of the church-yard wall, to a piece of waste land opposite (and from its being erected close to the National School, and altogether unprotected, had become defaced and greatly injured), has, through the intervention of the Vicar, the Rev. B. T. Bussell, his Wardens, and a small Committee, been re-erected, as a jubilee memorial, very near its original site, upon a piece of land now enclosed with the church-yard. All the old stones have been replaced, and the cross carefully restored. It will now be safe from further injury.

STREET.—The church-yard here contains a large piece of land in which, apparently, no interments have hitherto been made. Recently, in extending the grave spaces, fragments of an old wall, with portions of two wells, have been found (the stones of the latter being roughly cut, to form the curvature of the well; and, at another point, a Norman draughtsman of bone, in capital preservation and of very beautiful design, has been found, which is now deposited in the Glastonbury Museum. It has been suggested that the church-yard forms part of the site of the mediæval manor house of Brutasche, reputed to have been erected in the immediate neighbourhood.

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## South Cadbury and Winquanton.

BY REV. J. A. BENNETT.

SOUTH CADBURY.—A few years ago, when the plaster was removed from the walls of this church during restoration in 1874, I noticed a straight joint in the stone work, 2 feet 2 inches from the eastern end of the wall of the south aisle, coming down immediately upon the top of a mutilated piscina, apparently

of the Decorated period, which was discovered at that time. There seemed no doubt that this had been an early window, which had been cut through by the builders of the Perpendicular window which now occupies its place, and it was buried again under new plaster. Last year, however, I thought it desirable to remove this plaster, in order to keep in sight this small bit of an early church, which would be forgotten with the disappearance of those who found it, and to make the record more complete I removed a few stones of the filling-in, so as to show the slope of the jamb and the outline of the old window. Happily, just inside the first stone there was a small piece of white plaster, which led to further clearance, and it ended in showing a fresco of an episcopal figure, fairly perfect, drawn in red and black upon plaster. The full length of the figure is 1 foot 6 inches, and there are 6 inches of pediment. The vestments are somewhat indistinct, but the face and mitre stand out quite clearly. The face is oval, rather full under the chin, and seems to have been intended as a portrait. The mitre is low and wide, with a lozenge on either side as an ornament, of the same type as that given in Planche's *Cyclopædia of Costumes*, vol. i, p. 368, as the mitre of St. Thomas a Becket; and as the church is dedicated to that saint, it seems not unlikely that this fresco is a representation of him. Some fifty years ago, when the church was restored in great measure, I have understood that the whole of the south wall was found to be covered with paintings, and that there was found in a niche in the wall, near where this figure is, a pewter cup, with a lock of hair in it. I have not yet been able to find any evidence whether any of the murderers of the Archbishop were connected with this parish. I may take the opportunity of putting on record also the fact that we found during the late restoration fresco painting in the form of conventional foliage, as a border to the large window on the north side of the church.

WINCANTON.—In the course of alterations in the parish church of Wincanton, my attention was drawn by Mr. Sweetman, our *Local Secretary*, to an interesting relief in stone, which had been found buried in one of the walls. The whole composition measures about 2 feet square. In the middle is a blacksmith's fire, with a projecting square chimney overhanging, and on the face of it a pair of large tongs and other instruments are incised. To the right (as you face the slab) there is a horse or mule, wanting the near fore leg, which is represented as having been cut off clean at the shoulder; and

behind the animal there is a standing figure, with tall head-dress, close-fitting doublet, with four large buttons, and belt. Close against the fire-place, on the other side, there is a square water trough, and next to it an anvil. Behind the anvil there is an ecclesiastical figure, apparently mitred, holding the missing leg, with its foot upon the anvil. The composition ends on this side with a figure kneeling towards the anvil. The following account, by Mrs. Jameson, of one of the miracles of St. Eloy, is an exact description of this composition, and leaves no doubt about its meaning:—"On another occasion a horse was brought to him to be shod which was possessed by a demon, and kicked and plunged so violently that all the bystanders fled in dismay. But St. Aloy, no whit discomfited by the inventions of Satan, cut off the leg of the horse, placed it on the anvil, fastened on the shoe leisurely, and then, by making the sign of the cross, replaced the leg, to the great astonishment and edification of the faithful."<sup>1</sup>

(1). This legend is represented in bas-relief on the pedestal of his statue in one of the niches of the exterior of Or-San-Michele at Florence. It was executed in marble by Nanni di Baneo, of the school of Donatello, and dedicated by the Guild of Blacksmiths, about 1420.—*Sacred and Legendary Art*, vol. ii. p. 730.

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