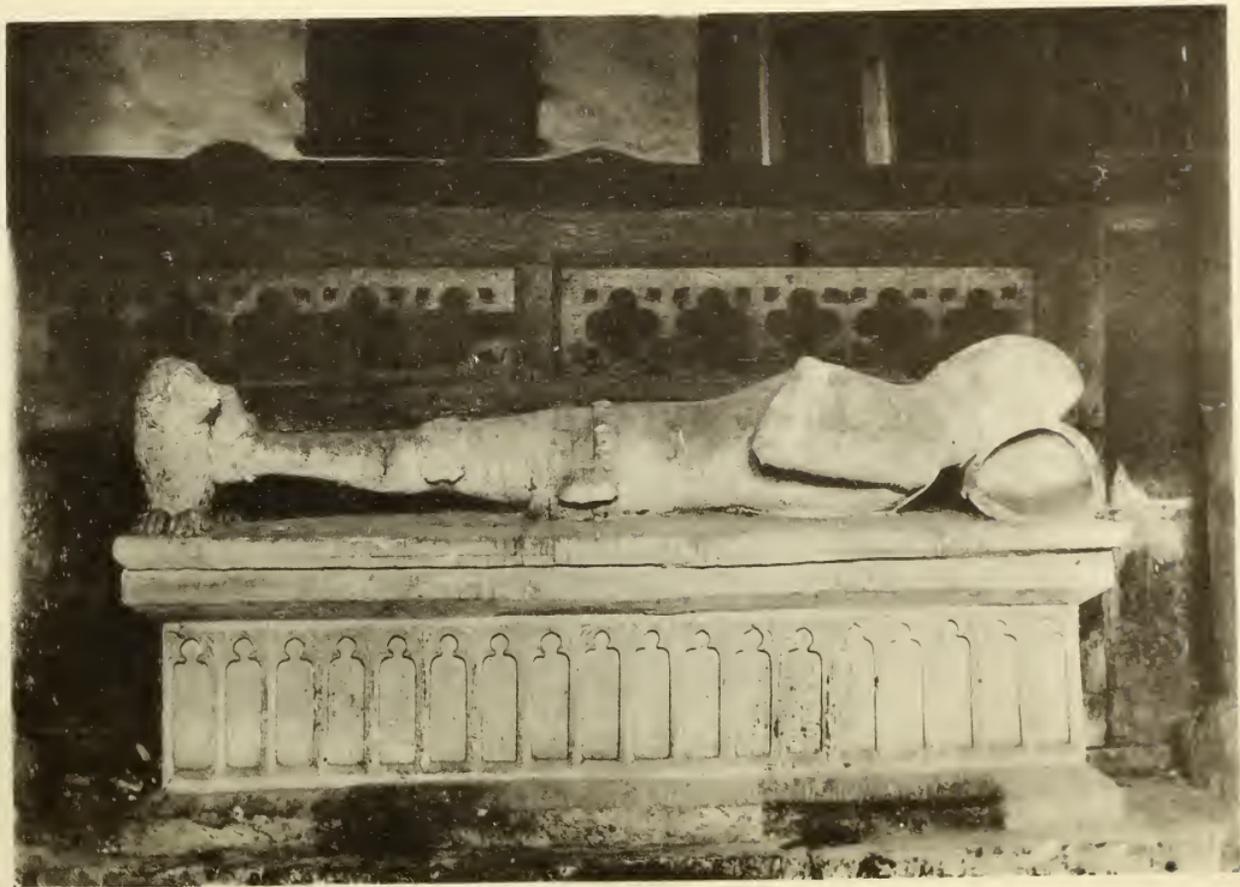


Thursday, August 6th.

Again, with that commendable punctuality which is always shown by Lt.-Col. BRAMBLE, who so ably presides over the excursions, the party started exactly at 9.30 a.m. for Poyntington, a small village distant about two miles from Sherborne. Mr. BUCKLE described the church, which is undergoing restoration. He drew attention to the Saxon font, with its cable moulding, and to a simple Norman doorway on the north side of the church, with two pretty capitals : he also pointed out that there was evidence that the church was destroyed by fire at the end of the thirteenth century. Thus the church was entirely rebuilt in the Decorated style—a comparatively rare thing in Somerset ; but it was much altered at a later date. The gabled roof was taken off the aisle and a lead flat



MONUMENTAL EFFIGY, POYNTINGTON, SOMERSET.

substituted ; the outer wall was thus lowered, and flat heads had to be given to what were originally pointed windows. A wagon-shaped roof was also placed over the nave in such awkward fashion that it hides a great part of the elegant tower arch. Both floor and roof follow the slope of the hill, being higher at the west end. Under the easternmost arch of the arcade there is a very fine monumental recumbent figure of a knight in armour, of which Lt.-Col. BRAMBLE, F.S.A., Hon. Gen. Sec., gave the following interesting description :

“ The recumbent effigy on the south side of the east end of the nave is in the armour known as of the ‘ Camail ’ period. On the head was the pointed Bascinet to which was attached the tippet of mail, from which the term ‘ camail ’ or ‘ capmail ’ was derived, protecting the neck. The body armour was covered by the ‘ jupon,’ a garment of velvet, silk, cloth, or other fabric, which was frequently, but not in this instance, embroidered with the owner’s arms—his ‘ coat of arms.’ A rich belt, used to support the sword and dagger on opposite sides, crossed the hips horizontally. This belt was ornamented with plates of metal, and frequently jewelled. The legs and feet and the arms were covered with plate armour. The head rested upon the large outer helmet, known as the tilting helmet.

“ Attention was directed to the fact that the cord by which the camail was attached to the edge of the bascinet was plainly visible : in late instances this was completely covered. From this circumstance, and the plain engrailed edge of the jupon—in late instances this was cut into a strawberry leaf or other ornamental pattern—he considered the date to be, very approximately, 1380.”

Mr. JOHN BATTEN read a Paper on the Descent of the Manor of Poyntington (see Part II).

Adjoining the churchyard is a fragment of a fourteenth century manor house, and lower down in the village the manor house of the fifteenth century, which was kindly shown by Mrs. Hole. Here is an enclosed courtyard, and a fine stone

stair with panelled arches and a stoup at top, but the original plan of the house is difficult to recover.

Charlton Horethorne

was next visited. Mr. BUCKLE gave a description of the church, part of which he said was Early English, but in the main Decorated. The early chancel had been raised and lengthened in the Perpendicular period : the south aisle contained very early examples of tracery. The north aisle had been rebuilt in the Decorated period. The chancel arch of the same period was very plain, the capitals had scroll mouldings. On the north side the arcade had ball-flower ornaments. In the north aisle there were two spaces for monuments and two very handsome niches for statues. These niches were later than the rest of the building : on one of them there were some interesting corbel heads with peculiar head-dresses.

Lt.-Col. BRAMBLE, F.S.A., Hon. Gen. Sec., said :

“The easternmost of these heads wore a head-dress having a conspicuous “liripipe,” a long strip of cloth, the right to wear, and the length of, which depended on the rank and position of the wearer. They were worn both by males and females, sometimes hanging loosely behind, sometimes passed round the neck. The cap was also represented as placed on the shoulder with the liripipe depending from it. They still appeared in the livery caps of the City Companies, and very plainly, attached to the hoods of Cambridge and Dublin graduates ; and also in the very diminutive hoods sewn behind the left shoulder of the robe of a barrister-at-law. The long strip of crape attached to the back of a widow’s bonnet is an instance of a modern revival of an ancient custom.”

In the recess in the south aisle was a slab with an ornamental cross upon it : it was not, however, *in situ*.

Mr. BUCKLE drew attention also to the early Perpendicular tower, and to the bell-cot at the west end of the north aisle.

In the tower were several noticeable things : an early font (probably Saxon) and a stone two feet high which has served as a pillar stoup. It was originally circular with wreaths round, and perhaps Roman. There was some fine plate of the sixteenth century, and some good Jacobean chairs in the chancel : also an old bible with curious engravings. The church is dedicated to St. Peter, to whom there is a modern statue on the west front of the tower, but the niche is the original one.

Mr. BUCKLE remarked that it might interest the Natural History section of the Society to hear that the kennels of the Blackmore Vale Foxhounds were situated in the parish.

The return journey to Sherborne was made by way of Milborne Port, and a lovely drive through the park brought the party to

Sherborne Castle,

the seat of the President, where he entertained the Society to a sumptuous luncheon ; after which the Dean of Wells, in a few well-chosen words, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Digby for their kindness and hospitality. The President invited the members of the Society to a Garden Party, which Mrs. Digby was giving the same afternoon, he then conducted them through the Castle, pointing out the various interesting and historical portraits of his ancestors, and also one of Sir Walter Raleigh, sometime owner of the manor.¹

(2) See *A Short History of Sherborne*, pp. 95—8.

Mr. WILDMAN then gave an interesting description of the

Old Castle,

in which he closely followed the account given in our *Proceedings* by Mr. G. T. Clark (see Vol. xx). One new point, however, was made, for he was able to show from an old print (not accessible in 1874) that the keep and buildings adjoining

were grouped so as to form a quadrangle, in fact formed an Inner Ward.

After the Old Castle had been described, votes of thanks were heartily given to the President, Lt.-Col. Bramble, F.S.A., Hon. Gen. Sec., Mr. Buckle, Mr. W. B. Wildman, the Local Committee (together with those who had extended hospitality to the members of the Society and had thrown open Churches and Houses for their inspection), and Mr. Bidgood : and thus a most pleasant meeting was brought to a successful close.