

Thursday.

On Thursday another large party left the "Red Lion Hotel," in brakes, at 9.30 a.m., for Bampton and Tiverton.

Bampton Quarries.

After a delightful drive along the river Exe, the first halt was made at Bampton Quarries, now owned by Mr. Dunning, J.P., C.C., and worked by a company. The party were met by Mr. J. Yates, the manager, who kindly showed the visitors over the quarries, which cover an extensive area.

Mr. USSHER again acted as guide, and described the geological formation of the stone. He pointed out that a distinctive feature of the Bampton stone was the large amount of "chert" or flint it contained. This made it a superior road stone. He also mentioned that St. Peter's Church at Tiverton was built from the stones of a worked-out quarry at Bampton. These black limestone beds of the Culm Measures in the carboniferous formation, judging from the age of Bampton Church Tower, had been worked for at least 600 years. The principal structures in the district are built from it, including the county and other bridges.

Bampton Church.

The party next proceeded to the Parish Church, which is dedicated to St. Michael.

Mr. J. T. PERIAM gave some very interesting details with regard to the edifice, which he said had been recently restored under the direction of Mr. C. H. Samson. In his opinion the church originally consisted of chancel and nave. He was under the impression that the tower was added at a later period, owing to the class of stone used in it. The walls came from the ordinary rock of the country, but the tower was built from the limestone of the neighbourhood. Probably in the

15th century, when the Bouchiers were Lords of Bampton, the north wall was added, but whether there were chapels at the eastern and northern ends he could not say. A blocked window in the north aisle seemed to indicate that some building existed there. The screen was now in its original position, but it was unfortunately mutilated at the end of the 15th century. Bampton Church was restored a year or two ago. The roof was dilapidated, and the job looked almost hopeless, but most of the old timber had been put back. The quaint stained window was probably inserted by John Bouchier, second Earl of Bath, 1540. In a vault where the organ now stood, was found a tomb containing several ridged coffins, but the workmen, unfortunately, did not take the dates. The tomb was understood to be that of the first Earl of Bampton. There was also a monument to the Tristram family, who used to live at Duvale. There were also tombs of the Lucases, who formerly lived at the Castle, and owned much property in the neighbourhood. The Bouchier knot could be seen on the screen, and also on the roof bosses.

Mr. C. H. SAMSON, of Taunton, gave some interesting information as to the state of the church before the restoration took place. He said the south wall leaned two feet in one place, and eleven inches in an opposite direction in another. By means of oak corbels, however, the wall, which was solid, was still allowed to lean, whilst the roof was kept straight. The roof was in a very bad state, propped up in all directions, but much of the old oak was used again. It had many excellent bosses also of oak. He did not know what they meant, but most of them were of foliage. The arcade fell over quite two feet, and crushed the timbers in the aisle. They managed, however, to lever it up straight when the roof was on. The well carved screen was found under the chancel arch, and was brought out exactly as found. Very little was done to the chancel.

The visitors found plenty to admire in the church, and they

were especially struck with a fine altar piece, the work and gift of Mr. Cosway, the well-known miniature painter, who was resident at, and said to be, a native of Oakford, just on the other side of the river. On arriving outside the church, Mr. BUCKLE pointed to a piece of stone over one of the south windows, on which he said was a trade mark. There were numbers of them at Tiverton Church, which, he said, was built by woollen merchants.

Bampton Mote.

A climb up rather a steep hill brought the party to the Mote, the main characteristics of which were described by Mr. J. T. PERIAM, who said that having from a remote period been the seat of the governing authority, it would be convenient to mention various matters relating to the past history of Bampton. A description of the origin of the place would, it could not be doubted, take them very far back in the times of Dammonii. It was from the Saxon word *mot*, or *gemot*, a meeting, that this mound, which was an artificial one, got its name of "the Mote," as the seat of the Hundred Mote or Court of Judicature. By the laws of King Edgar, the Burghmote or Court of the Borough was held thrice a year. Bampton was the burg or fortified place, and head manor of the hundred—the parish was still divided into Borough, East, West, and Petton quarters, and the ancient office of portreeve was still in existence there. Risdon says:—"This place was never gelded, for it was the King's demesne," meaning that there was no overlord to intervene between the burgesses and the sovereign. According to another writer, Bampton had originally been an ancient crown lordship, one of the four unhidated royal lordships in Devon; Depeford was then held by two thanes, but the Conqueror had granted it to the Queen as part of her dower. Then some time before Domesday and the Geldroll, the King gave Bampton to Walter de Douay. From Walter's son, Robert de Baunton, the lordship passed through

the Paynells to the Cogans. Thence it passed to the Bourchiers, Earls of Bath, who, as far as was known, were the last owners of the barony who resided at the Castle. In 1336 Richard Cogan had a license from the Crown to castellate his mansion house at Bampton, and to enclose his wood at Uffeulme, and three hundred acres of land for a park. Mr. Periam thought the site of the Castle was on a lower level than the Mote, and pointed out the earth fortifications in what is now an orchard.

Mr. Periam was heartily thanked for his remarks.

Luncheon.

After the inspection of the "Mote," the members were entertained at luncheon, by invitation of Mr. J. R. Holland and Mr. C. D. Harrod. The repast was served in the National Schoolroom. Mr. Holland presided, supported by Mr. Harrod and other gentlemen. The CHAIRMAN gave the toast of "The Queen," and afterwards read letters of apology for inability to be present from Mr. Dunning, Mr. Troyte, Mr. Daniel, and the Rev. Preb. Scott, also the Vicar of the parish, Mr. Holmes, who had taken a great interest in the restoration of the church. Speaking on behalf of Mr. Harrod, as well as himself, the Chairman gave the visitors a hearty welcome, and trusted that their visit would be a satisfactory one. He expressed the pleasure it had given him and Mr. Harrod to entertain the members that day.

The Rev. Donald Owen, was asked to say a few words, and he also welcomed the Society to the neighbourhood.

Mr. OWEN said:—"In rising to obey the somewhat unexpected summons of my hosts, Mr. Holland and Mr. Harrod, I avail myself of the opportunity to thank them, not only for their hospitality in the form of an excellent luncheon, doing credit alike to their *cuisine* and their service, but even more for the pleasure and the privilege of finding myself

numbered among their guests, whose varied learning, so modestly indicated by their speakers, is fairly challenged by the easy courtesy and social *bonhomie* of my kindly neighbours at this table, reminding me of days long gone by, and parts of England far remote from my native Devon, when I shared similar enjoyments with my fellow members of the Royal Archæological Institute.

“In placing my services as a guide to Tiverton most freely at your command, for the remainder of the afternoon, I desire to point out to you the great opening thus afforded for testing and developing the powers and the talents which have made your Somerset Society so justly famous.

“You, if any, I had almost said alone, may succeed in discovering precious objects of interest—natural, artistic, historic, archaic—the existence of which is hitherto utterly unknown to the dwellers in our town.

“And is certainly not even suspected by your amateur guide. Should you find them, the credit will be all your own. Should they escape your search, lay all the blame upon your ignorant and incompetent guide.

“And in your search for souvenirs, in the form of unearthed treasures of Tiverton, may you be happier than I was on my return from Upper Egypt, when I was assured that my small but precious collection of Catacomb relics had all preceded me by the last outward bound steamer.

“In the presence of such a learned assemblage, I am painfully aware of the risk I run by quoting from an ancient historical record, and pointing its self-repetition in the annals of this our pleasant modern pilgrimage.

“Am I geographically correct, or is my orientation faulty, in placing your county of Somerset on the sun-rising side of my own county of Devon.

“Then, may the tale come true yet once again, you wise men of the East, and yet more wise ladies, may re-cross the border to your homes to-night enriched with additions to your store of

wisdom, gained under my guidance, in the course of your trip to Tiverton."

The Rev. Preb. BULLER proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Holland and Mr. Harrod for the generous way in which they had entertained those present that day. This was heartily accorded, and the gentlemen named responded.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER moved a combined vote of thanks to all those who had helped to make that meeting such a successful one. He first of all mentioned their President, Sir Thomas Acland, who gave them a very excellent address on the first day. Their thanks were also due to Mrs. Chapman for permission to visit Combe House, the Rev. C. St. Barbe Sydenham, Rector of Brushford, Rev. E. G. Peirson, Rector of Exford, and Rev. Preb. Anderson, Vicar of Winsford, for the hearty welcome given them. He considered that the drive they took to Exford and Winsford on the Wednesday would rank with any that the Society had ever had. Mr. Anderson very kindly received them, in spite of the fact that he was only recovering from a long illness. Mr. Dicker, the schoolmaster at Winsford, about six months ago discovered some Churchwardens' accounts belonging to the parish, and from those dry bones he had extracted a very interesting paper. Their thanks were also due to Mr. Periam, of Bampton, for the assistance he had rendered, and for the copies of his interesting pamphlet. Then they came to their hosts of that day, who had already been thanked, but he (Mr. Weaver) would like to have the privilege of thanking them again for their kind hospitality. The meeting could not have been so successful as it had proved to be without the kind help of their old friend, Mr. Buckle, and also their old friend, Mr. Ussher, who had rejoined them. They also wished to thank their Local Secretary, Mr. G. F. Sydenham, of Dulverton, for the kind services he had given, and who, although a busy man, had rendered them a good deal of help. Last, but not least, they

must not forget their old friend, Colonel Bramble, who had very kindly given them the benefit of his presence.

The vote was heartily accorded.

Mr. BUCKLE said there was one person who had not been mentioned in the vote of thanks, and that was Mr. Weaver himself, to whom their best thanks were due for arranging the details of that meeting. They were also indebted to Mr. Weaver for a very beneficial change in that year's programme, whereby they had varied the objects of interest visited, and had not, as in previous years, included so many churches in the day's excursions. He knew that Colonel Bramble, who had been of the greatest assistance to Mr. Weaver in arranging that meeting, agreed with the change he had mentioned.

The motion was cordially agreed to, and Mr. WEAVER, in responding, said he would not deny that it was a difficult task to arrange an annual meeting of that character, but it was a matter for gratification that his efforts had been appreciated.

Blundell's School, Tiverton.

After luncheon the members drove to Tiverton, where a visit was paid to Blundell's School. While assembled on the lawn in front of the School, the Rev. DONALD M. OWEN gave an address. He said that he was at school there at the age of ten, and stayed there till 1840. He distinctly recollected Frederick Temple, the present Archbishop of Canterbury, who was both a boarder and a day boy, and whose family lived at that time at Uffculme. He remembered Temple winning the Blundell Scholarship, and which sent him to Balliol College, Oxford. Perhaps the most famous schoolboy, contemporary with him (Mr. Owen) was Blackmore, the author of "Lorna Doone," and with whom he corresponded to the end of the famous novelist's life. Great changes had taken place in Blundell's School. It was founded, as they knew, by Peter Blundell, a clothier of Tiverton, who began as a boy in a small

way, being the owner of one horse, with which he carried some serges to London. Wishing to bestow some of his wealth on his native town, Blundell founded this school, at the suggestion of Chief Justice Popham, his adviser, the school dating from 1601, although Peter Blundell's will was of a somewhat earlier date. Not content with building the noble Grammar School, as it was then and is now, Blundell's nephew and clerk Chillcott founded a second school, which still flourished at Tiverton. Blundell's School had varied fortunes, its ups and downs like other schools, up to the time when the boarders became the main body of the school. Originally meant for all, the school-green gradually became absorbed by the boarders, and was closed to day boys, which led to angry feeling in the town, ending in a law-suit, by which the boarders were declared to be no part of the original foundation, and the school was restored to what Peter Blundell founded it for, namely, a school for Tiverton and neighbourhood. But the result of that law-suit was a dead loss to the funds of the school of £7,000. There was also a heavy fall in numbers until a fresh application to the court was made, and the boarders were brought back again. It was then, however, a very reduced school, and in latter years the playground was found to be too small for modern games. Consequently the governing body of the day, mainly assisted by Archbishop Temple's wise counsel, determined to sell the ground on which they were standing, and bought about fifteen acres of ground about a mile out of the town, and built a new school there. They transferred to it, they hoped, all the old traditions, and at present the school was flourishing, gaining some of the greatest honours of the present day, and contributing to all the branches of the learned and other professions boys who were doing honour to the name of the school. Their numbers had been as high as two hundred-and-eighty, but fluctuating like all schools, were now two hundred-and-twenty. They kept up the old custom of speech day. The members of the Association would probably like to

know what changes had taken place inside Old Blundell's. The whole property had been bought by a wealthy brewer (Mr. Ford), who was also a philanthropic man, for he had erected, close to the old school, almshouses for his aged workmen. He had transformed the old school into five private dwelling-houses, without changing very much the exterior architecture of the building. The upper and lower school had a roof of timber brought, as tradition asserts, from the wreck of the Spanish Armada. Those curious about such matters would see how the dates coincided. At all events, when the roof was re-modelled, one of the workmen showed him some of the timber through which the holes had been bored, apparently for bolts used in ship building. Referring to famous headmasters, Mr. Owen named the Rev. Henry Saunders, tutor of Dr. Temple; Dr. Bolton; and the Rev. Thomas Wood, his (Mr. Owen's) grandfather, to whose father members doubtless noticed a memorial in Bampton Church. Mr. Wood, famed in his day alike as a polished scholar, a profound theologian, and a mighty hunter, was also a personal friend of his Bishop, and was once riding in his Lordship's coach (then accounted a great honour), on a visit to Old Blundell's, when the Bishop noticing a Latin inscription over the doorway, asked Mr. Wood to translate it for him, as his eyesight was not good. The old Vicar of Bampton promptly did so, as follows:—

“ Within these walls two mighty monarchs rule,
One in the house the other in the school;
But see, my lord, a sad disaster—
He rules the boys but she the master.”

His married friends would, he hoped, all agree with him that that was a piece of ancient history never to be reproduced.

In the entrance porch to the school was noticed the name of R. D. Blackmore, carved on a bench.

Mr. Owen was heartily thanked for his address.

Tiverton Almshouses.

A visit was next paid to Greenway's Almshouses. Mr. BUCKLE briefly commented on the almshouses in Gold Street, which were comparatively modern, except part of the chapel. A curious feature was that one entrance, by stairs, served for all the houses.

St. Peter's Church.

St. Peter's Church at Tiverton was the next object of interest inspected, the Rev. E. S. Chalk, Curate, welcoming the visitors in the absence of the Rector, the Rev. Preb. Scott.

Mr. BUCKLE gave a detailed description of the architectural features of the building, beginning with the south side of the exterior and the south porch. He said that the church was of a totally different character to anything the Society had seen before during that meeting. He had already mentioned the poverty of most of the churches they had visited during the previous two days, and had pointed out that it was hardly reasonable to expect that they would have elaborately carved work in the churches about Exmoor. But although Exmoor was in itself a poor district, he took it that all the hills around must have been covered with sheep; and Tiverton was the great market for the sale of the wool. They knew all through Somerset that wherever they found much of the woollen trade, they invariably found an exceedingly rich church—a notable tower, or screen, or something or other which denoted the wealth of the town, or it might be only a village, where the merchants made their money. Here in Devon they found the same thing. Tiverton appeared to have been an exceedingly thriving town, dependent mainly upon the woollen trade; and the merchants of Tiverton spent their money very freely for public objects. The school they had just been to was an example of that, founded by a merchant who started from

Tiverton ; the almshouses (Greenway's) were another ; and there were at least two other almshouses and one other school founded by Tiverton merchants. The Greenway's Almshouses they had passed were founded by the same man who built the whole of that magnificent south side of St. Peter's Church, on which they were now looking with admiration. The chapel, which stood out from the nave, and towered over the porch, was also due to that same John Greenway, who made his money at Tiverton about the year 1500. Mr. Buckle proceeded to say that he had not been able to find out anything concerning the life of Greenway, and he believed that next to nothing was known about him. Mr. Buckle then described the beautiful work he had caused to be erected between the years 1515 and 1518, especially pointing out the magnificent carving over the south porch and round the entire parapet, for the most part emblems of Greenway's mercantile career. They would find that every buttress was decorated with a charmingly sculptured ship in full sail. The church was also remarkable for the number of trade marks carved about it, and there was such a similarity about these marks that the merchants of the day must have had difficulty sometimes in identifying their own. The carving on Greenway's chapel also included a row of ships, represented as sailing on a sea of waves ; and under the cornice was a remarkable series of small figures, representing the leading incidents in the life of Christ. There were numerous coats of arms and monograms, among them—*A chevron between 3 covered cups, on a chief 3 sheep's heads erased for GREENWAY. Barry nebulée ; a chief quarterly, on the 1st and 4th a lion passant guardant, on the 2nd and 3rd two roses for the MERCHANT VENTURERS of London. Three clouds radiated in base, each surmounted with a triple crown for the DRAPERS' COMPANY.*

In the centre of the porch was a large achievement in honour of Katherine of York, Countess of Devon, the great lady of the place, who at the time resided in Tiverton Castle. The

coat consisted of COURTENAY and RIVERS *quarterly, impaling quarterly*, 1st FRANCE and ENGLAND *quarterly*, 2nd and 3rd BURGH, 4th MORTIMER. It was surmounted by the Courtenay badge, and supported by St. George and a Woman.

On the upper part of the porch was some elaborate sculpture, now almost perished.

Proceeding inside the church, Mr. BUCKLE said there was no hint of Greenway on the north side. The work on that side was done by a merchant whose name began with an S, and that was all that was known about him. His trade mark initial appeared on some of the capitals. Like Greenway, this merchant thought it wise to introduce the Courtenay emblems into his work, and there again was the eagle with a bundle of sticks. The north aisle, from end to end, was practically modern work. It was much narrower within the last fifty years, when the outside wall, with its Norman doorway, was taken down and re-built.

On the north side of the chancel stood the Courtenay chapel, containing probably many magnificent monuments, but chapel and monuments were alike destroyed during the Civil War. The chancel arch retained however on its capitals the Courtenay arms, surrounded by the garter and the Courtenay badges of eagle and pig.

In the Greenway chapel, the wagon roof in stone-work, covered with fan tracery, was to be noted together with the brass on the floor and the Renaissance door. The porch roof was also covered with Greenway badges, and the wall over the church door with richer sculpture of Greenway's providing.

Mr. BUCKLE concluded by drawing attention to two valuable paintings in the church, one of St. Peter in prison, by Cosway, the celebrated miniature painter of the last century, and a native of Oakford, who, it was believed, presented the painting to the church; and the other, representing the Visit of the Magi, by Gaspard de Crayer, a contemporary of Reu-

bens, whose style he imitated. The modern vestry contained a large library of old books and documents.

[At Somerset House are preserved the Wills of John Greneway of Tiverton, "died at London," proved in 1530; and of Joane Greneway of Tiverton, proved in 1539. ED.]

Tiverton Castle.

The last place for inspection was Tiverton Castle, which the members next visited. The Rev. DONALD OWEN explained that the building dated from the year 1107. It came early into the possession of the Courtenay family. Afterwards the family broke up into different sections, and the property ultimately got into other hands, until it came into the possession of the ancestors of the present Lord Chancellor. They built what was now called Giffard's Court. The property next passed into the hands of a Mr. West, who intermarried with the Carews, the Castle ultimately coming into their possession, and the late Baronet lived there. It now belonged to the Misses Carew, of Haccombe, who held it in entail for the present Baronet. At present the building was occupied by the great Irish family of Moore, two members of whom were at the front in South Africa. The family wished that every facility should be given the Society for viewing the grounds, and Mr. Owen was asked to thank Miss Moore for her kindness.

This brought the excursions to a close, and the members afterwards had tea at the "Angel Hotel," and subsequently journeyed homewards. The general opinion was that this annual meeting was one of the most enjoyable that the Society has ever had.