

Third Day's Proceedings.

On Thursday the weather was favourable, and the number of excursionists was consequently large. A start was made

from the hotel at 9.30, and, passing through Forton, the hill beyond was mounted, bringing the party to

Leigh House,

the beautiful Elizabethan residence of Mrs. Savile, and belonging to Col. Henley. Mrs. Savile kindly allowed the members to ramble through the rooms, and her son, the Rev. E. S. G. Savile, made an excellent guide. This house has been twice visited by the Society, first in 1866 and again in 1882. On both occasions the age was decided to be earlier than 1611, the date on the lead spouts, and the style to be Elizabethan rather than Jacobean. Since then the contemporary notice in Gerard's "Survey" of 1633 has fixed the date of the building somewhat later; and a careful examination has shown that the figures are really 1617, the horizontal stroke of the last figure being deflected downward. On the spout on the north side of the front the figures are accompanied by the initials, H.H., S.H., *i.e.*, Henry Henley, and Susan, his wife, daughter of Robert Brage. Henry succeeded his father Robert in 1614. Now Gerard, writing in 1633, says: "Ley, in our way (from Cricket St. Thomas to Winsham) shewes a faire house finely sceated built by the now owner of it Mr. Henley. Aunciently it belonged to the Montacutes of Slow and Sutton Montacute; an heir generall of whom brought it to John Duport of Leicestershire whose successor sold it" (S.R.S., xv, 71). This statement confirms the evidence of the spout in every particular.

Thanks having been heartily given to Mrs. Savile and her son, the drive was continued to

Winsham Church.

Here the Vicar, Rev. D. H. SPENCER, acted as cicerone, and Mr. BLIGH BOND, of Bristol, read an interesting paper on "The Tympanum as surviving at Winsham Church." This Paper is printed in Part II.

Mr. BUCKLE said what Mr. Bligh Bond had told them

about the painting was exceedingly interesting, and threw fresh information upon a difficult and obscure point. The speaker went on to describe some features in the architecture of the Church, which he said was another instance of a Church with a central tower, and they would notice there that the tower was narrower than the chancel and narrower than the nave. The tower was oblong—wider from north to south than from east to west. He drew their attention to the very crooked line on which the chancel was built, the wall on one side of which was evidently XIII Century work.

Colonel BRAMBLE suggested that in this Church there might have been two screens, as at Crewkerne, Yatton, and many churches in Somersetshire where there were central towers.

Mr. BUCKLE said that might have been the case, although he did not think the two screens could have been in position at the same time.

Colonel BRAMBLE called attention to the beautiful chalice, and also an interesting document in one of the register books, which he thought ought to be printed. The latter is called a "Solemn Protestation," and is as follows:—

"Winsham } Upon the 13th day of February beinge the Lord's
1641 } daye Anno Dmni 1641 in the Pish of Winsham
within the County of Sūmset this Protestation
was performed solemnly accordinge to the Order
of the Hon^{ble} House of Commons in Parliament,
by all the Pishioners whose names are subscribed.

"I, A. B., do in the presence of Almighty God promise, vow, and protest, to maintain and defend, as far as lawfully I may, with my life, power, and estate the true Reformed Protestant Religion expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England against all popery and popish Innovations within this Realm contrary to the same doctrine, and according to the duty of my Allegiance His Majesty's Royal Person, Honour, and estate; as also the power and

privileges of Parliament, the lawful Rights and liberties of the subject, and every person that makes this Protestation in whatsoever he shall do in the lawful pursuance of the same, And to my power, and as far as lawfully I may I will oppose and by all good ways and means endeavour to bring to condign punishment all such as shall either by force, practice, counsels, plots, conspiracies or otherwise do anything to the contrary of any thing in this present Protestation contained, And further that I shall in all just and honourable ways endeavour to preserve the Union and peace between the three kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland, And neither for hope, fear, nor other respect shall relinquish this promise, Vow, and Protestation.

“Whereas some doubts have been raised by several persons out of this House concerning the meaning of these words contained in the Protestation lately made by the Members of this House (*viz.*), The true Reformed Protestant Religion expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England against all popery and popish innovations within this Realm, contrary to the same doctrine, This House doth declare, That by those words was and is meant only the public doctrine professed in the said Church so far as it is opposite to popery and popish innovations, And that the said words are not to be extended to the Maintaining of any form of Worship, discipline or Government, nor of any rites or ceremonies of the said Church of England.

John Wiatt, Vic^r.

Henry Henley,

John Crandon, Cler.

George Terry,

John Bennett, } Church

Humphrey Orchard,

John Bovett, } Wardens.

Walter Atkins,” etc.

John Hitchcocke, }
John Bennett, } Overseers.

About 200 names, the marks being very peculiar.

Cricket St. Thomas.

The journey was then continued to Cricket St. Thomas, and luncheon was most hospitably provided at the mansion at the invitation of the President and Mrs. Fry, who, with their daughter, Miss Norah L. Fry, extended a hearty welcome to everyone. The beautiful grounds of Cricket House were seen to special advantage on this day, and the visitors enjoyed a ramble through them. The customary photograph of the members was taken in the front terrace by Mr. St. George Gray. At the conclusion of the lunch, a formal meeting of the members was held in the large hall, when

Colonel BRAMBLE, in the name of the Society, heartily thanked Mr. Fry for his great kindness in presiding at the meetings; for his genial company at the various excursions; and for his unbounded hospitality to the members that day. The name of Fry, he said, was well known in Bristol, in which city it had been respected for many generations, and he had no doubt that it would be held in just as high esteem in the future in that part of the county of Somerset.

Mr. F. J. FRY returned thanks, and said it had been a great pleasure to him to see the members that day, and, with regard to his presidency, he said he had enjoyed the task exceedingly, and if there had been any shortcomings on his part, they must blame the Society itself for asking him to take office.

Colonel BRAMBLE then expressed thanks to Mrs. Fry for her hospitality that day.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER formally returned thanks to the clergy of the various parishes visited by the Society during the meeting, and to the members who had prepared papers, making special mention of the Rev. F. E. W. Langdon, who, he said, gave them an ideal paper on his church, and afterwards entertained the members at tea; to the Rev. H. A. Cartwright, who, although very unwell, did not spare himself to act as their conductor at Whitestaunton; to the Rev. E. H.

Bates for his valuable notes on many of the places visited ; to the Rev. J. Street for his interesting description of Ilminster Church ; and to the Rev. F. H. and Mrs. Mules for entertaining the Society on the previous day. They also wished to thank Mrs. Savile for her kindness in allowing them to go through her beautiful house ; and Mr. Buckle for kindly acting as cicerone on the excursions ; but especially would he thank the Mayor and Corporation of Chard, and the local committee and particularly Mr. F. Harris Mitchell, for all they had done to contribute to the success of the meeting, which, he believed, would rank amongst the most successful that the Society had ever had.

The remarks of Mr. Weaver were heartily endorsed by the members, as also was a vote of thanks accorded Mr. Weaver himself for the able and genial manner in which he had carried out the duties of excursion secretary.

Cudworth Church.

Many of the members were compelled to leave to catch their trains, but a considerable number were well repaid for a visit to Cudworth Church.

The Rev. E. H. BATES said this forlorn little building has, at least, escaped the common fate of nearly every church in the neighbourhood, that of being rebuilt ; and, after a conservative restoration, will therefore still be of considerable historical and architectural interest. It consists of a nave with bell turret on the west gable, north aisle, and chancel. The earliest portions are the Norman doorway and font (1100-1135). By a slip the *Proceedings*, Vol. XIII, i, 53, refer to a Norman tower. This doorway is now in the north wall of the aisle, to which position it seems to have been moved when the original north wall of the nave was taken down to make room for an arcade of the Decorated period. The east window of the aisle has a beautiful cusped rear arch with nook shafts.

On the south side adjacent is a piscina with the stone shelf above, under an arched recess. Under the window is a tiny low "side window," blocked up. The windows of the chancel are of several periods, the east window being Decorated of three lights, the mullions interlacing in the head. The easternmost window in the nave contains debased details in the head, with a bracket in the hollow moulding on the eastern face. On a slab in the east window of the aisle:—"Infra hanc lapidem reconduntur exuviæ Saræ Smyth uxoris Ri: Smyth gen. Ortum habuit ex antiqua Spyeorum familia in urbe Ypra in Flandria qua urbe avus ejus in exilium pulsus ad [qu. ab] d Alva propter religionis Protestantis professionem. Mortua est decimo die Junii anno Redempt. 1684, ætatis 63, conjugii 39."

An agreeable surprise awaited a large proportion of the members as they returned to Chard in the afternoon, the conveyances being waylaid at Oaklands, the residence of Mr. J. William Gifford, who, with Mrs. Gifford, kindly invited the party to tea. This hospitality was greatly appreciated, and the pleasure of the visitors was heightened when Mr. Gifford threw open his laboratory to his guests, and showed a specimen of the newly-discovered element known as "radium," together with his many valuable scientific instruments. Mr. and Mrs. Gifford were thanked for their kindness.

It should be added that the local arrangements were carried out by a committee composed of the Mayor and Corporation, Rev. Preb. J. W. Robinson, Messrs. J. W. Gifford, A. D. Paul, N. W. Spicer, W. J. Tucker, and J. H. Young, with Mr. A. P. Indge as secretary.

The Local Museum.

During the visit of the Society, a local Museum or Loan Exhibition was formed at the Guildhall at Chard, and a most interesting collection of articles was got together through the

exertions of the local committee, to whom Mr. A. W. Yeomans acted as hon. secretary in this particular department.

The following articles, etc., were lent to augment the collection already in the "Arthur Hull Museum":—

Two castings of the Battle of Agincourt, and the Last Supper; an edition of Eusebius, published in Paris, the binding of which was said to contain a XIII Century document; picture of the Dorset Field Club, 1887; also some old coins. Lent by the Mayor, Mr. S. H. Dening.

Pedigree of the Gwyn family, Ford Abbey; Bible 1607; small collection of coins; and a bronze axe-head found at Membury. Lent by Mr. W. J. Tucker.

A large number of brass rubbings were on view and contained the following:—Inscription to Elizabeth Stewkeley, 1598, daughter of Richard Chamberlayne, Alderman of London, from St. George's Church, Dunster; Nicholas Wadham, founder of Wadham College, Oxford, from St. Mary's Church, Ilminster; a Priest of 1497, from Stoke-in-Teignhead; Sir William Wadham, High Sheriff of Devon, 1438 (died 1452), from St. Mary's Church, Ilminster; Elizabeth Carew, Haccombe Church, Devon, XV Century; Gyles Penn and wife, 1519, St. John the Baptist, Yeovil; Memorial brasses to the Quircke family, 1697-1711, from St. Michael's, Minehead; John Agnes Wyther, 1497, from St. George's Church, Dunster; Inscription in old French, Elizabeth Furlong, 1641, from St. Mary's Church, Luccombe; Nicolas Carew, Haccombe Church, Devon, XV Century; William Hamson, 1615, St. Mary's Church, Luccombe; Thomas Carew, Haccombe Church, Devon, 1586; Sir John Windham, 1574, Elizabeth his wife, 1571, St. Decuman's Church, Watchet; Marjery Windham, 1585, from St. Mary's Church, Stogumber; Thomas Carew, and Annie his wife, Haccombe Church, Devon. Lent by the Rev. H. N. Dymond, M.A., of Chaffcombe Rectory.

Oil painting of Ford Abbey. Lent by Mr. C. Hallett.

Mace of the Borough of Newport, North Curry; set of

five pictures, St. Mary's Church, Ilminster. Lent by Mr. Edwin Sloper, Crouch End, London.

Deed relating to Harvey's Charity in Chancery, 1672; Chard Parish agreement affecting the Chard vicarial tithes. Lent by the Town Council.

Bible, 1602, Roman coin, pewter dish and plate, and cannon ball found in an old farm-house at Wadeford. Lent by Mr. J. Brown, of Wadeford.

Pictures, including one of Richard Deane, aged 74, the last of the "Pig Tails" in Chard; coins and medals, including the medal given to Chard when it was incorporated in 1234; casket and other sundries. Lent by Mr. F. Harris Mitchell.

Collection of coins, ornament off Lord Nelson's coat, and main-spring of the watch which was in the possession of Nelson when he fell at the battle of Trafalgar, etc. Lent by Rev. H. Stuart King, of Tatworth.

Patch box. Lent by Mrs. Selleck.

Collection of French and Italian coins and medals, and mug bearing the inscription of "The Peace of Europe signed at Paris, 1814." Lent by Mr. J. W. Gifford.

Bronze palstave or celt, found in the River Otter, Devon. Lent by Mr. W. Russell.

Stone-work from old house. Lent by Messrs. Symes and Madge.

Old mortar. Lent by Mr. W. H. Smith.