

The Local Museum.

AN upper room of the Town Hall was utilised as a temporary Museum, and the following were among the objects of interest lent.

Rev. C. W. Whistler.—Ancient Sussex Ironwork, formerly preserved in Battle Abbey, consisting of a violin, flesh-hooks from the kitchen, Abbey padlock and keys, spur *temp.* Edward III, tobacco stopper *temp.* William III, model of the Viking ship, 10th century, found at Sändefjord, Norway.

Mr. Corder.—Neolithic flint spear head and polisher, and quartzite hammer-stone found near Chelmsford. Piece of sixteenth century tapestry, and a number of rubbings of brasses from various parts of England.

Mr. Rookley.—Wooden quart measure, bound with a copper rim inscribed "Bridgwater," probably one of the original borough standard measures; medal of the Duke of Cumberland, "Rebellion Justly Rewarded, Culloden, 16 Ap., 1746," found near Bridgwater; broadsheet, "Bridgwater Amusements, 1794."

Mr. Stoaie.—Frame containing some notes of the "Bridgwater and Somerset Bank,"—one £1, seven £5, and one £10; twelve seventeenth century Bridgwater tokens, three eighteenth century Bridgwater tokens; *British Directory*, vol. ii, containing Bridgwater; *General Directory for the County of Somerset*, Taunton, 1840; drawings of Ham Mills on the Tone, and Royal Hotel, Bridgwater; Engineer's report on the Geology of Bridgwater; *Penal Laws, a Discourse or Charge at Sessions in the Borough of Bridgwater, 12th July, 1680*; proposal for establishing a Medical Institution in Bridgwater, 1813; *Taunton and Bridgwater Journal*, printed by C. H. Drake, Taunton, 1812.

The Corporation of Bridgwater.—Three silver maces of the time of Charles II, all inscribed “Charles II, King of England, Scotland, and France, and Ireland,” the larger one dated “1660;” the maker’s mark \bar{M} is on all three, so that they are probably all of one date. Two silver cups, inscribed “Ex dono Margaretæ Jones Viduæ,” the arms, a castle on a bridge, are probably intended for Bridgwater, though not drawn as usually represented; the date-letter hall mark is that for the year 1640-1. Salt cellar, circular in form, with broad-spreading foot, and three arms at top for supporting a napkin to cover the salt, a well known form of seventeenth century salts; inscribed round the body “Ex dono Tho. Wrothe milit. Recordat. Burgi de Bridgwater, 1638,” on the top “Sal sapit omnia;” the date-letter is for the year 1633-4, four years earlier than the earliest specimen known and recorded in Cripps’s *Old English Plate*. Several old charters, and the mayor’s chain were also exhibited.

Mr. W. B. Broadmead.—Polished stone axe found in Enmore Park; Buck’s View of Enmore Castle.

Mr. R. C. Else (Mayor of Bridgwater).—Eight engravings of old Bridgwater.

Mr. T. H. Boy’s.—Views of Crowcombe Court, Fairfield, Enmore Castle, Old Cross at Nether Stowey, Hatch Court, interior of old St. Mary’s Church, Bridgwater; drawings of Stogursey Castle, and of the “Three Crowns” and “Fleur-de-lis” Inns, Bridgwater; Copper sign “Bull and Butcher;” cannon balls shot from Bridgwater Castle during the siege; painted badge “Huntspill Harmonic Society;” two old painted trays from Pike’s factory, Bridgwater; old Bridgwater pottery jugs; constables’ staves and watchman’s rattle; engraved drinking horn, and some other things of general rather than local interest.

Mr. T. F. Norris.—Order for the removal of cattle during the murrain, 1757; bell-metal “posnet,” a three-legged crock or skillet with straight handle, lettered “Bee Constant, 1775;”

upper stone of a quern, and some Roman coins, found at Gold Corner, Huntspill; an old "Leathern Bottell," with piece cut out of the side,

" hang it up to a pin
"Twill serve to put hinges and odd things in."

Custom House.—Impressions from early stamps of the ports of Bridgwater and Minehead; iron-bound chest, with massive locks, sixteenth century.

Borough Police Office.—Eleven Watchmen's Staves, 1819.

Mr. Harold S. Thompson.—Herbarium of dried plants, comprising about sixteen hundred specimens of British flowering plants and ferns, among them being many specimens of great botanical and local interest, the bulk of the collection having been obtained from the neighbourhood of Bridgwater. One small cabinet contained specimens of *Rubi* only, chiefly from Warwickshire and the Quantock district, many of which had been named by the late Professor Babington. Among the plants shown on the table was a specimen of the rare sea knot-grass (*Polygonum maritimum*) which, as a boy of twelve, Mr. Thompson discovered at Burnham, Somerset, it being then not only new to the county, but extremely rare in Britain.¹ Perhaps the most interesting of the botanical exhibits were the specimens collected in the neighbourhood of Bridgwater by the late Thomas Clark, who was born at Greinton in 1793, and died at Bridgwater in 1864. Thomas Clark was an accurate and conscientious botanist, and member of the Botanical Society of London; he did much of his work in conjunction with the Rev. J. C. Collins, of St. John's, Bridgwater, and the Rev. John Poole, both of whom contributed many notes to the (Somerset) Supplement of Watson's *New Botanists' Guide*, 1837; but some of these records had been doubted by subsequent students of Somersetshire botany, for the plants

(1). Since the meeting, this plant has been noticed among a list of plants printed in *A Compleat History of Somersetshire*, 1740, "found on the Severn shore, near Weston-super-Mare."

were not submitted for verification, and some had apparently become extinct. However, in 1891, a portion of Clark's Herbarium came into the hands of Mr. Thompson, when the old records were to a great extent confirmed. It is gratifying to hear that this summer one of these plants, supposed to have become extinct (*Papaver hybridum*), has been re-discovered in the district by the Rev. C. W. Whistler, of Stockland, after it had disappeared for many years. In 1856, Thomas Clark contributed a list of the *Rarer Plants of the Turfmoors* to the *Proceedings* of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, of which he was a member.