

Third Day's Proceedings.

On Thursday an excursion was made to the

City of Exeter.

The Great Western Railway Company, with their usual readiness on such occasions, issued excursion tickets for the visit, and the intention was to provide special carriages by the 10.18 a.m. express train. The party, however, proved to be a larger one than was anticipated, numbering altogether 100. Mr. Lailey, the stationmaster, thereupon promptly made arrangements for a special train to convey the visitors, which left Taunton at 10.20, running in advance of the regular express. Exeter was reached without stopping, after a smart run of forty minutes. The party at once proceeded to the ancient Guildhall, where they were received in state by the Mayor (Alderman Pople), the Sheriff (Mr. Delpratt Harris), and the Deputy-Mayor (Alderman Pring).

The MAYOR expressed the great pleasure it gave him, on behalf of the Corporation, to welcome the Society to Exeter. He mentioned that some twenty-five years ago the city was honoured by a visit of the members of the Archæological Society of Great Britain, who, during their stay, were so pleased with what they saw that they subsequently presented to the city the gold chain of office which he was then wearing. The Town Clerk (Mr. Shorto) was present, and would be pleased to show them some of the old records, and give a description of them.

Mr. E. J. STANLEY, M.P., as President of the Society,

thanked the Mayor for the kind way in which he had received them. They had only gone four times out of the county of Somerset since the Society had been in existence, and they thought that, as they were now celebrating their Jubilee, they could not do better than spend one day in a city which was, perhaps, more interesting than any other in their immediate neighbourhood. If the Town Clerk would be good enough to show them some of the ancient documents it would afford them very much pleasure.

The TOWN CLERK then explained that the Guildhall was built in the year 1330, and the walls and the roof were the same as the original structure. The fine oak panelling round the hall was put up in the year 1588. It was formerly painted and grained to represent mahogany until about twelve years ago, when such an undesirable covering was removed. They would notice some fine paintings on the walls. One was a portrait of Princess Henrietta, daughter of Charles I, born in Exeter, and another was of General Monk, who took such a leading part in the Restoration of Charles II. Both pictures were painted by Sir Peter Leley. Some swords were next shown, one of which was presented to the city by Edward I, and another by Henry VII. The Town Clerk proceeded to give an interesting summary of the history of Exeter from early times. There were 2,000 old deeds and 48 Royal Charters. These had of late all been carefully arranged by Mr. Stuart Moore, of the Record office. One of the oldest charters they had was in the reign of Henry II. The common seal of Exeter was passed round among the company for inspection. It had, said the Town Clerk, been in use for over 600 years. He had been told that the common seal used in Taunton was very similar to that of Exeter, but some people thought that that of Taunton was a reproduction of the one at Exeter. The wax imprint of the seal of the Somerset town was also handed round for inspection, and the Town Clerk said that it seemed very clear that both were made by the same man.

The Cathedral.

A visit was next made to the Cathedral, so rich in architectural beauty of form and colour. The party was received by Canon EDMONDS, who for about two hours entertained his listeners with a most interesting, lucid, and scholarly description of the principal features of the noble pile. The Canon having been cordially thanked for his address,

A move was next made to "Mol's Coffee House" (a building of 1596), and St. Martin's Church was afterwards visited. By this time the visitors were ready for luncheon, which was served at the New London Hotel. The afternoon was spent in visiting the Castle, St. Pancras Church, St. Mary Arches Church, and St. Mary Steps Church, while a few went to the Museum. The return journey was made in the special train at 4.52, Taunton being reached about 5.45. This brought third day's proceedings to an end, and the general expression was that the visit had been a most enjoyable one, and the beautifully fine weather added much to the pleasure.