

The Local Museum.

AN interesting loan exhibition of local objects was formed in the Castle Hall, and consisted largely of paintings, prints, drawings, etc., of old Taunton, portraits of Somerset Worthies, old election addresses and squibs; play bills of the old Taunton theatre (including some of the great Kean's). Among the Taunton election addresses was that of Benjamin Disraeli, who, "young and alone, is engaged in a not inglorious struggle with the most powerful person in Europe who does not wear a crown," this being Daniel O'Connell, who on this occasion described the future Prime Minister of England as the heir-at-law of the impenitent thief who reviled the Great Founder of the Christian religion.

Mr. Barnicott.—Frame of ancient stained glass from the east window (removed in the restoration of 1843) of St. Mary's Church, Taunton. Two water-colour drawings of old St. James' Vicarage, Taunton. Sixty-three engraved portraits. Ten prints of Taunton, and six printed sheets of election addresses, etc. Parchment document, Union Club, Taunton, 1755; Taunton Assembly, 1749, rules and book of accounts.

Miss Woodforde.—Miniature portrait of Elizabeth Broadmead, buried at Wilton, 1784, aged 115. She walked in procession before the Duke of Monmouth on his entering Taunton. Portrait taken 25th March, 1781, by P. Foy. Crayon portrait of Thomas Woodforde, of Taunton, apothecary and banker. Pencil drawing of the Market House, etc., Taunton, by Ed. Turle, 1829. Bible given by Bishop Ken to Samuel Woodforde, of Castle Cary, "the gift of my worthy friend Thomas Ken, Jan. 3, 1669."

Mr. C. Tite.—Several water-colour sketches of places in Taunton since destroyed or altered—"White Hart Inn,"

“Four Alls Inn Yard,” “Crown and Sceptre Inn,” “Castle Yard,” “Old Grammar School,” houses in Bridge Street and St. James’ Street. Portrait of Dr. Cottle, formerly vicar of St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton. Engraved portraits of Samuel Daniel and Miss Graddon, and several caricature sketches. Sheet of local architectural subjects.

Rev. J. Worthington.—Portraits of Dr. Toulmin (historian of Taunton), Rev. Roger Montgomery, Rev. W. A. Jones, and Dr. Malachi Blake ; and some old views of the corner of Mary Street.

Mr. J. H. Spencer.—Daguerreotype of St. Mary’s old tower, 1842. Pen-and-ink sketch of St. James’ old tower, 1866. Comparative elevations of the towers of Taunton St. Mary, Taunton St. James, Bishop Lydeard, Kingston, and Staple Fitzpaine. Drawing of Wilton Church, showing the old tower, 1844. View of interior of St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1829, and some other local views.

Mr. Hugh Norris.—Portrait of Henry Norris, of Taunton, born May, 1752, died 1823. Carved ivory knife-handle, found on the site of Taunton Priory, representing Justice, Hope, and Charity (*see* vol. ix, *Somerset Proceedings*).

Dr. Alford.—Six water-colour sketches of Taunton—North Street ; Fore Street ; Old Tone Bridge ; Alms Houses, St. James’ Street ; Leper Hospital, East Reach ; and view of Taunton from the Priory fields.

Rev. D. P. Alford.—The old College School, Taunton, by Jeffries. Painting of the old bridge.

Mr. Franklin.—Five views of old Taunton, by “C.C.” *circa* 1790, coloured aquatints—Castle Green, showing the ruined eastern gate ; view from Priory ; Hammet Street ; Tone Bridge before the central arch was built ; Taunton Castle ; and a view of the Market House, by E. Turle.

Mr. T. G. Crump.—Four water-colour sketches—Whipping Post and Stocks, West Monkton ; Leper Hospital, East Reach ; Rams-horn Bridge ; Trowel and Pipe found embedded

in the walls of old St. Mary's tower when pulled down, 1858.

Mr. Maynard.—Two water-colour sketches, by Haseler, of the north front of the Castle Hall, Taunton.

Mr. W. J. Trenchard.—Portrait of Sir John Trenchard, of Bloxworth, Dorset, supported the Duke of Monmouth, escaped to Holland, and afterwards returned to England with William of Orange. M.P. for Taunton, 1678 and 1681. Portrait of John Trenchard, M.P. for Taunton, 1722.

Mrs. Kinglake.—Large oil portrait of Sir Benjamin Hammet, M.P. for Taunton, builder of Hammet Street, and "restorer" of the Castle.

Rev. E. L. Penny, D.D., R.N.—Portrait of Joanna Southcott, the enthusiast (presented to the Museum).

Mrs. Rowland.—Four views of Taunton, of the same series as Mr. Franklin's, above.

Mr. Bidgood.—Taunton Theatre Play-bills, 1800 to 1830. Election addresses and "squibs." Portraits and views.

Mr. H. W. Smith.—Plans and elevations of the old almshouses in St. James' Street, recently pulled down.

Other views of old Taunton, and portraits, were lent by Mr. Skinner, Mr. Crockett, Mr. Frier, Mr. Stansell, Mr. Mulford, and Mr. W. J. Hammet.

Miss Kate May.—Portrait of Frederick May, one of the founders of the Society.

Mr. Duder.—Election addresses—Benjamin Disraeli, 1835; General Peachey and Mr. Seymour, 1825; Mr. Baring, 1806.

Mr. Spranklin.—Plans, elevations, and details of rood-screen, pulpit, and bench ends, Trull Church.

Mr. Sheppard, Steward of the Manor of Taunton Deane.—Court Roll, Cardinal Beaufort, 17 Henry VI, and another of Bishop Montague, 16 James I, 1618; book of accounts and presentments, 1582; and various MS. and printed documents relating to Taunton fairs, Court Leet, inventories of estates, etc., from the Exchequer, Taunton Castle.

Mr. Richard Easton.—Locke's Survey of Somerset, folio

MS. Summonses to Parliament, Henry III to Edward IV.
List of the Non-jurors.

Mr. E. E. Baker.—A large and most interesting collection of tracts relating to Somerset, among which were the following concerning Taunton:—Auction Catalogue of English Books, at the “Lamb Coffee House in Taunton,” 1710; “Chard and Taunton Assize Sermons,” 1623; “A narrative of the Expedition to Taunton, the Raising of the Siege,” 1645; “Proceedings of the Army under Sir Thomas Fairfax, concerning the Club-men and Relief of Taunton,” 1645; “Dying Speeches, Letters, etc., of those Protestants who suffered under the cruel sentence of Lord Chief Justice Jefferies,” 1689; “An account of the Proceedings against the Rebels, tried before the Lord Chief Justice Jefferies,” 1685, printed in 1716; “Trial for Bread Riots at Taunton Assizes,” 1801; “Manual for the Electors of Taunton,” 1826; “The Standert and Liddon Controversy, Taunton,” 1816; “Shillibeer’s Address on the Land Tax Rate, Taunton, 1823”; “Bowditch and Norman Enquiry, Taunton” 1812; “Judgment in the case of the King against Bowditch, Taunton,” 1819.

Mr. Esdaile.—Bronze torque, found at Cothelstone. Four pieces of ornamental plaster work from the old house at Cothelstone; and water-colour drawing of St. Mary Magdalene’s Church, Taunton.

Col. Helyar.—Elaborately carved old door.

Miss Fremlin.—Fellow door to the above.

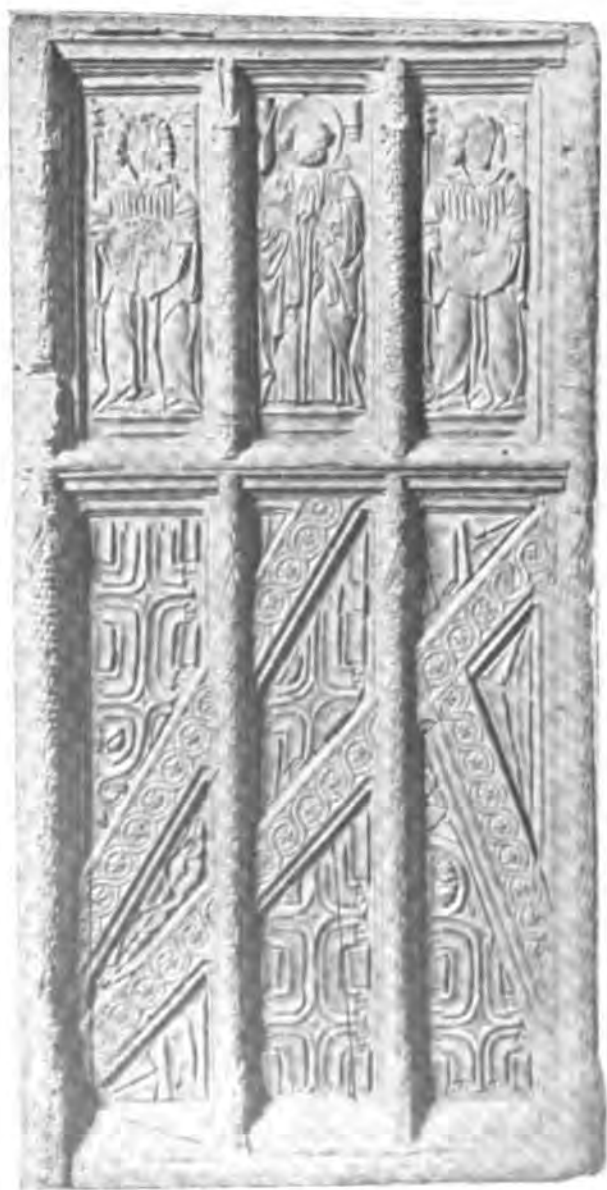
(See “Notes,” on page 65).

Mr. Walter Norman.—Taunton election plate, “Sir John Pole 1754.”

Mrs. Porter.—Model, in leather, of the tower of St. James’ Church, Taunton, by Wm. Weston, about 1854.

Mr. E. W. Stevens.—Sections and specimens of a deep well boring at Highbridge.

Mr. Whyte Holdich.—Oil sketches of ancient British Burial on Exmoor; and views in the neighbourhood.



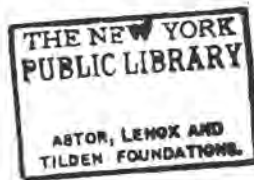
OLD DOOR
SUPPOSED TO BE FROM TAUNTON PRIORY.

In the possession of Col. Helyar.



OLD DOOR
SUPPOSED TO BE FROM TAUNTON PRIORY.

In the possession of Miss Fremken.



Notes on two old Carved Doors exhibited in the Local Museum.

BY W. BIDGOOD.

THESE two handsomely carved doors at present in the possession of different owners, were, no doubt, originally a pair: and at a glance anyone would perceive that they must have belonged to some ecclesiastical establishment, while the style of ornament would fix their date as the early half of the sixteenth century. The carpenter's work is peculiar and elaborate in construction, the bracing in the lower parts being unusual. Two mullions and a middle rail divide each door into six panels, of which the upper three occupy about one third of the whole height. The three panels at the top of each door contain figures, while the lower panels are entirely filled in with the linen pattern. Placed over the styles and mullions are elaborately carved pilasters, having moulded bases, and terminations resembling the tops of buttresses with crocketed finials. These pilasters are covered with carved ornament different in each one, arranged in strings, not quite perpendicular, but slightly twisted in opposite directions. The first pilaster has strings of something resembling heraldic ermine spots, the next overlapping leaves, then rows of folded ribbon with beads between, and the last on this door has roses. In the second door, strings of beads, lozenges, folded ribbon, and fleurs-de-lis: the pilasters in the lower parts are mostly ornamented with beads. The braces in the lower parts of the

doors are covered with the guilloche pattern, and the panels carved with various forms of folded linen.

A careful study of the figures will show to what particular religious house these doors originally belonged, and also approximately the date of their construction. The features and symbols have been mostly defaced, but sufficient remains to show that the central panel of each door contains the figure of a saint with nimbus and label behind the head, and the two side panels angels bearing shields. The saint depicted on the first door is St. Peter, and on the second St. Paul. The shields borne by the angels on the first door are almost obliterated, but on the left-hand one the outline of a cross is traceable, with a rose (between two other objects chopped away) in chief, and a bordure engrailed. On the right-hand shield the arms of the See of Winchester can be traced; but the print does not show it so clear as on the door itself. With the second door we are more fortunate as regard the charges on the shields, that on the left shows a pelican in piety, surmounted by a mitre with strings jewelled and tasselled. The shield on the left bears a crozier between the initials W Y, interlaced with a tasselled cord.

This shows us that the doors came from an establishment dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul (Taunton Priory was so dedicated); while the shields will prove conclusively that it was to this House that the doors originally belonged. As before stated the arms on the first door are very much defaced. What we should naturally look for would be the arms of the Priory, but these so far as we are aware have never been recovered; what remains on the first shield may be thus described—() *A cross (or On a cross)* () *in chief a rose between two . . .* () *within a bordure engrailed* ().*

* Bishop Langton's arms on the gateway of Taunton Castle are *On a cross party per cross five roses*, but no engrailed border. Burke gives Yorks, of Devonshire, as *A fesse nebulée between three crescents, inter the horns of each a fleur-de-lin, all within a bordure engrailed*. It will be seen, however, that neither of these coats correspond to the one on the door.

of Winchester on the second shield shows the connection of Taunton with that See, the bishops having been successively Lords of the manor of Taunton Deane, and it will be remembered that Taunton Priory was founded by a former bishop.

With the second door we are left in no doubt as to the bearings on the shields. The pelican shows us that it was Richard Fox who was Bishop of Winchester and Lord of Taunton Deane at the time. His arms occur on the Grammar School which he founded within the precincts of his Castle of Taunton, 1522. Fox was Bishop of Exeter 1486-7, translated to Bath and Wells 1491-2, Durham 1494, Winchester 1500, and died 1528, so that as far as Bishop Fox is concerned it would have been between 1500 and 1528 that these doors were made; but the last shield enables us to fix the date with greater certainty. The initials W Y are doubtless intended for William Yorke, who was nominated Prior on the 19th November, 1523, and it was, no doubt, between that date and the death of Bishop Fox, 1528, that the doors in question were constructed. The appearance of the pastoral staff, interlaced with the initials is also interesting, as it was only about twenty years before William Yorke's time that the privilege of using the pastoral staff, among other coveted honours, had been conferred upon the House in the Priorship of John Prowse. Thus, then, we have on the first door St. Peter between the arms of Taunton Priory (?) and the See of Winchester; and on the second, St. Paul between the arms of Bishop Fox, and the monogram of Prior William Yorke.

Looking at the elaborate workmanship lavished on these interesting old doors one is tempted to believe that they are not the work of an ordinary day labourer, but the handicraft of one of the inmates of the House, who bestowed the unlimited time at his disposal in the execution of a labour of love.